

centralwest environment council

870 Ophir Road, Summer Hill Creek, 2800.

General Manager,
Cowra Shire Council,
Private Bag 342,
Cowra 2794
council@cowra.nsw.gov.au

Thursday 10 June 2021

Dear Sir,

Cowra Long-Term Planning

The Central West Environment Council (CWEC) is an organisation representing groups from around the Central West NSW advocating for a sustainable environment in this region.

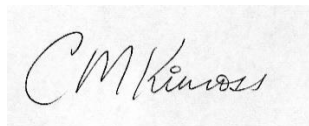
Our group is alarmed to learn that Cowra Council has publicly supported the raising of Wyangala Dam wall without consultation with shire residents in contravention of its own *Community Strategic Plan 2017- 2036*. This plan makes no reference to raising Wyangala Dam wall and no council consultation has been held with the community on this matter.

It would seem that Council is not aware of the problems this development would cause. These include: the loss of tourism revenue during construction; damage to agricultural land (upsetting many local landowners); reduction in life-giving floods to wetland downstream; and destruction of foreshore threatened ecosystems such as box woodland.

Council may also incur considerable cost to ratepayers with maintenance of associated infrastructure such as roads. These costs have not been communicated to the residents.

CWEC is primarily concerned with the environmental impacts up and downstream of the dam should be wall be raised, but also needs to point out the inconsistencies between Cowra Council's draft long term financial planning and its current 20 year Community Strategic Plan.

Yours sincerely



Cilla Kinross

Chair

Central West Environment Council

