

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 1 September 2019

Partially
Confidential

Dear Committee members

I am a concerned member of the public who loves and regularly national parks in the Sydney and Blue Mountains area. I am alarmed by the government's plan to raise the Warragamba Dam wall, as it is clear that this will have an injurious effect on the unique and irreplaceable World Heritage area. Both archaeological and ecological features are at great risk with this plan.

Existing Aboriginal archaeological and sacred sites should be protected at all cost - it is terrible to hear of destroying such ancient and important sites. The unique flora and fauna of the Blue Mountains area must also be protected - including the 48 threatened species found in the area to be inundated. This includes the critically endangered Regent Honeyeater, as well as the only remaining wild river streams in the Sydney area, the Kowmung River. As a librarian working with archival materials that document the NSW environmental heritage and human interaction with it, I have worked on photographs from the 1920s and 1930s featuring some of the earlier white interactions with this area, and the first efforts to save areas of the Blue Mountains wilderness that would have been destroyed if not for these actions. Men and women from the Sydney Bushwalkers Club and other individuals walked great distances, including week-long hikes from the Blue Mountains through to the Kowmung area, documenting and enjoying the natural environment. It is terrible to think of these areas being ruined in the 21st century.

Research has shown that the proposal will not effectively mitigate flood risk on the Hawkesbury-Nepean flood plain. It will also lead to over-development of this important area of Sydney's food bowl, which is already threatened by development. The World Heritage listing of the Blue Mountains area will be at risk, which will effect tourism, one of the most important industries. Millions of international tourists love to visit our Blue Mountains just outside Sydney. So the proposal does not make economic sense either.

Please consider the future of this unique and well-loved natural environment.

Yours sincerely,