

**Submission  
No 62**

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

**Name:** Mr David Halse Rogers

**Date Received:** 30 August 2019

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Dear Mr. Field and Committee Members,

**re: Legislative Council Select Committee on the Proposal to Raise the  
Warragamba Dam Wall**

Thank you for the opportunity to address your Committee on this most important issue.

Whilst no longer a citizen of *New South Wales*, I was born in *Sydney* and consider issues of ecological, social and environmental concern are relevant to all Australians.

I remember pleasant weekend barbeques which our entire family enjoyed at the Dam site. We marvelled at the engineering wonder just below us, and were proud that *Sydney* in the 1960s was provided with such an excellent water supply system courtesy of the MWS&DB.

We were lucky enough to own a holiday cottage at *Leura*, which has been in the family for nearly one hundred years. Trips to *Echo Point* were marred by views of the *Burratorang Pondage* for the Dam slowly encroaching on that magnificent view.

Raising the Dam wall will create unacceptable environmental and ecological damage on the *Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area*. To further inundate around 5,000 hectares of this precious asset for *Sydney* is an act of vandalism.

The Project will affect forty-eight threatened species found in the area, including the critically-endangered Regent honeyeater and the Camden White Gum. It will destroy *Sydney's* only remaining Wild River and wilderness streams, including the *Kowmung River*.

Further, 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 in the first place.

Raising *Warragamba Dam* wall appears to be the only option currently being discussed. There are other reports, of which the Committee will be aware. Raising the Dam wall will not be an effective flood mitigation method for the *Hawkesbury-Nepean* floodplain. *Warragamba Dam* is not the only source of waters in the Valley.

With plans to increase the *Hawkesbury-Nepean Floodplain's* population by 134,000 by 2030, there will be a significant change in the social-fabric of this semi-rural region, which has historically provided a significant amount of *Sydney's* food. It will put massive pressure on western *Sydney* suburbs, which will experience massive expansion. [It should be noted that Australia's zoning

regulation for flooding (1:100 year) is far below other international best practice, with the USA (1:500) or the Netherlands (1:1,250 Years) as examples.]

Finally, raising of the wall will have a significant and unacceptable impact on the cultural heritage of the southern Blue Mountains – both First People (indigenous) and others. Traditional Owners will lose sacred and archaeological sites, including the last remaining features of the *Gundungurra* peoples' "Dreaming" stories.

Members of the Public are rightly suspicious of the present plans. It is widely known that interested parties stand to benefit financially from raising the Dam's wall. It will promote too much development of the Floodplain, and may lead to corrupt practices at all levels of government, but especially at the local and State level.

Yours sincerely,

**David Halse Rogers.**

30<sup>th</sup> August, 2019