

**Submission
No 3**

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

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Warragamba Dam while primarily is a water supply storage for the greater Sydney region, while not being designed to do so, has an additional purpose of flood mitigation. The proposed raising of the dam is claimed to enhance the dam's capability of mitigating floods on the Hawksbury River system.

I am making this submission opposing the raising of Warragamba Dam for the following reasons:

1. The increased potential of more catastrophic floods;
2. The potential of increased cost to the community resulting from catastrophic floods;
3. The impact on the w

The proposal claims to significantly reduce the risk of flooding over existing property. It will also permit the expansion of residential areas with the change planning schemes being inevitable. In extreme weather events this will undoubtedly create the opportunity for greater impacts on current and future properties. This was proven to be the case in the Townsville floods where at the peak of the rain event the dam management as forced to release even more water causing a greater flood in order to prevent the possible over topping of the dam. Subdivisions and other forms of changes in land use should not be undertaken in any lands that have the potential to be impacted by floods. These lands should remain rural for agricultural use or for various forms of recreational uses. Governments are severely flawed in thinking when they permit such inappropriate land use and even can be considered irresponsible in raising a dam under the pretence that it will prevent flooding in extreme weather conditions.

If the government wrongly approves the raising of Warragamba Dam it is creating the potential of even greater floods with the resultant greater disaster than currently occurs. This will impact on all including myself with the additional costs to the community through increased government disaster relief, the inevitable public disaster relief donation requests and the increase in insurance policies that would most likely result.

Th environmental impacts on the World Heritage Area and adjacent natural areas is currently unknown as the environment impact study (EIS) has not been undertaken. A second round of submissions will be required when the EIS is available to the public. It would appear that the request for the current submissions is an attempt to circumvent the public scrutiny of the EIS. The proposed increase in inundation periods for the supposedly protected areas is highly likely to cause negative impacts on the flora and fauna of the inundated areas. At this time any approval to proceed should not be actioned. Given the current federal and NSW governments' record on protecting Australia's natural heritage, I do not trust the process to be undertaken transparently and to abide by the protection of the ecosystems of the proposed inundated area. While this submission is brief it highlights the significant problems with eth proposal. I submit that the benefits for raising the dam wall are outweighed by the negative aspects of the result.