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The Hon. Tanya Plibersek
Minister for Environment and Water
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

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Tuesday 23 August 2022

Dear Minister Plibersek

Proposal to Raise Wyangala Dam Wall

Central West Environment Council (CWEC) is an umbrella organization representing conservation groups and individuals in central west NSW working to protect the local environment for future generations.

We strongly oppose the Federal Coalition announcement in 2018 to raise the Wyangala Dam wall in the Lachlan Valley to capture a further 650 GL of water from natural river flows. This volume is 7 times greater than the volume of held environmental water returned to the Lachlan and would breach the Sustainable Diversion Limit. It would also capture important flood flows that recharge the Lachlan groundwater resource and water Lower Lachlan wetlands that provide habitat for migratory bird species listed under the EPBC Act.

We understand that Water Infrastructure NSW is still working on a final business case. There has been little or no transparency around the costs of the project, though NSW Treasury papers released to the NSW Parliament predicted the cost to be over \$2 billion. The original Federal/State joint funding agreement was not met within the agreed milestones.

CWEC urges you as Federal Water and Environment Minister to announce that the Wyangala Dam wall raising project is off the table.

Yours sincerely

Nick King
Secretary
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