

Armidale Branch  
National Parks Association  
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Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee Enquiry into additional water supplies for South East Queensland.

We wish to express our concern about the environmental impacts of the proposal to dam the Mann River, Northern NSW and the lack of research and reference to important environmental issues.

In Table 4.7 of Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation's report, it says that the Mann River dam proposal is likely to cause inundation of 40 kilometres of the Mann and Nymbodia (sic) Rivers (spelt incorrectly in the Report) These rivers are regarded as likely 'wild and scenic'. This would have unacceptable impacts on Nymboida National Park, and the declared Bindery-Mann Wilderness. There is no mention of the park or wilderness impacts in the report.

A key value of this section of the Clarence Catchment is the eastern freshwater cod (*Maccullochella ikei*) (the type specimen was collected at the junction of the Mann and Nymboida Rivers). The Mann River and Nymboida River system upstream of Jackadgery is identified in the national recovery plan as the species' only remaining wild breeding population. The species is listed under the Federal Government EPBC Act (as Endangered) as well as the NSW Fisheries Management Act (as Critically Endangered). Barriers such as weirs and dams built across watercourses can prevent fish reaching spawning and feeding areas as well as interrupting gene flow and causing fish populations to fragment, which is why this is listed as a key threatening process under Schedule 6 of the Fisheries Management Act. This population of eastern freshwater cod is already suffering due to the presence of the weir at Nymboida. The identification and protection of key eastern cod habitat in the Mann-Nymboida River sub-catchment area and the long-term viability of the existing wild population are the highest priorities of the national recovery plan, which was approved in 2004.

Given that the report does not consider potential impacts on national parks, scenic wild rivers or the iconic eastern freshwater cod, the conclusion on p.78 (that the options offered by SMEC were subject to scrutiny for environmental impacts) is clearly misleading.

We wish to express our concern about the social and economic impacts of the proposal to take water from tributaries of the Clarence River, as it will impact on the fishing and tourism industry as well as on local residents, canoeists and those who appreciate the natural heritage of the national parks that will be adversely affected.

Yours sincerely

Lynne Hosking,  
Co-President