

Submission  
No 219

## INQUIRY INTO PROPOSAL TO RAISE THE WARRAGAMBA DAM WALL

**Organisation:** Bushwalking NSW

**Date Received:** 9 September 2019

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# Bushwalking NSW

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9 September 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

Dear Mr Field

## **Inquiry into the proposal to raise the Warragamba Dam Wall**

Bushwalking NSW Incorporated is the peak body for bushwalkers in NSW and the ACT. It represents the interests of over 11,000 bushwalkers from 69 bushwalking clubs throughout the State, and provides a united voice to local, state and federal government agencies and other bodies on issues affecting bushwalkers.

Our mission is to support safe, active and inclusive bushwalking and related outdoor activities in wisely managed natural areas. Bushwalking NSW is dedicated to conservation, especially in the natural and wild areas where our members conduct their bushwalking and other activities. Any major changes to such areas are of interest to us. We hold grave concerns regarding the proposal to raise Warragamba Dam Wall.

Inundation of areas around the existing dam will wipe out areas of environmental and heritage value. Inundation will also impact rivers and places that members of our affiliated clubs have been visiting for many years. These changes will have a significant detrimental impact on the environmental and heritage value of the Blue Mountains region.

We are particularly concerned that the proposal will severely impact Sydney's only remaining wild river and wilderness stream system. This includes the iconic Kowmung River. Periodic inundation of these rivers will greatly affect the natural functioning of these rivers, causing erosion and significant changes to the riparian vegetation, in some cases causing de-vegetation and in others allowing the influx of weed species. Importantly, this will significantly affect natural amenity value of these rivers. In addition to ruining the pristine riverine environments that we walk through and camp in, the change of regime may damage cultural sites.

## **Bushwalking NSW Inc.**

This must not be allowed to happen and the NSW Government should consider alternatives to raising the dam wall.

Yours sincerely,

David Bell

Conservation Officer

Bushwalking NSW Inc

<https://www.bushwalkingnsw.org.au/>

**Bushwalking NSW Inc.** - The peak body for bushwalkers in NSW & ACT  
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