

**Submission
No 58**

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

Name: Mr Antony Lewis

Date Received: 3 October 2018

Along with Uluru, the Opera House and the Great Barrier Reef, the Blue Mountains National Park is one of Australia's iconic destinations and rightly has world heritage listing to maintain and protect its natural state. This bill goes against this very protection and our responsibility as the inter-generational custodians of this land. This area of land is generally inaccessible to the public for good reason but this does not give the government the right to do what it likes in this area. The multiple layers of protection for this area is for good reason and has been put in place by previous generations of us. We need to demonstrate restraint and discipline by NOT accepting this development. The risk of flood is easily identified. This is about risk management and mitigation strategies. There are multiple alternatives and I will leave it to the experts to detail these practices of flood evacuation infrastructure and procedures, flood levees and better management of the dam's water storage. The concept that we need to do increase the height of this dam wall is inappropriate and the justification of flood mitigation. One may ask, what is driving the need? To me, there are three: 1. Sydney's continued population increase (water use) and wishing to raise the dam holding capacity 2. Development of properties on the designated flood plains, although not used as a justification and needs to be explicitly stated if it is the justification. 3. Climate change will cause more significant rain storms requiring greater risk mitigation strategies. Again not used as a justification so needs to be ignored or explicitly stated. Simply, one question is: When will New South Wales decide that enough is enough, we need to start developing other cities outside of the Sydney basin if we wish to continue with population growth? For me, this is now. And a good government would take the opportunity to start this work in a visionary way, leading with moving strategic government departments out of Sydney and supported with investment in infrastructure in the chosen locations. Govern for society, not property developers and corporations. Be beholden to the mature decision makers of the past and show leadership and restraint to future decision makers by rejecting this legislation