

**Submission
No 57**

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

Name: Stephanie Knox

Date Received: 3 October 2018

I strongly oppose the raising of the Warragamba Dam Wall as proposed by the NSW Government's Water NSW Amendment (Warragamba Dam) Bill 2018. Raising the dam wall will periodically flood more than 4000 hectares of Wilderness in the Blue Mountains and Kanangra Boyd National Parks which are World Heritage. The inundation will destroy the habitat of more than 40 rare and endangered species, including the Critically Endangered Regent Honey Eater and the rare Camden White Gum. Sites of significance to the Gundungurra people will be lost. Iconic wild rivers, including the famous Kowmung River will be inundated by flood waters. The Kowmung and Southern Blue Mountains area has a long and strong history as a destination for bushwalkers and others to escape from the city to enjoy the wild country on their doorstep. Generations of Australians have advocated and fought for the protection of the beauty and natural values of the Blue Mountains and successive NSW parliaments have legislated to protect these unique wilderness areas. I strongly urge the NSW Government to honour the community legacy that has given Sydney a unique wild backdrop and NOT raise the Warragamba Dam wall. The government proposes to raise the dam wall to allow an extra 130,000 people to live on the Hawkesbury flood plain. Developing residential housing in flood-prone areas is bad urban planning practice in itself. It will put residents at risk from flood waters that arise from other watercourses in the Hawkesbury catchment that are not contained by the dam wall. I think that flooding World Heritage Wilderness in the iconic Blue Mountains to assist the development of risk prone housing is bad policy and I strongly oppose this plan by the NSW government. Instead I urge the government to protect Sydney's famous, wild, World Heritage Blue Mountains and NOT raise the Warragamba Dam wall.