

**Submission  
No 97**

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

**Name:** Mr Graham Fry

**Date Received:** 3 October 2018

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I oppose this bill for the following reasons:

1. It will flood critically endangered river flats. River flats are the most valuable land in rural areas as they are the best watered and are more likely to produce good crops. As a result most river flat country has been cleared for agriculture. The plains in the catchment are one of the few large areas still uncleared and are a haven for wildlife. It is now known that river flats is the essential habitat for successful breeding of the critically endangered Regent Honeyeater. A bird which is endemic to Australia and is now down to less than 500 birds. These river flats have been used by these birds for breeding and if they are lost through the raising of the dam wall it will reduce their capacity to breed and likely increase their chance of extinction.

While it might be argued that new river flats will be created, the sad fact is that the topography rapidly changes and as the water level increases the surrounding area becomes steeper and the river flats disappear and is no longer providing suitable conditions for the growing of the trees that Regent Honeyeaters need.

I cannot believe any Government would actively put in place an activity that would directly affect the future of one of the most critically endangered species in Australia.

2. All the talk of protecting the downstream areas from flooding is nonsense. We all know that it is the developers who are driving this so they can construct dwellings on the flood plain.