

**Submission  
No 203**

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

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From what I have read about this issue, it would appear that floodplain land has been sold to the Clydesdale company in 2014 for \$45million, then after the NSW Premier announced that the dam wall would be raised, Clydesdale promptly sold the land for \$138.8million. The fact that one of the directors of Clydesdale has donated over half a million dollars to the Liberal Party of NSW leads me to believe this is a case of environmental issues being put to one side. It is political chicanery of the first order.

45% of historical flood waters in the valley have originated from other catchments besides Warragamba, and raising the dam wall will promote more development in risky areas, effectively increasing the number of people exposed to high flood risk.

Encouraging this development will 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. With the effects of climate change such agricultural land needs preserving.

Raising the dam wall will have irreversible consequences on the cultural heritage of the southern Blue Mountains and will destroy the remaining link its Traditional Owners have to country. It will result in the massive loss of sacred and archaeological sites,

Just as important is the massive environmental/ecological damage that this project will inflict on the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. I have been made aware that it will endanger 48 already 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. This threatens its status as a World Heritage site, and could put it on the 'at risk' list.

Now living in Western Australia and seeing the devastation caused by mining in this State, I am making my submission as a concerned environmentalist. There have been too many of this type of 'political' decision-making, not always for the benefit of the community, but for the benefit of political donors.

Yours sincerely,  
E.N. Whitehead