

**Submission  
No 75**

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

**Name:** Ms Maria Arranz

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Thank you for the opportunity to lodge this submission.

I object to the raising of the Warragamba Dam Wall. Although I cannot give an expert's reasons, I wish to give reasons from the point of view of a long-time resident of the Blue Mountains who sees the value of this World Heritage area for its value as:

- a giver of joy and life to people, animals and plants
- a repository of highly significant indigenous cultural heritage and meaning
- a refuge for increasingly beleaguered animal and plant species

I also wish to express that while they burn parts of the Amazon for the sake of profit and so many people are outraged by this crime, we are no less guilty in Australia of taking the same approach with our forests and waterways.

In a continent as arid as ours and in the midst of climate warming, the conservation of forest and its creeks and rivers is essential to slowing down drought, attracting rain, and nourishing a multitude of animals and plants. We cannot afford to destroy more forest for the sake of profit. In doing so we are profiting from the future of our children and leaving them devastation and ticky-tacky housing.

The proposal to raise the Warragamba Dam wall will place 65 kilometres of wilderness streams and rivers within the World Heritage site under direct threat from dam water inundation.

In addition, there is a very real threat that raising the dam wall will very likely result in the de-listing of the Greater Blue Mountains from the UNESCO World Heritage List because it will impact upon the values for which the park was listed.

We already have another seriously threatened World Heritage site, the Great Barrier Reef. Do we want to lose another? What is wrong with the leaders of our society that they are so willing to sell our irreplaceable natural endowment for short-term lucre?

Although the dam wall raising was proposed in 2016 by the Baird State Government, it is land developers on the Hawkesbury-Nepean floodplain who seek to benefit for the dam wall raising. The NSW Government supports plans to allow an additional 134,000 people in this area once the dam wall is raised - doubling the existing floodplain population, and doubling risks for that population.

Serious academic research has identified alternative flood mitigation measures that do not require raising the dam wall, including international best practice floodplain development controls, flood evacuation routes, property repurchase schemes, construction of downstream flood diversion structures, and integrated dam management and climate forecasting. You will no doubt receive the references in other submissions.

Raising the Warragamba Dam wall is a reprehensible act that will not benefit our State or our country in the long term, and it is the long-term environmental and socio-cultural view we need to take if we have any respect for our nation and future generations.