

13 September 2022

Mr Justin Field MLC
Chair
Select Committee on the Proposal to Raise the Warragamba Dam Wall
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Field,

During hearings held by the Select Committee last year on the Proposal to Raise the Warragamba Dam Wall (Select Committee), a series of allegations were made concerning the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the project.

In response, WaterNSW engaged law firm MinterEllison to make inquiries into the factual circumstances surrounding these allegations. In their report, *Warragamba Dam Wall Raising Project Environmental Impact Statement – Report on factual inquiries* (14 April 2022), MinterEllison found:

- allegations made during the Select Committee hearings were unable to be substantiated, and
- a number of allegations were found to be the result of a genuine scientific disagreement between industry experts, rather than an attempt to reduce the estimated environmental impacts of the Warragamba Wall Raising Project.

While the report demonstrates that WaterNSW followed a robust process in preparing the EIS, it does identify some potential areas for improvement. WaterNSW has commenced discussions with the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) on how to appropriately implement measures related to its governance structures, and the education and training of its people, to address these matters.

In the interests of transparency, WaterNSW is providing the report in its entirety to the Committee, a copy of which is enclosed. Also enclosed is WaterNSW's response letter to the DPE, dated 9 September 2022, for further background.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew George
CEO