

Submission
No 87

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

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Date Received: 31 August 2019

Raising of Warragamba Dam

To date I have not read any scientific evidence that raising the wall will in fact mitigate flooding. However, it will certainly promote more development and one has to ask who benefits (financially/politically) from this.

On the other hand there is plenty of scientific evidence that we must tackle Climate Change now. This project would be doing the exact opposite. Some trees have been growing to maturity for hundreds of years, storing literally tonnes of carbon dioxide, only to be cut down in minutes. When a tree is cut down, it releases that stored carbon back into the atmosphere, unless the timber is used for building.

In Australia there are 121 species listed as critically endangered by the IUCN, and a further 239 listed as endangered. Loss and degradation of habitat has been identified as the main threat to these species. This project will have a massive negative ecological impact and threatens 48 threatened species including the critically endangered Regent honeyeater (Australia's rarest bird) and the Camden White Gum. This park has been inscribed as a World Heritage site, and this project would put that at risk.

Does the following ring any bells for anyone

“Our land abounds in nature's gifts
Of beauty rich and rare”

At the rate of current destruction of our flora and fauna, those words will need to be changed.

A recent study has suggested that reforestation could have a major impact on fighting climate change. It won't solve the problem alone, but it can help to alleviate the crisis while we wait for certain governments to accept the facts and act accordingly.

So we must be looking to plant as many more trees as possible now, and to preserving those that we have. Each tree we lose could bring one more species just that bit closer to extinction.