

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

Organisation: Hawkesbury City Council

Date Received: 3 October 2018

Our Ref: ECM No: 6380808

3 October 2018

The Chair
Standing Committee on State Development
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Email: state.development@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: Inquiry into the Water NSW Amendment (Warragamba Dam) Bill 2018

I refer to the NSW Legislative Council's Standing Committee on State Development's invitation of 27 September 2018 to provide comments in respect to the Inquiry into the Water NSW Amendment (Warragamba Dam) Bill 2018.

The Resilient Valley, Resilient Communities - *Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley Flood Risk Management Strategy* includes "Outcome 2 – Reduced flood risk in the Valley by raising Warragamba Dam wall". Council notes, "In developing the Flood Strategy, the Taskforce found that raising the Warragamba Dam wall by around 14 metres was a cost effective measure for reducing flood damages and risk to life. This measure will result in around 75% reduction in the damages expected from floods on average each year and significantly reduce the risk to life from flood events. Proceeding to construction is subject to environment and planning approvals."

Council agrees with the intent in providing additional time to ensure the safe and complete evacuation of people in the Hawkesbury Nepean Valley when flooding occurs. At present, it is predicted that current warning times will not be adequate to support the evacuation of the existing population of the Hawkesbury Nepean Valley.

In March 2018 Water NSW and Infrastructure NSW briefed Hawkesbury City Councillors on the Resilient Valley, Resilient Communities and the Warragamba Dam wall raising proposal as part of their consultations with affected Councils.

In relation to the Inquiry into the Water NSW Amendment (Warragamba Dam) Bill 2018, Council would submit the following comments:

- Concern regarding the limited time provided to prepare and submit a response
- The fact that Council is still waiting for the release of the Regional Flood Study being prepared by Infrastructure NSW
- The unavailability of findings to date for the Environmental Impact Study

Hawkesbury City Council would recommend and propose that a more considered assessment of the proposed amendment can occur post the completion and subsequent the inclusion of the findings from the completed EIS and Regional Flood Study.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to this Inquiry.

Yours faithfully

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