

Submission  
No 12

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

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date Received:** 2 October 2018

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Partially  
Confidential

This proposal is ill-conceived, counter-productive and will undoubtedly be regarded in hindsight as an act of gross environmental vandalism. It is clearly in breach of the principles of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention, Section 98 of which states as follows: "Legislative and regulatory measures at national and local levels should assure the protection of the property from social, economic and other pressures or changes that might negatively impact the Outstanding Universal Value, including the integrity and/or authenticity of the property." Any decision to flood the Blue Mountains National Park will therefore be in obvious breach of international law, and this is before any specific considerations of habitat and/or heritage site damage and destruction are concerned. Penny Sharp MLC has spoken strongly about these specific issues, and I refer the enquiry to this record. It is widely believed that this is a cynical and wantonly destructive measure intended to provide false reassurance to prospective housebuyers looking at properties situated on the Hawkesbury-Nepean valley floodplain. It will not do this in any case - as Penny Sharp points out, almost half of the prospective floodwaters originate downstream of Warragamba dam in any case, and this is not even taking sea level rise caused by anthropogenic climate change into consideration. This act is not only cynical and destructive, but a gross folly into the bargain. I call on the enquiry to make a stand for the protection of the last fragments of natural heritage left in the Sydney area. As it is the World Heritage Area of the Blue Mountains is certain to be grossly traumatised and damaged, possibly beyond recognition, if flightpaths from the ill-conceived 'aerotropolis' known as Western Sydney Airport are routed over it. The resulting noise and other pollution will diminish the enjoyment of the area severely, for human and animal residents. This further act of gross environmental vandalism - the prospective raising of the Warragamba dam wall - might well constitute an act of ecocide. It is certainly nothing which future generations will thank us for. Please do the sane and decent thing and call a halt to this latest manifestation of shallow, greedy overdevelopment while there is still time. It is certain to be fought through the courts in any case, and I don't think it is at all certain that it can ultimately succeed.