

Submission
No 94

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

Name: Ms Elizabeth Cameron

Date Received: 3 October 2018

I am a zoology graduate and have visited the Warragamba Catchment Area to undertake fauna surveys as a volunteer on 5 or 6 occasions over the past 10 years. I have seen at first hand, the remarkable biodiversity of the area and its significance to endangered fauna including Regent Honeyeaters and Swift Parrots. I have been particularly impressed by the diversity of large fauna associated with the river valleys – platypus, emus, wallaroos, dingos, wombats, sea eagles and wedge-tailed eagles – and the smaller, threatened woodland birds including Diamond Firetails, Brown Treecreepers and Turquoise Parrots.

The Temperate Grassy Woodland Ecosystems present in the area are very poorly represented elsewhere and it is important to protect them from inundation.

The area was such a popular destination for campers before the Warragamba Dam was constructed and the public was excluded from the catchment area. Because people have been shut out of the area for a long time, very few today are aware of its cultural and biological value.

I believe raising the dam wall has very little to do with flood-proofing residents downstream and a lot to do with releasing flood-prone land for developers to make lots of money. The higher dam wall will not necessarily prevent flooding downstream in the future. Climate change is resulting in more extreme weather events and severe flooding is occurring more and more often, where it has not been previously recorded.

I urge the inquiry to observe the Precautionary Principle and defer any actions that would flood the Nattai and Kowmung River valleys.