



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE PROPOSAL TO RAISE THE WARRAGAMBA DAM WALL

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

# **ALTERNATIVES TO DAM WALL RAISING PROPOSAL SHOULD BE CONSIDERED TO REDUCE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**5 October 2021**

An Upper House committee has published an interim report on the proposal to raise the Warragamba Dam wall, recommending that the NSW Government give more consideration to alternatives, with a greater focus on improving evacuation routes and reducing the number of people and businesses at risk on the Hawkesbury Nepean floodplain.

The committee has also recommended that the project not proceed without the free, prior and informed consent of Registered Aboriginal Parties and unless the future integrity of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area can be assured.

Chair of the Select Committee, Mr Justin Field MLC, said, 'The March 2021 flood event in the Hawkesbury Nepean demonstrated the well-known flood risks in the valley, but highlighted the limitations of the proposal, as well as the need for more consideration of alternatives.'

The Select Committee focused on the adequacy of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIS) process to date, especially considering substantial leaks of State and Federal agency criticisms of aspects of the draft EIS relating to upstream impacts on World Heritage, Aboriginal Cultural Heritage, and ecological values of the Blue Mountains National Park.

As the Chair stated: 'It is encouraging that this report has unanimous support from both Government and non-government members. There is strong support from a broad cross section of stakeholders for more consideration of alternatives to the dam wall raising that can minimise upstream impacts to Aboriginal Cultural Heritage, the World Heritage Area and the environment while maximising flood risk mitigation for downstream residents and businesses.'

'When this inquiry was established in June 2019, it was understood that the EIS was close to completion at that time. However, the final EIS was not released for public exhibition until 29 September 2021', added the Chair.

The other terms of reference and a detailed consideration of the final EIS will be dealt with in a final report of the committee. A copy of the report and its recommendations can be found on the committee's [website](#).

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*For further information please contact Committee Chair, Mr Justin Field MLC, on 9230 3335.*