

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSAL TO RAISE THE
WARRAGAMBA DAM WALL**

Organisation: Public Service Association of NSW

Date Received: 7 August 2019

Submission on the raising of the Warragamba Dam wall 7 August 2019

Operational issues

- there are a number of programs implemented in the Warragamba Special Area (WSA) to support and maintain water quality. These could be impacted by any inundation of the area.
- vertebrate pest control including feral pigs which are a vector for brucellosis. Inundation would inhibit access for trapping programs. This could lead to a significant increase in the feral pig population (possibly compromising the water quality for 4 million people)
- This could also lead to animal welfare issues with animals left in traps with staff unable to service traps. They could either starve to death or drown if inundation occurs
- 1080 pesticide is used to control such pest species in the WSA. If this is not well managed by staff due to access issues this lethal pesticide could also enter the water supply hence compromising water quality and the health of those that drink the water

Recreational issues

- Bushwalkers could be left isolated and unable to either continue or retreat from their planned hiking route. This could create safety issues for bushwalkers and other park visitors
- Search and rescue operations may have to be initiated with inundation adding to the difficulties of accessing stranded bushwalkers
- Some areas of the parks system may have to close. Further to this, National Parks staff may not be able to access areas to service facilities

Environmental issues

- There are many species of fauna that could be impacted by inundation. Many of the birds; mammals; macropods; reptiles that inhabit the inundation zones could be significantly impacted. How inundation would impact on some of these species (i.e. the Platypus) is unknown.

However, inundation of river banks may see local extinction of the species.

- More specifically, the Regent Honey Eater is one such species that both nests and feeds on a particular species of Eucalyptus that grows in the inundation zone of the Tonalli and Wollondilly Rivers. It is a rare and endangered species whose very existence could be compromised by the raising of the dam wall and subsequent inundation of areas providing its food source and nesting sites.

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Organiser

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