

**Submission
No 132**

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

Name: Mr Simon Harris
Date Received: 5 September 2019

Dear Committee

My name is Simon Harris and I am writing a submission regarding the rising of the Dam in the Blue Mountains.

My main concerns that I'd like to lodge to the committee are as follows:

The massive environmental/ecological damage that this project will inflict on the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area is devastating. The project threatens 48 threatened species found in the 4,700 hectares to be inundated, including the critically endangered Regent honeyeater (Australia's rarest bird) and the Camden White Gum.

It will destroy Sydney's only remaining wild river and wilderness streams, including the iconic Kowmung river. As noted by the World Heritage Committee this year, the project will also undermine the 'Outstanding Universal Values' which led to the park being inscribed as a World Heritage Site.

Raising Warragamba Dam wall will be ineffective at mitigating flood risk on the Hawkesbury-Nepean floodplain. 45% of historical flood waters in the valley have originated from other catchments besides Warragamba, and that the wall raising will promote more development in risky areas, effectively increasing the number of people exposed to high flood risk.

Raising Warragamba Dam wall will promote too much development on the Hawkesbury-Nepean floodplain. With plans to increase the Hawkesbury-Nepean Floodplain population by 134,000 by 2030, it will change the social-fabric of this semi-rural region which has historically provided a significant amount of Sydney's food.

The irreversible damage the raising of the wall will have on the cultural heritage of the southern Blue Mountains is unacceptable and will destroy the remaining link its Traditional Owners have to country. It will result in the massive loss of sacred and archaeological sites, including the last remaining features of the Gundungurra peoples dreaming stories.

Thanks for your time.

Simon Harris