

Submission
No 95

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

Name: Mrs Marilyn Riedy

Date Received: 3 October 2018

Mrs Marilyn Riedy,

Submission against the raising of Warragamba Dam wall and changing National Parks and Wildlife Act by way of an amendment.

Summary:

I am against the raising of the Warragamba Dam Wall for the following reasons:

- It contravenes the Charter with UNESCO.
- It allows property developers to develop the flood plains in the north west of Sydney.
- It will not mitigate flood damage.
- It will flood World Heritage Wilderness and eradicate endangered species of wildlife and plants.
- It will destroy indigenous sites valued by the Gundagurra People.

1.

When the Blue Mountains was listed as a World Heritage Natural Wilderness the Prime Minister of the time. John Howard signed the Charter Convention with UNESCO to protect the Blue Mountains from any damaging development. The National Parks surrounding the wilderness areas were specifically mentioned in the charter as being critical to that protection.

To drown those areas of the Burratorang Valley for this unnecessary project is in direct contravention of that charter and in direct contravention of the act of Commonwealth Protection.

2.

It is clear to the people of Sydney that our environmental protections have already been seriously degraded as a result of your government altering our laws to serve the wishes of the property developers. You are supposed to govern for all the people not just the wealthy and your unheeding and dictatorial casting aside of our protections is one of the reasons your government is currently on the nose.

If you rush this through before the proper environmental impacts are thoroughly investigated you will be called to account. This government stinks of corruption on behalf of the developers.

Stuart Ayres unwittingly proclaimed the intentions to develop the north west flood plains in a video released to Facebook. Not that it needed that for us to see the writing on the wall.

3.

This measure will not mitigate flood damage. A previous inquiry into raising the dam wall recommended that all that was needed was a slow release of water ahead of rain events or when capacity reached 85%.

By allowing development of the flood plains you are seriously moving thousands of people into harms way if and when a flood may occur.

Raising the wall will only achieve a bigger back up to the South and the feeder creeks into the Nepean will still flood.

4.

Raising the dam wall will flood 4,700 ha of the Blue Mountains world heritage area and cause the extinction of the catastrophically endangered Regents Honeyeater, whilst destroying several other Australian threatened species found in the location and drive them further to extinction.

Our record is not good on threatened species. It seems that this government doesn't give a damn but we, the people, do. It is our birthright and our heritage. It should be protected for future generations to enjoy.

5.

The Gundagurra people of the Blue Mountains have already lost so much. Raising the dam wall will also lead to the destruction of more than 50 recognised Aboriginal heritage sites. We value and respect their right to visit and use their sites.

Conclusion

Raising the Dam wall is an act of environmental vandalism committed at the urging of property developer and in direct contravention of the Charter for the Protection of the Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.

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 would prove a more acceptable outcome to the people of NSW.

Leave our World Heritage Area alone!

Marilyn Riedy