

Submission  
No 42

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

**Name:** Mr Joshua Gowers

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The raising of the Warragamba Dam is a baseless, destructive proposal that will put lives at risk in a floodplain, will destroy ecosystems, hydrology and biodiversity including critically endangered habitat and wildlife, will further restrict the flow of water in a warming, drier climate of regional climate change, stateswide droughts and extreme climate events, will encourage urban sprawl and development in areas of increasing heat stress and fire risk, will spit on World Heritage Listing of the catchment and the responsibilities that this entails, and will deny the self-determination and sovereignty of various Koori cultures and language groups, particularly the Gundungurra traditional custodians. All of this before an EIS has been submitted. All of this where the supposed reason behind the proposal "to reduce flood risk" has many greatly more beneficial alternatives to secure residents below the dam. "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" -Jamie Pittock, Australian National University. The Committee Chair, the Hon Taylor Martin MLC, said: 'The committee welcomes the opportunity to hear from relevant stakeholders and to review the bill in greater detail, in order to enhance the community's confidence regarding the proposed legislation.' I humbly request the Standing Committee to engage meaningfully in review of the Water NSW Amendment (Warragamba Dam) Bill 2018, with the full consequences of what the bill entails for traditional custodians, for the Blue Mountains World Heritage area and its status, and for future generations.