

**Submission  
No 178**

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

**Name:** Mr Dennis Ashton

**Date Received:** 5 September 2019

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05-09-2019

Mr Justin Field, MLC  
Chair  
Select Committee on the Proposal to Raise the Warragamba Dam Wall  
Legislative Council  
NSW Parliament House  
Macquarie St  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Inquiry into the proposal to raise the Warragamba Dam Wall

I, Dennis Ashton, representing myself, would like to make a submission to the Legislative Council Select Committee on the proposal to raise the Warragamba Dam wall.

I had worked for Water NSW until my retirement (actually made redundant) in 2016 and had worked for previous agencies starting with Metropolitan Water Sewerage & Drainage Board in 1968, Water Board, Sydney Water (made redundant 1997) and recalled back to Sydney Catchment Authority in 1999.

Most of my career for over the 46 years was spent with catchment management in a diverse and variety of work and a lot of time was spent on and adjacent to Lake Burragorang and within the Warragamba catchment area generally. Over those years I built up a great deal of knowledge and expertise of this area on land forms, water courses, native vegetation and animals, weeds and pest animal species, aboriginal sites and European Heritage sites and items.

I am very concerned not only with the impending impact on biodiversity of the area and the now National Park estate and World Heritage Area and the special aboriginal sites and culture but also European Heritage sites and items that can be found above the current full storage level foreshores and along the rivers leading into Lake Burragorang, within the Warragamba Special Area.

I raised my concerns to Water NSW (WDR) on 12 April 2019 via email stating there had been little or no mention of the many families that had to leave the area because either their properties were to be flooded or were within the water quality protection zone (2 mile/3 Km). I listed Shipp's house (the only remaining sandstone building on the Lake Burragorang foreshore, many house site foundations, fences, stock yards, roads, several vehicles, graves, old school sites, saw mill boiler etc etc.

On 13 May 2019, I received a reply thanking me for my interest and stating "We are in the process of confirming information with technical experts on the proposal team, and will respond to you in further detail shortly."

I would have thought the "experts" surly would have been local historical societies or at the very least the ex Burragorang Valley families that are still about today. As I understand nun of these have been contacted.

As I had not received any feedback I again emailed WDR on 12 July 2019 and this time added four (4) photographs of European Heritage sites and items with a bit of history, typical of what can be found within the proposed raising level of 14 metres above the current full storage level.

To date I have received no information, nor have I seen any reference to European Heritage items along the foreshores, all of which have connections to the many families that gave up their properties and way of life for Sydney's water supply needs and not for further development on the flood plains down river.

For the record, while working for the Water Board, due to my knowledge of the area and of European Heritage sites and items, I was requested / directed to show a consultant such sites for a report for the then, raising Warragamba Dam wall by 23 metres, a similar proposal that now being undertaken.

The consultants report was submitted but it was not complete and required amendments as some information was incorrect.

Of course it was not required as the proposal did not go ahead, instead suitable and sensible dam safety construction works were carried out.

I will declare that I am a member of the Yerranderie Management Committee but this submission is for and from myself.

Yours Sincerely  
Dennis Ashton