

Submission  
No 4

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

**Name:** Name suppressed  
**Date Received:** 30 September 2018

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Partially  
Confidential

Re: The Water NSW Amendment (Warragamba Dam) Bill 2018 I am a local tourism employer in the Blue Mountains LGA. I am concerned about the impact that raising the Warragamba Dam will have on the aboriginal heritage of the area. I realise that the aboriginal heritage in the area that is proposed to be impacted by temporary inundation by floodwaters is not on the National or World Heritage listing, but I do note that it has been strongly recommended for consideration at both levels. I also note that indigenous/cultural heritage is one of the main reasons that visitors come to Australia (as highlighted by various Destination NSW and Tourism Australia studies). Whilst the temporary inundation of the sites may not contribute directly to the visitor experience once they are here, it will certainly have a negative impact in the mind of the traveller before choosing to travel to Australia (and the Blue Mountains specifically) if the perception is that we treat our aboriginal cultural heritage in such poor ways. Aside from interests as a tourism stakeholder, I cannot imagine how it must be for the aboriginal people who have a history in the Burratorang Valley to have what little remains of their heritage in the area to once again be assaulted. Those communities have been displaced culturally and physically in the 1790s and again in 1958, and now, 60 years later what remains of the unique heritage in the area is under threat again. I understand that there are complex stakeholder needs in regard to flood mitigation strategies, but I would encourage the government to ensure that the legislation makes adequate reparations to the tourism industry to ensure that the communication to visitors around aboriginal cultural heritage is enhanced for other sites in the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area, and additionally that for those aboriginal communities that will have their cultural heritage impacted by this proposed legislative change, that the legislation also makes reference to other impactful ways of assisting those communities in accessing, enhancing and protecting what cultural heritage lies outside of the temporary inundation area.