

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

Name: Mr David Noble
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Submission to the Parliament of NSW – Raising of Warragamba Dam

Submission by David Noble. Bushwalker and Wilderness Photographer.

I am very concerned about the proposal to raise the wall of Warragamba Dam for flood mitigation purposes. I understand that any inundation of the area upstream of the present Lake Burragorang is only supposed to be temporary. But this temporary inundation will mean the area flooded will be permanently damaged.

This will mean the permanent loss of a great deal of Aboriginal heritage.

This will mean the loss of habitat for many threatened species.

This will mean damage to many wild rivers.

In particular, it will mean the Kowmung River will be irreparably damaged. The Kowmung River is one of the few remaining wild rivers in NSW and is also a river of incomparable scenic beauty. It flows through a wild part of the Blue Mountains – through Wilderness. Largely untouched country. I know the country along and around the River well – having bushwalked in the area regularly since my first bushwalking trip along part of the River in 1972. Since that time, the Kowmung River, has remained in pristine condition.

The Kowmung River has the most protection that it is possible for a scenic river to have. It is –

- Included totally within National Parks
- Included totally within the World Heritage Area
- A declared Wild River

Any raising of Warragamba Dam will have a major impact on the lower section of the Kowmung River. The vegetation on the banks will be under water for periods of time sufficient to greatly alter or destroy the vegetation. The banks will become unsightly – covered in silt and sediment. This happens with the banks of the present Lake Burragorang as the water level changes due to flood and drought cycles. The beautiful lower gorges of the Kowmung River will have lost their special appeal. The native grass on the banks will have gone. The river cobbles will be lost in layers of silt. The quartzite cliffs will have lost their glistening white sheen.

I would like to add a series of my photographs of the lower sections of the Kowmung River. These photographs have been taken in the section of the river that will be subject of inundation if the raising of the wall of Warragamba Dam goes ahead.























