

**Submission
No 30**

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

Name: Mr John Berry
Date Received: 2 October 2018

To Whom it may concern The following is my submission on the Water NSW Amendment (Warragamba Dam) Bill 2018 I object to the proposal to raise the height of Warragamba Dam. Raising Warragamba Dam by 14 metres would hold the equivalent of two additional Sydney Harbours behind the dam wall. During flood events, the World Heritage National Park upstream of the raised dam wall would be inundated. The additional impact will include: Drowning of 4,700 hectares of World Heritage listed National Parks from sedimentation, erosion and invasion of exotic plants Over 65 kilometres of wilderness watercourses inundated 48 threatened species will be pushed closer towards extinction Hundreds of Gundungarra cultural heritage sites. These including artwork, camp and ceremonial sites Indigenous art site to be inundated by Warragamba Dam wall raising (Taylor Clarke). Sydney's wild rivers Raising Warragamba dam will inundate 65 kilometres of Blue Mountain's wilderness rivers and streams that supply Sydney with clean drinking water. The lower Kowmung, Coxs, Natti, Keduma, Wollondilly and Little rivers would all be drowned underneath sediment-rich dam waters, killing hundreds of native plants and animals living in the world heritage valleys. The Kowmung River - an officially declared Wild River (Dave Nobel). Threatened species There are 48 threatened plant and animal species that inhabit the area to be submerged under the dam. Species such as the vulnerable Camden White Gum and critically endangered Regent Honeyeater are largely found in the proposed inundation area. The proposal to raise the dam is being driven by developer interests on the Hawkesbury-Nepean flood plain. The NSW Government has said it plans to allow an additional 134,000 people to reside on western Sydney floodplains over the next 30 years. One of the reason for the severe flood damages during the Brisbane floods were previous state and local government decisions to allow housing development on high-risk areas of the Brisbane River floodplain, falsely believing Wivenhoe Dam had 'flood-proofed' the valley. Penrith Lakes Development located on a high-flood-risk area of the Hawkesbury-Nepean floodplain. Sincerely Yours John Berry