

**ORDINARY MEETING**  
**SECTION 2 – Mayoral Minute**  
**Meeting Date: 26 October 2021**

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**Item: 215**                      **MM2 - Warragamba Dam Raising Project - (125610)**

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**BACKGROUND:**

The Environmental Impact Statement for the Warragamba Dam raising project for flood mitigation is currently on public exhibition and Council recently received a briefing from Infrastructure NSW and Water NSW.

The Environmental Impact Statement is a detailed assessment of the project as stipulated by the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements.

Council was advised at the recent briefing from Infrastructure NSW and Water NSW that the Environmental Impact Statement public exhibition period will now run until 29 November 2021. The Environmental Impact Statement offers the community and stakeholders full awareness of what is proposed and an opportunity to make submissions, as part of the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environments, Environmental Impact Statement assessment process.

The community and Council can make submissions throughout the extended 62-day exhibition period to 29 November 2021.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council prepare a submission in response to the Warragamba Dam Raising Project Environment Impact Statement, to highlight the importance of the project to the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley.

The submission should consider matters such as:

- The estimated number of buildings and quantum of damage to buildings within the Hawkesbury River floodplain within the Hawkesbury local government area at risk of potential flooding in various design flood events, including 1 in 5, 1 in 20, 1 in 50, 1 in 100, 1 in 200, 1 in 500 and Probable Maximum Flood, and the reduction of the number of buildings and damage to buildings that the Warragamba Dam Raising project could potentially achieve
- The significant limitations and disadvantages of the alternative options for flood mitigation, as examined in the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley Flood Risk Management Strategy - Resilient Valley, Resilient Communities, and in the Environmental Impact Statement
- The role of the range of targeted actions across the nine outcomes contained within the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley Flood Risk Management Strategy - Resilient Valley, Resilient Communities
- The fact that the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley is considered to have the highest flood risk in Australia
- The legislative changes that would be required for the Warragamba Dam to be used for permanent water storage in the future, given concerns that the raised Dam could lead to the use of the increased height for water storage purposes as opposed to the stated intention of flood mitigation
- That it is currently not feasible for many of our residents to access flood insurance
- The very small proportion of the Blue Mountains World Heritage Area that would be affected by temporary inundation in the event of a major flood event, and that the project includes significant offsets to ensure there are no material impacts on biodiversity, and has also assessed the potential impacts on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage
- Council's Flood Policy 2020, which recognises the need for a collaborative approach to floodplain management across the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley and demonstrates our commitment to providing up to date and relevant, best practice controls based on consideration of flood hazard and risks.

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**ATTACHMENTS:**

There are no supporting documents for this report.

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