

Submission
No 223

INQUIRY INTO PROPOSAL TO RAISE THE WARRAGAMBA DAM WALL

Organisation: Saving Sydneys Trees

Date Received: 3 September 2019

3/9/2019

Mr Justin Field, MLC

Select Committee on the Proposal to Raise the Warragamba Dam Wall

Legislative Council

NSW Parliament House

Macquarie St.

Sydney NSW 2000

Inquiry into the proposal to raise the Warragamba Dam Wall

Saving Sydneys Trees Inc. makes this submission in accordance with its objectives of Preservation of the Tree Canopy, Vegetation and Green Spaces of the Greater Sydney Area.

We are a relatively "Young" Association, having had our birth by the roadside of the CBD and South East Light Rail Project that now bears witness to the irreversible Environmental devastation of the surrounding area and Public detriment. WE have a data base of Over 12,000 and a Face Book following in excess of 8.5+ Thousand (which expands rapidly dependent on issues).

We gave witness at the Parliamentary Inquiry of the "Strategic Depletion" of the Public Asset that has enormous Economic and physical disadvantage when not appropriately accounted for in the Planning Process and have been diligent in our efforts to explain the Inconsistencies and Lack of Accountability COSTS to the Public.

This Proposal draws us to remind the Committee of the National Forest Policy (1992/1995) Agreement, that is binding on ALL levels of Government;

The Clean Air Act, also binding on ALL levels of Government;

Australian Tree Standards in development practices;

The Public "WILL" and Safety.

With the expenditure and investment in a Sustainable Future, the quality of air, and the well documented evidence-based links to Public wellbeing and the economic benefit in the Preservation of these established Assets along with Global Climate impacts and stated Obligations, we see this proposal, if completed, be an abuse of obligation to uphold the Publics Expectations of adherence to ALL of these.

The flooding and resultant environmental and ecological damage to a World Heritage recognised flora and reliant Fauna of rare and Critically endangered status and frailty,(48 threatened species in what can only be classified as "Special" area) points in our view to a complete lack of thorough knowledge and application in the Scoping process (this is also an element involved in the CBD and South East Light Rail process along with West Connex) and is viewed as unacceptable.

Cultural Disregard and respect would appear to also be absent in Scoping towards our fellow Indigenous Australians to the point of Abuse. We call for higher standards in this regard and recognition of the Sacred and Irreplaceable Archaeological Sites in this particularly important landscape. These have joint Cultural and Economic advantages to all the public.

Documents will be presented no doubt on the safety to the proposed Real Estate housing development here and we take this opportunity to remind the Committee that Queensland Government was successfully sued by an Insurance Company when they failed to defend the Public from flooding. Placing them in danger of an event. The impacts of Climate Changed weather conditions, the report by Jamie Pittmocks' team and the expansion of population growth into this region at all, bears careful diligence and judgement on the side of caution. We suggest an "If Ever" examination of any developments and once again ask that this proposal be rejected in the Public Best Long Term Interests and that the protection of this region be paramount on the intrinsically linked dependence of the Public on its environment, for their physical, economic and Future well-being.

We urge you to reject this proposal.

Sincerely

Margaret Hog

For

Saving Sydneys Trees