

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

**Organisation:** Floodplain Management Australia

**Date Received:** 3 October 2018

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## Floodplain Management Australia

Supporting Wise Planning and Development

[www.floods.org.au](http://www.floods.org.au) ABN 67 007 279 179

President: Ian Dinham 0435 946 525

3 October 2018

Committee Secretary  
Inquiry into the Water NSW Amendment (Warragamba Dam) Bill 2018  
Legislative Council Standing Committee on State Development  
Parliament House  
6 Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000.

By Email: [www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/committees/inquiries](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/committees/inquiries)

Dear Sir/Madam,

### **FMA Submission – Inquiry into the Water NSW Amendment (Warragamba Dam) Bill 2018**

Floodplain Management Australia (FMA), formerly Floodplain Management Association, is grateful for the opportunity to make this submission to the Standing Committee Inquiry regarding the above. The purpose of this submission is to provide comments concerning the flood mitigation role of Warragamba Dam and the proposed raising of the dam wall.

Natural disasters are costing Australia over \$560 million a year, and flooding from rivers and local catchments is the costliest and yet most manageable of natural disasters.

These impacts will inevitably worsen in the future with the effects of climate change. The forecasts are for increases in rainfall intensity which will increase the prevalence and severity of flooding, and the associated risks to life and damage to private property and public infrastructure.

### **Floodplain Management Australia**

FMA was established in 1961, following the disastrous floods of the 1950's, to support and promote best practice in floodplain management across NSW. FMA now provides an authoritative national voice on flood resilience, and has a membership of over 150 Local Government Councils, catchment authorities, government agencies, consultants, businesses and individuals from NSW, Queensland, Victoria, the Australian Capital Territory, South Australia and Tasmania.

Membership and participation includes both technical staff and elected Local Government representatives. FMA is proud to bring together expertise and experience at all stages of the prevention, preparedness, response and recovery spectrum. Our members are at the front-line of flood risk assessment, flood management planning, disaster and recovery management and community engagement.

Further information about FMA is available at: [floods.org.au](http://floods.org.au)

### **Raising the Warragamba Dam Wall to Provide Flood Protection**

FMA has previously provided comments on proposals to reduce the very real risks of catastrophic flooding to communities of Western Sydney, and has been pleased to provide input to development of the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley Flood Risk Management Strategy.

At present over 60,000 people occupy the floodplain downstream of Warragamba Dam, and whilst there are some actions which can be taken to marginally reduce the risks, it does appear that the only viable strategy for providing an acceptable level of flood risk by raising the wall of Warragamba Dam.

FMA's position concerning the need to raise the dam wall to provide an acceptable level of community safety is stated in the attached Press Releases dated 17 June 2016 and 8 May 2017, and is reaffirmed.

FMA President Ian Dinham would be pleased to provide further advice if required by the Committee.

Yours faithfully

Glenn Evans  
**Executive Officer**

Attachments: FMA Press Release 17 June 2016, FMA Press Release 8 May 2017.

Please address correspondence to:  
Glenn Evans Executive Officer Floodplain Management Australia  
115 Marshall Street Garden Suburb NSW 2289

Email

Phone



# Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Warragamba Dam Plan Applauded

17 June 2016

Australia's network of flood professionals, Floodplain Management Australia (FMA), has applauded the announcement by NSW Premier Mike Baird that his government plans to reduce the flood risk to the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley by raising Sydney's Warragamba Dam.

FMA President Ian Dinham said that the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley has a flood prone population of 73,000 people for whom appropriate emergency management and recovery arrangements must be developed.

"The parts of Windsor, Richmond and Penrith have long been recognised as being at serious risk in the event of major floods, and FMA has been pleased to contribute its expertise to the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley Flood Risk Management Review" said Mr Dinham.

"An enormous amount of work has gone into the review process over the last four years, and we congratulate all who have been involved in completing this very complex and thorough review.

"The strategy represents an important milestone for flood risk management in Australia. It is satisfying that the NSW Government understands the seriousness of the flood risk, and is committing funding not just to further planning and studies for the dam, but also to immediate improvements in emergency response and evacuation arrangements.

"Climate change forecasts indicate that the likelihood of flooding will increase with rising global temperatures. The threat of flood is not dissipating - flood risk management projects like this must be supported."

Flooding is the most costly, yet manageable of natural disasters with recent estimates costing Australia over \$560 million a year.

Floodplain Management Australia brings together experts from across Australia and overseas to help build a more flood resilient nation. Members include over 120 councils, catchment management authorities, businesses, and professionals involved in urban and rural flood risk management.

### About

For more information on Floodplain Management Australia, visit [floods.org.au](http://floods.org.au).

**(ENDS)**

**Contact Details**

For all media enquiries please contact FMA President Ian Dinham 0467 492 117 or [lan.Dinham@mpsc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:lan.Dinham@mpsc.nsw.gov.au).

# Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

8 May 2017



## Praise for Hawkesbury-Nepean Flood Strategy

Floodplain Management Australia (FMA) President Ian Dinham has praised the newly released Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley Flood Risk Management Strategy saying it is a significant step towards improving the safety of Western Sydney communities.

“The Hawkesbury –Nepean Valley is home to over 60,000 people who may need to evacuate in a major flood, and that number is growing every year. Alarming many of those residents are unaware of the risk, or what to do when a big flood does occur.

“The theme of FMA’s National Conference in Newcastle next week is *“Preparing for the Next Great Flood”*, and this is exactly what this Strategy is about” Mr Dinham said.

“This year is the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Hawkesbury-Nepean River’s great flood of 1867. If this flood were to happen again this year an estimated 5,000 residential properties in parts of Windsor, Richmond, Penrith and Wallacia would be affected, some with water over their roofs. As we have seen with the last month’s floods in northern NSW and Queensland destructive floods still do happen.

“It is satisfying that the NSW Government has thoroughly investigated the flood risk, and now understands its seriousness. An enormous amount of work has gone into the investigation over the last five years, and FMA has been pleased to contribute its expertise to the process. We congratulate all who have been involved in completing the review” Mr Dinham said.

“The strategy and its recommendations represent an important milestone for flood risk management in Australia. The suite of recommendations including raising the height of Warragamba Dam, managing future flood risk through wise land use planning, and developing an aware, prepared and responsive community will set a standard for flood risk management in Australia.

“Climate change forecasts indicate that the likelihood of flooding will increase with rising global temperatures. The threat of flood is not dissipating - flood risk management initiatives like this must be supported.”

Floodplain Management Australia brings together experts from across Australia and overseas to help build a more flood resilient nation. Members include over 130 councils, catchment management authorities, businesses, and professionals involved in urban and rural flood risk management.

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**(ENDS)**

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