

Submission on the inquiry “Investing in cheaper, cleaner energy and the net zero transformation”

As a resident of Maryborough in Queensland, I live on the lower reaches of the Mary River. Upper reach of this river is being investigated for the positioning of the Borumba Dam – an enormous construction similar in scope to the Snowy River Scheme.

The construction of Borumba would provide energy, but at a high environmental cost. The Mary in the lower reaches during drought and low rainfall ceases flowing. The catchment needed for the dams involved in the Borumba proposal would exacerbate this to a degree that can't fail to affect the conditions for survival of the many iconic creatures of the Mary. This includes the ancient Lungfish, the iconic Mary River Turtle, and many other fauna and flora that rely on a secure flow in the river.

Construction of the roadworks and power lines would also affect many acres of forest which currently help retain water in the landscape and slow rainfall runoff.

This proposal on this scale, with the turbine water being returned to a live river which performs many services downstream for human and other life seems very risky to me. The effects on downstream human and natural communities **MUST** be carefully considered.

Yours respectfully,

Glenda Pitman