

**Submission  
No 194**

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

**Name:** Don Owers  
**Date Received:** 6 September 2019

---

Dear Sir,

I wish to express my strong opposition to the proposal to raise the height of the Warragamba dam wall which is designed to flood proof land below allowing more housing in what should remain part of Sydney's food bowl . Sydney's sprawl has already swallowed up much of the nations best agricultural land so much so that we now import \$18b worth of food. Statistically we are on track to loose our self sufficiency in food as imports are growing faster than exports. The threat to our river systems involves corruption at the highest level and will diminish food production at a time when agriculture is threatened by climate change with the IPCC warning that rapid land warming threatens food security;

[https://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/warning-flag-ipcc-finds-rapid-land-warming-threatens-food-security-20190808-p52f6m.html?promote\\_channel=edmail](https://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/warning-flag-ipcc-finds-rapid-land-warming-threatens-food-security-20190808-p52f6m.html?promote_channel=edmail)

Massive housing developments like this are prone to corruption, developers are often involved, and this one is no exception with already signs that one entrepreneur was able to benefit.

Australia has a terrible record when it comes to the treatment of the first nation people as can be seen from the Indigenous disadvantage report. When we want to take more land we simple extinguish any existing native title or ignore any heritage areas that are so important. In this case flooding of land will not only destroy heritage sites and artefacts but will kill vegetation and increase erosion that will silt up the dam. It is also highly unlikely that raising the dam will prevent flooding of the plane below as changes in weather pattens show that extreme flooding events can occur anywhere.

We are a nation in peril from climate change, the Infrastructure Australia report clearly indicates that there was a catastrophic failure of transport in our cities despite expenditure of \$200b which will leave them gridlocked by 2031. The report also warned of cities running out of water, tree cover disappearing, some suburbs up to 6 degrees hotter, energy & water costs increasing, shortages of schools and hospitals and we of course we probably won't meet GHG reduction targets . Air pollution will damage our health through asthma, heart disease, lung disease and cancer and increase deaths which are currently over 3000 very year. In Sydney the average commute times had blown out to 70 minutes, Water storage levels are low and threatened by mining in the catchment area as well as leakage from the 22,000 km of pipes which accounts for 10% of daily usage. This was covered in Tuesdays SMH ;

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/sydney-melbourne-coming-to-a-standstill-as-infrastructure-struggles-20190812-p52g9n.html>

: <https://www.thefifthestate.com.au/urbanism/infrastructure/infrastructure-australia-warns-of-spiralling-transport-emissions/>