

**Submission  
No 77**

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

**Name:** Ms Lynette Sinclair

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This legislation is a disaster.

How can flooding a World Heritage Area, National Park and Aboriginal Heritage Sites even be considered?

The raising of the Warragamba Dam wall has nothing to do with water catchment.

It is purely a move to pander to developers who want to build in the existing flood plains, that could still be inundated in a flood from the Colo and other rivers, not from the Warragamba Dam.

Please do your duties as representatives of the people and reject this dreadful proposed legislation.

## **Objections to the proposed legislation:**

- Large areas of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area (GBMWhA) 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.
- Based on WaterNSW published flood level, up to 4,700 hectares of the World Heritage listed Blue Mountains National Parks and 65 kilometres of wilderness streams, would be inundated by the 14-metre dam wall raising.
- The areas to be inundated (within the World Heritage Area) are of Outstanding Universal Value. It is the most protected natural area in Australia, with six layers of state, federal and international protection.
- Two key species that would be inundated, and likely pushed to extinction by the proposal, are the largest wild population of nationally threatened Camden White Gum, and 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 GBMWhA 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.
- Other flood management solutions, are being dismissed by the NSW Government and these options have been identified by a range of flood and water quality experts. **They do not include raising the Warragamba Dam wall.**
- **This proposal is not in the public interest and must be dismissed.**

Lynette Sinclair