

Submission
No 82

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

Name: Mr Julian Leatherdale

Date Received: 3 October 2018

I vehemently oppose the Government's plan to raise the Warragamba Dam wall as a flood control strategy that conservationists claim will flood 4,700 ha of the Blue Mountains world heritage area causing irreversible damage to the environment, potentially pushing up to 25 threatened species to extinction and destroying 50 recognised Aboriginal heritage sites. This action would be in contravention of the World Heritage listing and would threaten its World Heritage status.

According to Associate Professor Jane Pittock of ANU, "Management of the existing storage of Warragamba Dam, improvements to flood evacuation routes, increased flood forecasting capacity and adopting international best practice floodplain development controls are all alternatives to raising the dam wall." The Government has yet to conduct an Environmental Impact Statement but is rushing this legislation into the parliament without considering the long-term impacts.

I urge the Premier and the Government to put this hastily conceived plan on hold until a proper EIS has been conducted or even better drop this plan and concentrate efforts on best practice floodplain development controls.