

**Submission
No 26**

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

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From the time of the proposal to raise the height of the Warragamba Dam by 14 metres on (17th June 2016), the government literature (Water NSW) has always included statements that the purpose of the scheme was for flood mitigation over the Hawkesbury flood plains. They further quoted that; 'This would allow an extra 130,000 people to occupy the area during the next 30 years!' The facts of the matter are quite simple: - A comprehensive EIS Report is yet to be published - but is urgently required before further actions can be taken. - Any future EIS must include a realistic cost/benefit analysis of the whole scheme and its on-going effects on all the surrounding country and communities, above and below the Dam wall. - Information published to date has concentrated on how the anticipated population could be safely 'housed' on the flood plains - like higher roads and evacuation routes with better and longer weather forecasting. - Nothing has been said about the damage to property and goods those people will abandon, during the inevitable emergencies when major floods, WILL occur. - Nothing anyone can possibly do to the top of the Warragamba Dam will ever FLOOD PROOF the Hawkesbury Valley! - The most cursory examination of maps of the whole catchment shows that the Warragamba Dam cannot capture all of the rivers and streams that regularly flood the area. About 50% of the flood waters come from coastal and mountain streams which enter the river system below the Dam wall. - However, raising the height of the Dam wall by any height will cause permanent, irreparable damage to the natural (protected) environment within the GBMWSHA. - The reason for this is also simple - deep, choking silt and debris will drop out of every flood (large or small) when the water is stopped and ponded by the higher Dam wall. - This material will be impossible to control or remove once deposited over thousands of hectares of National Park around the present stored water in Lake Burragorang. - It will bring permanent death to every living thing within the affected area. - The damage and scar may only be visible from some remote, mountain lookouts, HOWEVER, it will be clearly visible, every day to every passenger in all the planes which will use the Badgerys Creek Airport! - The potential changes within the Blue Mountains National Park would most likely result in the removal of the 'World Heritage' status from the Greater Blue Mountains Area. Already published are many expert opinions from Professional sources that advise there are other viable methods to obtain flood mitigation measures over the Hawkesbury flood plains - without raising the height of the Dam wall. The State Government must urgently and fully reconsider this proposal and immediately withdraw the present legislation from the Parliament.

Yours, Robert Anderson - Architect (Retired).