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**From:** Sally Phillips [REDACTED]  
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**To:** NRC  
**Subject:** Water sharing plan review

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Hi team

My experience in putting in a second dam (in an attempt to hold more water in our landscape ) was dreadful. The staff at WaterNSW were as helpful and polite as they could be but I think as more senior staff had retired the remaining staff did not have sufficient knowledge to make process clear and stress free.

Our situation was as follows

We live on 20 acres of bush with a bore and a 1 meg dam.

We wanted a second dam for environmental reasons (and to swim in occasionally). We have no livestock and use bore water for vege patch and garden. Second dam was planned to simply retain water in landscape for native animals and plants. Also may help restrict our fire risk. We are at Reedy Swamp and were very lucky when area had devastating fire here in 2018.

Staff at WaterNSW said that people in my situation would not proceed with application for second dam as process was difficult and expensive. Which it certainly was. Water Licence and approvals cost us \$5k !!!!! Plus approximately \$5k to have our

('duck pond' - words of excavators) built.

I purchased empty water license then harrassed the local farmers to sell me a couple of megalitre entitlements. The second dam is less than 1 meg.

I understand the philosophy behind controlling water, the fact that if everyone collects water it does not flow into rivers with devastating results as we are experiencing in parts of Australia.

However when we ( now rarely it seems) have flooding rains the rain that runs through our dry gullies ends up out at sea as we are not far from coast.

In conclusion we have a second dam which we have planted out with native grasses and included fallen logs etc for habitat along edges - hooray !!!! It has not been even close to full yet - one day we hope to jump for joy when water flows over the spillway.

But it was a dreadful process and perhaps people in our situation should be offered an alternative route for these smaller more environmentally friendly 'dams' ?

Please feel free to post me a cheque to refund some of the ridiculous amounts I was charged throughout this process.

Kind Regards

Sally