

**Submission
No 76**

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

Name: Ms Alison Black

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The irreversible damage the raising of the wall will have on the cultural heritage of the southern Blue Mountains is unacceptable and 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. It is worth discussing the draft cultural assessment, which utilised botched methodology resulting in only 26% of the entire area that will be submerged assessed by consultants.

We as a nation have to stop vandalising the culture of our indigenous population. If anyone suggested increasing a dam wall but St Mary's cathedral will be destroyed etc the Bill would not be passed - it is time Aboriginal spirituality is respected as much as Christianity, Islam, Buddhism and Hinduism. This is a multicultural country that denies its First Peoples the right to protect their religious sanctuaries.

The massive environmental/ecological damage that this project will inflict on the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area is devastating. It is worth discussing that the project threatens 48 threatened species found in the 4,700 hectares to be

inundated, including 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 threatening its status as a World Heritage site, and could be put on the 'at risk' list.