

**Submission
No 63**

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

Name: Mrs Deborah Hallam

Date Received: 3 October 2018

I have been connected with the Hawkesbury district all my life, 68 years, with my family having owned property in many areas both in the Kurrajong Hills and on the lowlands. Having lived permanently and worked in the area since 1975 I have experienced many flood events. I am firmly against the concept of raising the dam wall for the following reasons. In a high rain event much of the water that floods the area is sourced from the narrow valley of the Grose River as well as the small creeks the flow into the Hawkesbury. Warragamba Dam is situated on the Warragamba River, a tributary of the Nepean. Similarly raising the dam will not effect downriver flows of the Nepean. It is claimed that raising the wall will allow management of water outlet in high rainfall events. No matter how high or low a wall is a full dam is still full and water outflows can be managed by reducing the amount of water in the dam. Working in Richmond for many years I was accustomed to warnings that river flows would increase due to water management. Raising the dam wall will flood a large portion of the Blue Mountains World Heritage area endangering many species and destroying Aboriginal Heritage sites. This would be environmental vandalism. This plan seems to be predicated on increasing the population on the Hawkesbury Nepean floodplain. The floodplain has been a major source of Sydney's food supply since the first days of the colony. A large amount of arable land has already been lost to development. It is important to retain what we still have therefore there should not be further residential development on this land. Deborah Hallam