

**Submission
No 61**

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

Name: Mr Tony Gasparre

Date Received: 30 August 2019

I am strongly opposed to the raising of the Warragamba Dam Wall. I live in the
and I also am the Head Teacher of Human Society and its Environment at a
local upper mountains High School. Many of my students have investigated this issue and I share
their utter dismay that this proposal would ever proceed. At our High School we have worked
very hard to instil in our students a respect for the unique beauty and World Heritage values of
the Blue Mountains National Park which we are fortunate enough to live in. We also aim to
foster in our students a deep respect for the traditional indigenous custodians of the land. The
acknowledgement of country is a regular and meaningful part of our school culture, which we try
to demonstrate in many practical ways through restoring indigenous connection to land in and
around the High School. We want the acknowledgement to have true meaning and not just
shallow symbolic significance. If the Dam wall raising goes ahead then there is clear and
unambiguous evidence that there will be long lasting and irreversible damage to the National
Park and its unique flora and fauna, including a significant number of endangered species. It is
also very clear that important aboriginal spiritual and cultural sites will be inundated and
destroyed. If there is ever to be true reconciliation and respect for indigenous culture then a
proposal like this must never proceed. How can we teach our children that we truly want a new
respect for indigenous culture when the NSW Government is so easily willing to trample over
the rights of indigenous people. How can we teach our children to value world heritage,
biodiversity, the special beauty of the Blue Mountains, and to take action to save endangered
species when this Government decision sends the opposite message. The decision to raise the
Warragamba Wall is clearly designed to benefit property development and population growth on
the Nepean flood plain. The proposal has highly dubious value for flood mitigation. The
potential costs of this proposal are irreversible damage to a unique and beautiful environment
and permanent damage to sites of significance for our indigenous people. Please do not allow
this proposal to go ahead. We owe it to the current and future generations.