

5 October 2018

The Hon. Taylor Martin MLC
Chair
Legislative Council Standing Committee on State Development
Parliament House
SYDNEY 2000

Dear Mr Martin

WATER NSW AMENDMENT (WARRAGAMBA DAM) BILL 2018

Thank you for the opportunity to provide evidence at yesterday's hearing.

Whilst I appreciate that the Committee did not provide for questions to be taken on notice, I thought it might be helpful to your deliberations if I clarified a point which arose in yesterday's proceedings. That point relates to Ministerial accountabilities for the Environmental Management Plan contemplated in the Bill.

The Minister for Water and the Minister for the Environment are already jointly responsible for managing, under Part 4 of *Water NSW Act 2014*, the Warragamba Special Areas to protect the drinking water catchments upstream of Warragamba Dam. These are the same areas that would be subject to the Environmental Management Plan. Under the *Water NSW Act 2014*, Water NSW must ensure that the areas are managed and protected to promote the protection of the environment.

Water NSW will be responsible for complying with any approval for the dam's raising and subsequent operation, as determined under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1974*.

The Environment Management Plan contemplated in the Bill will need to include all matters to be specified by the Minister for the Environment, and must be consistent with any statutory planning approval. The land will continue to be National Parks land, and its environmental and conservation values must continue to be monitored and managed in accordance with the Environment Management Plan.

Yours sincerely,

Jim Betts
CEO, Infrastructure NSW