

**Submission  
No 80**

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

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**Date Received:** 31 August 2019

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Blue Mountains is a world heritage area. I have spent many months visiting this area because of its unique ecosystem and untouched wilderness. World Heritage means it is protected. How can you flood something that is protected? How can it be destroyed simply so that developers can build on western Sydney's flood plain, which will only increase the number of people at risk of flood? If World Heritage is not actually protected in our society, and indigenous sacred sites are not actually protected, then what is???

It would appear our society apparently has no other holding that is sacred apart from the pursuit of growth and profit.

This project would cause irreversible damage on the cultural heritage of the southern Blue Mountains. It 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. This is totally unacceptable, as we as a society MUST move away from colonial tendencies, not perpetuate them.

It is apparent that the draft cultural assessment utilised botched methodology which resulted in only 26% of the entire area that will be submerged was assessed by consultants. This is clearly not sufficient or robust.

The massive environmental/ecological damage that this project will inflict on the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area is devastating. Why would we further imperil the 48 threatened species that are found in the 4,700 hectares that would be inundated? This includes 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.

Treating sacred sites and protected areas like this, essentially destroying them is an absolute joke. There is a reason they were declared protected. **SO THAT WE PROTECT THEM!** If every generation eats into this web of protected and sacred sites, some future generation down the line will arrive, but sadly there will be nothing left for them.