

**Submission  
No 65**

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

**Organisation:** Wollondilly Shire Council

**Date Received:** 3 October 2018

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In July of this year a Gundungurra descendant approached Wollondilly Council concerning the threats to Aboriginal and early European sites by the raising of dam water levels. After listening to Gundungurra descendants and local Wollondilly residents, Council is concerned that many Aboriginal sites as well as sites of early European heritage will be severely impacted by raising of the Warragamba Dam. The current archaeological survey has covered only a fraction of known archaeological and historic sites. There should be a comprehensive study to identify any remaining Aboriginal and European sites, assess both their cultural significance, and assess any potential impacts from the dam raising. Wollondilly Shire Council believes flooding to form Warragamba Dam caused destruction of many Gundungurra sites in and around Burrigorang Valley. Early European sites will also be affected. This proposed new impact will include destruction of the Macarthur family's Jerrilands Homestead, an important historic place. This Council and local community recognise that Aboriginal sites are particularly precious in Burrigorang Valley because Aboriginal heritage has already been severely impacted in this area. Significant rock art sites that will be lost. These are described in the submission to Council by Gundungurra descendant Kazan Brown (attached). Places mapping the creation story of the Gundungurra people will also be lost. These are described in a submission written by archaeologist Michael Jackson on behalf of the Gundungurra community (attached). Council respectfully invites the Premier to accompany Gundungurra representatives with council for a walk up the valley to inspect important sites that will be flooded, before any change to legislation is decided. We request that significantly more time and resources be allocated to Aboriginal and early European heritage survey as part of the dam raising EIS, before any change to legislation is decided. This legislation, if passed at this time, will set an unacceptable precedent for lack of protection of National Parks and World Heritage listed sites. Dr Peter Kabaila Heritage Adviser, Wollondilly Shire Council Principal archaeologist, Black Mountain Projects Pty Ltd