

**Submission
No 182**

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

Name: Ms Mora Main
Date Received: 5 September 2019

Thank you for considering my submission strongly in opposition to the proposed raising of Warragamba Dam wall.

1. Raising the dam wall will not stop down stream flooding. At least three other waterways (Colo, Macdonald and South Creek) empty into the Hawkesbury Nepean system down stream of Warragamba. Indeed, the Nepean itself by-passes Warragamba.
2. If raised, and if the dam fills with water to the new height, it will cause unreasonably damaging flooding of the Blue Mountains National Park, destruction of native animal, bird , insect and invertebrate species and obliterate irreplaceable and sacred Indigenous archaeological sites.
3. If raised, a false sense of security will be given to downstream land. The Wivenhoe dam allegedly built to "protect" Brisbane from flooding was a clear failure. Who will bear the cost of repairing 135,000 new homes proposed for construction in the flood plain should there be a major flood in future?
4. A common sense approach is to develop a retreat strategy for 5,000 homes already in the flood zone. The most "at risk" buildings should be relocated to higher ground and the flood prone land should remain as agricultural or horticultural, where existing, or be rehabilitated as natural wetland for ecological benefit, particularly for bird life. No further urban development should occur in the flood plains.
5. This dam wall proposal is deeply flawed. A simple lesson in geography would immediately exclude the flood prone land from urban development, rather than making a feeble attempt to protect it by raising the existing dam wall. The proposal is incomprehensible. Filling flood prone land to raise levels will see flood waters move elsewhere. The intervention into natural systems cannot be acceptable.
6. The distress caused to Indigenous people by the likely inundation of their history is intolerable. In full knowledge of the importance of these sites, the proponent's - and the NSW government's - blind refusal to recognise them is an irresponsible act of great magnitude.
7. Raising the dam wall is a costly and irresponsible use of public money, given the knowledge that it will not work, and has many attendant risks. The public interest is not being served.