

**Submission
No 3**

**INQUIRY INTO WATER NSW AMENDMENT
(WARRAGAMBA DAM) BILL 2018**

Name: Deborah Nash
Date Received: 30 September 2018

I object to the changing of the law to enable the raising of the Warragamba Dam Wall. I do not believe that the environment considerations have been accounted for in the business case and therefore the option to raise the dam has been falsely chosen. If you attribute a dollar value to destroying world heritage area wilderness and aboriginal heritage then the dam raising is not acceptable financially or morally. If you also consider the likelihood of budget overruns of big projects such as this the dam wall raising would also not be viable. Raising the dam wall does not stop flooding, as there are other rivers that feed the flood plain. All it does is delay the peak, so again, it is not the best option, as evacuation will still be necessary, and property damage will still occur. Evacuation routes will still need to be improved and there is a cost associated with doing that also. I also have grave concerns that raising the dam wall will create a false sense of security for those living in the flood plain, which could result in them refusing to evacuate in times of flood, thus the raising of the dam wall may actually further endanger peoples lives. I recommend that the operating capacity of the dam be lowered by 5% and the other local flood mitigation measures be applied, as well as running the desalination plant and mandating recycling of water and stormwater in all new developments. I also recommend that no new housing be allowed on the flood plain. There is a lot of developer driven destruction already in NSW, please do not allow this unnecessary Environmental destruction when clearly, there are other viable options.