

**Submission
No 12**

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

Name: Mr Neville Wilkinson

Date Received: 16 August 2019

Life in the Balance – The Regent Honeyeater

I write to you, as a very concerned constituent, to express my fears for the future of the Critically Endangered Regent Honeyeater. One of their important breeding habitat areas, is in an area that will be totally destroyed, by actions proposed in a Bill [The Water NSW Amendment (Warragamba Dam) Bill 2018] that is currently under debate, in the Legislative Council of the New South Wales Parliament. This Bill will provide the legal framework, that will allow the Warragamba Dam to be raised, which, as a result, will inundate a Breeding Habitat, of this Critically Endangered species, the Regent Honeyeater.

The current population of the Regent Honeyeater is estimated to be less than 400 individuals, just one step from extinction, in the wild. The Australian Government's National Recovery Plan for the Regent Honeyeater, lists the objectives for recovery as:

- 1) Reverse the long-term population trend of decline and increase the numbers of Regent Honeyeaters to a level where there is a viable, wild breeding population, even in poor breeding years; and to
- 2) Enhance the condition of habitat across the Regent Honeyeaters range to maximise survival and reproductive success and provide refugia during periods of extreme environmental fluctuation.

If this Bill is passed and the Warragamba Dam is raised, habitat, critical to the survival of the Regent Honeyeater will be destroyed and cannot be replaced. These impacts are at odds with the National Recovery Plan and will contribute to the decline of a Critically Endangered species.

We all know that water is a vital concern for our Nation. We do need more water storage facilities. Warragamba has, at times achieved it's potential but for the most part, it has been 'feast of famine'. We need MORE STORAGE AREAS, over a wide area, not increased capacity of existing Storage Facilities, certainly not Warragamba. Most certainly not, if it results in the destruction of this bird's breeding habitat, which is already critically low.

I sincerely urge you, to commit to the protection of the Regent Honeyeater and oppose this Bill and especially, the raising of the Warragamba Dam storage level.

Yours Faithfully,
Neville P. Wilkinson