

Review of the Operating Licence for Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) from July, 2012. Concerns of the Kangaroo Valley community.

Concerns about water supply management.

1. Level of Lake Yarrunga.
2. Environmental flow to lower Shoalhaven.
3. Supply to Nowra & Shoalhaven villages.
4. Supply to Sydney & Wollongong.
5. Emergency supply to Goulburn.
6. Proposed pipeline to western NSW (only if 1 – 5 guaranteed).

Concerns about water quality.

7. Cryptosporidium & Giardia on beaches (Hampton Bridge, Bendeela picnic area).
8. Toxic blue-green algae (Microcystis) at Lake Yarrunga, Fitzroy reservoir, Wingecarribee reservoir.
9. Gasfield exploration (contamination of ground water).

Concerns about planning.

10. Concurrence of SCA to planning applications submitted to Shoalhaven City Council (SCC) or Wingecarribee Shire Council (WSC).

Each concern will now be considered in more detail.

- 1. Level of Lake Yarrunga.** The lake should be maintained full, with a maximum draw-down of one metre to minimise environmental fluctuations to aquatic life, and also because of the lake's importance in the tourist industry. Kangaroo Valley Environment Group Inc. (KVEG) and KV Tourist Association Inc. (KVTa) may wish to comment further.
- 2. Environmental flow to the lower Shoalhaven.** Regardless of the use made of the impounded water, it is vital that the health of the Shoalhaven River estuary be maintained by adequate environmental flow, as determined by the NSW Department of Water, Environment and Climate Change after extensive public consultation.
- 3. Water supply to Nowra and Shoalhaven villages.** Provided that environmental flows are maintained, it is reasonable that the second priority use of the impounded water should be to provide a guaranteed water supply for agriculture, industry and municipal use in local towns and villages. There should be some provision for limited expansion of population in the Shoalhaven.
- 4. Water supply to Sydney and Wollongong.** Tallowa Dam was built in the 1970s to accommodate water transfers from the Shoalhaven catchment to the Warragamba catchment, for use in the metropolitan areas. Thus any surplus water, after uses 2 and 3 are satisfied, is at the disposal of SCA to pump to Sydney and/or Wollongong.
- 5. Emergency supply to Goulburn.** A water pipeline is under construction from Wingecarribee reservoir to Goulburn to provide an emergency supply. This should be taken from Sydney's allocation.
- 6. Proposed pipeline to western NSW.** A private consortium has proposed a second pipeline, or an extension of the Goulburn pipeline, to divert a guaranteed supply of Shoalhaven water to western NSW and beyond for lucrative industrial purposes including mining. This should be rigorously resisted unless Sydney foregoes its

allocation. In any case, priority uses 2, 3 and 5 (above) should be satisfied first.

- 7. Cryptosporidium & Giardia on beaches (Hampton Bridge, Bendeela picnic area).** Following the outbreak of these sporozoan parasites at Warragamba and elsewhere, it is important that bathers be protected at Hampton Bridge and Bendeela picnic area. Children in particular grovel in the sand and stir up silt. Thus water samples should be tested from muddy water, not clear running water. It may be necessary to close the beaches should the problem not be eradicated.
- 8. Toxic blue-green algae (Microcystis) at Lake Yarrunga, Fitzroy reservoir, Wingecarribee reservoir.** High concentrations of Microcystis dangerous to public health have already occurred at these reservoirs, usually in summer. They are exacerbated by high concentrations of total phosphorus and total nitrogen that originate from agricultural sources and rural residential development.
- 9. Gasfield exploration (contamination of ground water).** There are two concerns about petroleum exploration licence 469, firstly that test drilling will contaminate ground water in the Sydney drinking water catchment draining to Kangaroo River, secondly that water use during well head development will be excessive.
- 10. Concurrence of SCA to planning applications submitted to Shoalhaven City Council (SCC) or Wingecarribee Shire Council (WSC).** Under Shoalhaven LEP (1985 & amendments) and the drinking water catchment REP (now SEPP 1) there were two fingers on the planning trigger, first Council's then SCA's. This worked well as long as SCA reviewed applications and applied water quality controls to any DAs or subdivision applications in the drinking water catchment. Our concern is that SCA concurrence remain in force under the draft Shoalhaven LEP (2009), the new Wingecarribee LEP and SEPP 1.

Concerns submitted Monday, 14th November 2011 for consideration at the IPART workshop in Sydney on Thursday, 17th October 2011, on behalf of the Kangaroo Valley community.

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