

**Submission
No 104**

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

Name: Miss Gwenda Lister

Date Received: 1 September 2019

To the committee

I have been concerned with the proposed raising of the wall of Warragamba Dam for several reasons and would like to consider rejecting this proposal.

1. Impact on the World Heritage Blue Mountains area. This is a unique area and we cannot risk even temporary flooding because it will threaten the values that make it World Heritage. I have volunteered since 2001 on Lord Howe Island to assist removing weeds and know how important World Heritage areas are for future generations.
2. The claim that the wall increase will reduce risk of damage to residents below the wall is debatable given that it is not going to affect water from other rivers. As well we should never have permitted any housing development on the floodplain. It is prime agricultural land and should have been retained as the food bowl for Sydney, Allowing extra residential development should never be approved, especially when we are trying to reduce "food miles"
3. Impact on the Aboriginal heritage. Over 12 years the custodians of the land have been slowly documenting the area and have uncovered many significant cultural artefacts despite only having covered less than 25% of the area that will be affected by raising the wall. How can the proposed dam wall be increased before the area is completely studied?
4. Effect on flora and fauna. Around Sydney we are lucky to have been able to retain many National Parks (mainly because the areas were not considered to be suitable for agriculture in the early days of white settlement). In the area to be affected by the dam wall raising proposal there are many threatened and endangered species not abundant in any other areas, including the regent honeyeater and the candle gums. How can we justify spending money in other areas, eg planting in the Capertee Valley, while not protecting existing areas?

I am just a resident from Western Sydney but have been lucky enough to be able to volunteer for many environmental projects, including ecological surveys in the Simpson Desert, hunting hawkweed in the Snowy Mountains, and our family really values our holidays camping the the state's National Parks. We are putting developers' interests above the well-being of our residents. Conserving the environment is vital for not just us but for all future generations.

Please do not proceed with this proposal to raise the wall.

Thanking you,
Gwenda