

**Submission  
No 207**

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

**Name:** Ms Caro Ryan  
**Date Received:** 6 September 2019

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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

Dear Mr Field,

**Re: Inquiry into the proposal to raise the Warragamba Dam wall**

I, Carolyn (Caro) Ryan, would like to make a submission to the Legislative Council Select Committee on the proposal to raise the Warragamba Dam wall.

As someone dedicated to conservation and sharing the wonders of our natural world, encouraging and guiding people in the wonderful activity of bushwalking, I hold grave concerns regarding the proposal to raise Warragamba Dam Wall. The areas that will be inundated will have an enormous detrimental impact on the biodiversity value of the Blue Mountains.

The Colong Foundations contribution to this inquiry addresses term of reference 1d(iii), highlighting concerns over the ecological impacts this project will have on the Greater Blue Mountains National Park and how it has been assessed to date.

As a dedicated volunteer of the NSW State Emergency Service, I'm gravely concerned at how (according to [Jamie Pittocks alternatives report](#)) raising Warragamba Dam wall will be ineffective at mitigating flood risk on the Hawkesbury-Nepean floodplain. 45% of historical flood waters in the valley have originated from other catchments besides Warragamba and the wall raising will promote more development in risky areas, effectively increasing the number of people exposed to high flood risk.

As someone committed to building relationships and repairing past wrongs with our First Nations, I'm strongly opposed to the irreversible damage the raising of the wall will have on the cultural heritage of the southern Blue Mountains and how it will destroy the remaining link its Traditional Owners have to country. It will result in the massive loss of sacred and archaeological sites, including the last remaining features of the Gundungurra peoples dreaming stories. From a due diligence perspective, I find it deplorable that poor methodology was used in the draft cultural assessment, which meant that only 26% of the entire area that will be submerged was assessed by consultants.

But more than anything, as a person passionate about conserving and enjoying our wild places, I am devastated at the massive environmental/ecological damage that this project will inflict on the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. This project [threatens 48 threatened species that can be 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 threatening its status as a World Heritage site, and could be put on the 'at risk' list.

As a Blue Mountains resident, I'm acutely aware of the value that tourism brings to the region and the thousands of people who rely on it. Tourists and visitors, both domestic and international, come to the mountains to experience the wonders, the beauty, the peace and the natural balance that exists within the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage area. If our status as a World Heritage listed destination is removed, the kudos and 'bucketlist' appeal will be drastically reduced.

For all these reasons, please don't let the project to raise Warragamba Wall succeed.

Yours Sincerely,

Caro (Carolyn) Ryan

**Bushwalking Guide and Advocate ([lotsafreshair.com](http://lotsafreshair.com))  
NSW Bush Search and Rescue Volunteer**