



**Tamworth Water  
Security Alliance**

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**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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## **Productivity Commission supports community call for more transparency in water management**

Inland Rivers Network and Tamworth Water Security Alliance welcome the draft Productivity Commission Report recommendation that all town water supply options should be on the table with a rigorous, consistent and transparent assessment of costs and benefits.

The Productivity Commission draft findings into the review of the National Water Initiative, released on 11 February, includes a chapter on Urban Water Supply. Principles recommended in Advice 11.1 'Best Urban System Planning' includes that:

*All supply options are considered and their relative merits subject to a rigorous, consistent and transparent assessment of costs and benefits.<sup>1</sup>*

'Tamworth Water Security Alliance (TWSA) has been calling for all water security options to be on the table and fully costed, with an understanding of who will manage the projects, who will benefit most and who will pay,' said David McKinnon, TWSA representative.

'It is pleasing to see that the community position is backed up by the Australian Productivity Commission.'

'The NSW and Federal Governments have promised a considerable amount of public funding to build a new dam at Dungowan, that may not be the best solution to Tamworth's water security problems. It may also prove to be economically unviable,' said Bev Smiles, President of Inland Rivers Network.

'The least the community can expect is that the business case for Dungowan Dam is made available to the public so there is assurance that a rigorous cost-benefits analysis is undertaken.'

'The people who are paying for this new dam should have access to the business case,' said Ms Smiles. 'There are many costs including to the health of the Peel and Namoi Rivers, downstream water users, to native fish populations, platypus and other water dependent species.'

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<sup>1</sup> Productivity Commission, Feb 2021 *Findings, recommendations and renewal advice* p18