

**Submission
No 110**

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

Organisation: The Hills Shire Council

Date Received: 3 October 2018

From: Rommie Naidoo
Sent: Wednesday, 3 October 2018 4:37 PM
To: Natasha Maclaren-Jones
Subject: FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND RAISING WARRAGAMBA

Hi Natasha,

Please find attached copy of Mayoral Minute.

You can provide this to the committee. The letter was for your reference.

Kind regards



Rommie Naidoo

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MAYORAL MINUTE NO. 08/2018

FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND RAISING WARRAGAMBA DAM WALL

12 JUNE 2018

Councillors,

Next week marks the 151st anniversary of the “Great Flood” of 1867, which remains one of the most significant natural disasters to hit the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley. During this catastrophic event, 20 people lost their lives, livestock was swept away in flood waters and many people lost their homes and livelihood. Given the development since, that same event today would have enormous impact on our region.

Across Australia, floods continue to cause loss of life, damage to property, business dislocation and social trauma. Yet our resources that are directed to flood mitigation and education are nothing in comparison to the money spent cleaning up the devastation and destruction of this natural event.

As The Hills continues to grow, it remains highly vulnerable to the impact of a great flood. That’s because our region is located in the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley – an area labelled by the NSW Government to have the greatest flood risk of anywhere in NSW.

To prepare for a flood event on the scale of the 1867 disaster, Council recently met with Infrastructure NSW and WaterNSW to discuss the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley Flood Risk Management Strategy (Flood Strategy). The Strategy aims to reduce and manage flood risk in the Valley by raising Warragamba Dam by approximately 14 metres. This would make airspace behind the dam wall to temporarily hold back extra water in a rain event and allow for the slow release of floodwaters back into our waterways when they are able to cope.

The Strategy also includes a range of other infrastructure and non-infrastructure outcomes to manage ongoing flood risk in the region, as well as educating residents on effective flood preparation and evacuation procedures.

The Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley has not experienced significant flooding since the early 1990s. That means there are literally thousands of new residents and children that have not seen nor experienced the Valley in flood. It’s time to address the risks and to educate the community about flood behaviour and what residents should do in the unlikely event.

I commend the NSW Government for their research into finding the best possible solution to minimising the risk posed by floodwaters.

MOTION

Accordingly, I move that:

1. This Mayoral Minute be received.

2. Council write to Stuart Ayres, Minister for Western Sydney and Member for Penrith, to give our support for the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley Flood Risk Management Strategy (Flood Strategy) to raise Warragamba Dam wall to provide flood storage and to educate residents with a flood awareness campaign.
3. Council write to the Mayors of Blacktown, Hawkesbury and Penrith to seek support for the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley Flood Risk Management Strategy.

Dr Michelle Byrne
MAYOR