

**Submission  
No 101**

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

**Name:** Mr Martin O'Reilly

**Date Received:** 3 October 2018

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I'm writing to lodge my deepest possible objection to the proposal to raise the Warragamba Dam wall.

My main concerns are as follows.

1. Large areas of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area (GBMWA) would be inundated by sediment-laden flood waters upstream of the raised dam wall. The Government has stated that inundation will occur in the World Heritage Area for five weeks at a time. Based on WaterNSW published flood levels, up to 4,700 hectares of the World Heritage listed Blue Mountains National Parks and 65 kilometres of wilderness streams would be inundated by the 14-metre dam wall raising.
2. The areas to be inundated (within the World Heritage Area) are of Outstanding Universal Value. It is the most protected natural area in Australia, with six layers of state, federal and international protection afforded to it. Two key species that would be inundated, and likely pushed to extinction by the proposal, are the largest wild population of nationally threatened Camden White Gum, and a breeding site for the critically endangered Regent honeyeater.
3. Numerous Indigenous cultural heritage sites belonging to the Gundungurra people are located within the regions of the GBMWA to be inundated by the dam wall raising. These sites are both rare and unique, given the destruction of many Gundungurra cultural sites from the original construction of Warragamba dam in 1960. The consultation process with traditional owners over the proposal has been disingenuous to date.
4. The dam raising is being driven by developer interests on the Hawkesbury-Nepean flood plain. The NSW Government has said it plans to allow an additional 134,000 people to reside on western Sydney flood plains over the next 30 years.
5. Valley-wide flood management solutions, adherable to international best-practice, are being dismissed by the NSW Government. Such options have been identified by a range of flood and water quality experts, and do not include raising the Warragamba Dam wall.

This proposal obviously cannot continue, and I lodge my objection in the strongest possible terms.

Kind regards

Martin O'Reilly