

**Submission
No 51**

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

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Large areas of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area (GBMWA) would be inundated by sediment-laden flood waters upstream of the raised dam wall. The Government has stated that inundation will occur in the World Heritage Area for five weeks at a time. If World Heritage status isn't sacred, then what is? flooding of this area would destroy the habitat of two key critically endangered species: • The largest wild population of nationally threatened Camden White Gum (much of the original population was destroyed by the original dam construction) • A breeding site for the critically endangered Regent honeyeater. Numerous Indigenous cultural heritage sites belonging to the Gundungurra people are located within the regions of the GBMWA to be inundated by the dam wall raising. These sites are both rare and unique, given the destruction of many Gundungurra cultural sites from the original construction of Warragamba dam in 1960. The consultation process with traditional owners over the proposal has been disingenuous to date. The dam raising 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 flood plains over the next 30 years. Valley-wide flood management solutions, adherable to international best-practice, are being dismissed by the NSW Government. Such options have been identified by a range of flood and water quality experts, and do not include raising the Warragamba Dam wall.