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## **A. J. and D. Dempster's response to the sewage treatment development application for Googong, December 2010.**

We are objecting to the deposition of sewage recycling liquid from the proposed Googong town into the Queanbeyan River, which we use for our household water, without adequate compensation to the loss of our long standing amenity, good river water. We have used it since 1976 for cooking, washing dishes, bathing and brushing teeth with no ill effects. We have hosted local, interstate and international visitors from babies to adults with no ill effects to them. While the developer and perhaps the Dept. of Health say that the output of the sewage plant is cleaner than the river water there is an overwhelming psychological concern that this is not so.

We understood from the initial consultations in 2008 that osmosis filtration with the ability to filter out pharmaceuticals, etc., would be used in the sewage plant. We appreciate that dealing with the salt output from that would present great problems. However the proposed downgrading of the system using a relatively coarse membrane, chlorination and u/v treatment will leave a huge quantity of medical chemical problems in our water supply. This will cause serious health problems to the residents who have riparian rights. There is hard evidence that medications in sewage alter the ? of aquatic creatures downstream.

Any developer who wishes to build infrastructure that impinges detrimentally on long established residents, pre 1968, should seek to amicably determine with the residents a satisfactory outcome. There is an established system in the UK that if developers affect the status quo in order to make money , they should pay to satisfactorily rectify the problem. The relevant NSW Government Departments should support these viewpoints and best practices. Here are two possible solutions;

1 Supply potable water to Wickerslack Lane

2 Instal a 20,000 gallon watertank, pump, guttering, piping, etc for a gravity fed rainwater system to the thirteen houses where necessary as a minimum. Since there are a range of plumbing systems in use negotiations with each householder would be sensible.

For 161 Wickerslack Lane new guttering, a pump and switching gear to send water from the small tank at the house to a 20,000 tank uphill and back would be the least requirement. The guttering while adequate for the present small tanks spill too much water in heavy rain. Any agreements should apply to the house, not specifically to the present residents as the houses may change ownership.

The normal outflow and environmental releases from Googong Dam should continue. This will help to dilute the input from Googong town. Protocols should be in place to have extra water released from the dam when sewage plant breakdowns occur that cause partially treated sewage to be sent to the river. Wickerslack residents and relevant authorities should be warned of such events.

The developer has partially dealt with the stormwater. However it has not dealt adequately with the effect of releasing stormwater on the amount of bank erosion in Googong Ck or the on the badly constructed dams. Two dams have been over topped and in their normal state have insufficient height from top water level to the top of the damwall, it should be 1 metre minimum. The spillways are inadequate for the catchment. When those dams were being built we suffered dirty river water for some considerable time. The developer has talked to the landholder but not about stabilising the silt deposits at the river. The Department should ensure that there is a DA to specifically deal with stormwater and soil erosion.

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