

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

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date Received:** 31 August 2019

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Partially  
Confidential

To whom it may concern,

As a practicing environmental scientist, and a keen observer of matters relating to the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area, I oppose the proposal to raise Warragamba Dam. There would be an unacceptable impact on up to 4700 ha of sensitive river ecosystems in the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. As stated by Water NSW, operating the Dam for flood mitigation would inundate upstream areas for up to around 14 days, with a potential water level increase of 14m. This would have a significant impact on 65km of rivers in the World Heritage Area, such as the Coxs, Kowmung, Kedumba and Nattai rivers. Impacts would include loss of habitat, drowning of flora and fauna, including the largest remaining stand of the Camden White Gum, and sediment deposition. Areas temporarily inundated would take far longer to recover than the time spent inundated. One only needs to look at areas around Warragamba Dam that have previously inundated, to see the permanent effects of temporary inundation.

There are alternative solutions that will not impact the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area, and cost significantly less. The existing height of Warragamba Dam, as well as the auxiliary spillway, can be used to manage floods. Lowering the current maximum height of water storage in Warragamba Dam could be offset through expansion of capacity at Sydney Desalination Plant. Additionally, development on floodplains should be severely restricted, as these areas are guaranteed to be flooded at some point. Also, other rivers, such as the Grose, Colo and Macdonald Rivers still provide potential for flooding downstream of Warragamba Dam, and the proposal to raise the dam wall would not block these floodwaters at all. The proposal to raise Warragamba Dam would also cost approximately \$700 million, not a good investment or use of taxpayer funds.

I would urge that this proposal is reconsidered due to an unacceptable environmental impact to the World Heritage Listed Blue Mountains.

Kind Regards,