

I am making this submission as a resident of a Yass River farm downstream from Gundaroo. I am concerned the proposed treatment of sewage in this development is a high risk to the quality of ground and surface water. If contamination of surface and ground water occurs, surrounding agricultural properties could be rendered unviable. Primary Producers are bound by bio security regulations yet this proposal puts primary producers at risk with no biosecurity protection.

I am surprised a newly formed company, owned by a developer, would be able to provide the confidence and skills necessary needed to run such a system as proposed in the Network Operator's and Retail Supplier's Licence application. Should contamination occur I doubt the capacity to rectify the situation. The economic consequences would be extreme not only within the footprint of the development but to the downstream properties reliant on uncontaminated water. These properties would be in a strong position to seek compensation. What assurance is there to have adequate expertise and funds available to attempt rectification of contamination? Are the Company Directors required to provide personal guarantees and is there a fidelity fund in which money is held and added to each month?

The proposed system will use septic tanks that and can be impacted by overland flows. E.coli contamination of ground water in the village of Gundaroo has already been reported. Landholders expect more in 2020 than the replication of a failed system. NSW Public Works have already indicated the risks of the proposed system for the Gundaroo village and the contamination to ground and bore water.

The rain event of 10 February 2020 clearly showed where the run off from the proposed development entered the Yass River some 300 meters down hill. The relevant authorities would do well to examine the consequences of that rain event and consider what would happen should the proposed licence be put in place.

The rain event of 10 February 2020 is small in relation to what occurred in other years such as 1985.

The population of Gundaroo is increasing and good planning would indicate this is the time for the Shire to invest in the future of Gundaroo and not just perform at the most basic level and risk water contamination. This proposal does not mitigate risk it presents risk. A dedicated sewage treatment plant for the village of Gundaroo would be a better option.

I object to this proposal.

S Sweeney
12 February 2020