

Friends of the Waratah Reservoir Incorporated

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02/09/2020

Dear Secretary

I am making a submission to the Select Committee as Vice President of Friends of the Waratah Reservoir Incorporated.

It relates to terms of reference 9.

In brief, Taswaters actions and proposed actions in relation to the Waratah water supply by decommissioning the Waratah Reservoir dam wall has to date and will into the future:

- create a risk to tourism infrastructure and loss of tourism and economic growth potential.
- exponentially increase the community's exposure to fire risk.
- increase the community's risk to safety and infrastructure damage from flash flooding.
- require the community to be on water restrictions in dry times where no risk now exists.
- created environmental habitat destruction and animal cruelty to aquatic and land based species.
- threaten drinking water quality through siltation and release of toxins.

This has been achieved through:

- poor community consultation processes.
- failure to address community concerns.
- reliance on flawed and inaccurate modelling.
- failure to perform environmental assessments prior to draining a crown land and water catchment reserve.
- fabrication of risk scenarios to justify financial agendas.
- failure to consider impacts of climate change.
- lack of preventative maintenance and compliance with industry standards relating to dams.

Regards

Paul Ekman

Endorsed by: Friends of the Waratah Reservoir, Chris Hawkins tourism operator and ex mine supervisor, Helmut Ernst bricklayer and MSc, Dr John Powell extensive experience in water infrastructure developments, Sally Danen native Mountain Pepper Grower, Jann Bush retired scientist environmentalist and climate change concerned citizen.