

Submission
No 39

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

Name: Dr Jennifer Gill

Date Received: 2 October 2018

I strongly oppose the proposed raising of the wall of the Warragamba Dam. This action would lead to the destruction of some of the most heavily-protected wilderness areas in Australia, yet still fail to eliminate the flood risks for western Sydney communities. 65 kilometres of wilderness streams and 4,700 hectares of world heritage listed national parks will be inundated by the proposed raising of Warragamba Dam wall. 48 threatened species would be drowned under muddy dam water. The threatened Camden White Gum and the critically endangered Regent honeyeater are two species whose future existence would be threatened by the dam raising. . Raising the wall would lead to the destruction of more than 50 recognised Aboriginal heritage sites. Management of the existing storage of Warragamba Dam, improvements to flood evacuation routes, increased flood forecasting capacity and adopting international best practice floodplain development controls are all alternatives to raising the dam wall. Raising the dam wall risks making the community more complacent, and increasing urban sprawl over flood prone areas. The areas that would be inundated have been set aside by the people of NSW as National Parks to be protected for the conservation of our extraordinary flora and fauna and geological treasures and has been inscribed on the list of World Heritage sites. This is a precious place that our children's children should be able to enjoy.