

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE PROPOSAL TO RAISE THE WARRAGAMBA DAM WALL

INQUIRY INTO PROPOSAL TO RAISE THE WARRAGAMBA DAM WALL

Hearing on 30 June 2020

Question

The CHAIR:....Okay, now that the fires have occurred and we know some areas have not been burnt, they could be critically important for these species, have you been asked to give them any support to help update the EIS or give them a sense of how the fire impact might be relevant to the EIS?

Mr FLEMING: We have participated in the process that Mr Gainsford has described examining the adequacy, if you like, of the draft EIS. I do not know if Water NSW can talk about any on-ground collaboration that has occurred, but otherwise it has been around really looking at the adequacy of the EIS.

The CHAIR: But post fires you have not been asked to do any on-ground work in support of that process in the inundation area?

Mr FLEMING: I would have to take that on notice. I am not personally aware of any, but whether something has happened at the local level, I invite Water NSW to indicate if they are aware, if they have made requests to us.

Mr HARPER [WaterNSW]: Not from the project level, but I am not sure from the catchment level.

Mr FLEMING: We work in collaboration in terms of as partners really managing the catchment as a whole, so certainly there is regular engagement at that level. But in terms of assessing the impact on that potentially inundated area, I am not aware of any but I could take that on notice and confirm or otherwise.

Answer

Since the 2019-20 bushfires, the National Parks and Wildlife Service has not done or been asked to do any additional biodiversity surveys of the area in national parks to be affected by inundation.