

**Submission  
No 117**

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

**Name:** Mr Graeme Jessup

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I do not support the raising of Warragamba Dam

Why is it so important to embark on this proposal when there seem to alternatives? We cannot continue to systematically intrude on our natural environment – if we do we will lose our natural heritage as has happened so much in the last 100 years. It is time for enlightened planning that prevents systemic erosion of what we value – isn't that what a Heritage Listing is designed to achieve?

Raising the dam by 14m will leave a permanent big scar on a designated World heritage area – have the costs and benefits for this proposal been given a thorough assessment? Some issues:

- Flooding downstream will still occur due to downstream catchments that feed into the Nepean River. Half of historic floods are said to come from downstream catchments.
- Safety issues can be handled by providing better evacuation plans for floodplain residents.
- Lowering the full storage level on the existing dam and building desalination and water recycling additions could allow for floodwater storage in the existing dam – possibly at less cost than raising the dam.