

**Submission
No 150**

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

Name: Mr James Stuart
Date Received: 5 September 2019

Dear Committee members,

I am writing to voice my opposition to the proposal to raise the Warragamba Dam Wall. Such a move will damage the World Heritage area's ecological and cultural values immeasurably, with little in the way of proven benefits when it comes to mitigating flood risk on the Hawkesbury-Nepean flood plain.

The Blue Mountains World Heritage area is so listed because of its aboriginal cultural value and ecological value.

The area that would be submerged by raising the wall is home to 48 already threatened species. Each of these species, including the critically endangered Regent Honeyeater, is unique and irreplaceable. Habitat destruction on this scale is a sure death sentence.

I also draw the committee's attention to the fact that this proposal will flood the one of the only remaining wild river streams in the Sydney area, the Kowmung River.

The efforts to investigate the existing Aboriginal archaeological and sacred sites is also inadequate, with only 26% of the area surveyed, in manifestly inadequate detail.

Finally, while the damage that would be caused by this proposal is clear, the benefits are not. For example, promoting development of the flood plain places more houses in a high-risk flood area. The claims that raising the dam will mitigate this risk are optimistic. Severe flood damage in the Brisbane Floods can be directly attributed to an over-development based on the false belief that the Wivenhoe Dam had 'Flood-proofed' the valley.

In an age of increasing climate risk and food security issues, developing the Sydney basin's remaining agricultural land is also short-sighted. Local food production is a critical part of our city's resilience to the many social and climatic shocks to come.

I urge the committee to take these issues into account and recommend that raising of the dam must not proceed.

Yours sincerely,

James Stuart
, NSW