

**Submission
No 36**

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

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The massive environmental/ecological damage that this project will inflict on the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area is devastating. This project threatens 48 threatened species found in the 4,700 hectares to be inundated, including the critically endangered Regent honeyeater (Australia's rarest bird) and the Camden White Gum.

It will destroy Sydney's only remaining wild river and wilderness streams, including the iconic Kowmung river. As noted by the World Heritage Committee this year, the project will also undermine the 'Outstanding Universal Values' which led to the park being inscribed as a World Heritage Site. This threatens its status as a World Heritage site, and could be put on the 'at risk' list.

Raising Warragamba Dam wall will be ineffective at mitigating flood risk on the Hawkesbury-Nepean floodplain. 45% of historical flood waters in the valley have originated from other catchments besides Warragamba.

The wall raising will promote more development in risky areas, effectively increasing the number of people exposed to high flood risk.

Australia's zoning regulation for flooding (1:100 year) is far below other international best practice, with the US (1:500) or the Netherlands (1:1250 Years) as examples. We shouldn't be putting more people in areas that are deemed dangerous in many other countries.

The irreversible damage the raising of the wall will have on the cultural heritage of the southern Blue Mountains is unacceptable and will destroy the remaining link its Traditional Owners have to country. It will result in the massive loss of sacred and archaeological sites, including the last remaining features of the Gundungurra peoples dreaming stories.