

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 30 August 2019

Partially
Confidential

30 September 2019

Mr Justin Field, MLC
Chair
Select Committee on the Proposal to Raise the Warragamba Dam Wall
Legislative Council
NSW Parliament House
Macquarie St
Sydney NSW 2000

Re: Proposal to Raise Warragamba Dam Wall

Dear Mr Field and Committee,

I am a private citizen, resident of . I understand and have experienced the impact of drought on our water supply, but am opposed to raising Warragamba Dam wall.

I am concerned about the social impact and dangers of increasing population in an area that will still be prone to flooding in the case of a major flooding event. I refer to a paper written in September 2018 by Associate Professor Jamie Pittock of the Fenner School of Environment & Society at the ANU, "A report on the alternative flood management measures to raising Warragamba Dam wall." (file attached)

However, my major concern is the permanent environmental and ecological impact this project will have on the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. NSW does not have a good track record in environmental protection. This area deserves and requires Australia's active protection, as highlighted by the current UNESCO status as a world heritage listed site.

A UN report released for a World Heritage Committee meeting in Azerbaijan in June 2019 assessing the state of the Blue Mountains' World Heritage listing has raised concerns about the proposed raising of the Warragamba Dam. The report highlighted multiple concerns for the area and called on both NSW and Federal Governments to send it any environmental impact statements before any decisions on the dam were made. Please see excerpt below from UNESCO site <https://whc.unesco.org/en/soc/3994>

"Conservation issues presented to the World Heritage Committee in 2019
Analysis and Conclusion by World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies in 2019

The confirmation provided by the State Party that the EIS for the proposal to raise the Warragamba Dam wall will fully assess all potential impacts on the property's OUV and its other values, including Aboriginal cultural heritage, is welcomed. However, it is noted with concern that both the State Party and the information received by the World Heritage Centre from different third party sources confirm that the raising of the wall will result in the increase of the frequency and extent of temporary inundation in the property. Such inundation of any areas within the property is likely to impact on its OUV. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to ensure that, in line with its commitment, all potential impacts on the OUV are assessed in detail by the EIS, which will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, prior to taking any final decisions regarding the project. The Committee may also wish to recall Decision 40 COM 7, para.17, in which it considered that the construction of dams with large reservoirs within the boundaries of World Heritage

properties is incompatible with their World Heritage status, and urged States Parties to “ensure that the impacts from dams that could affect properties located upstream or downstream within the same river basin are rigorously assessed in order to avoid impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value.”

I hope you will consider my submission and concerns when discussing the proposed raising of the Warragamba Dam wall.

Best regards and thanks,