

**Submission  
No 254**

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

**Name:** Mr Pavel Novak  
**Date Received:** 10 September 2019

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Dear committee members,

As a resident living next to the Coxs River and running an eco tourism business, I do not agree with raising the Warragamba Dam wall. It will have a negative environmental impact due to loss of habitat, threatened and endemic plants can disappear also critically endangered species in this area could extinct. Increase in exotic species in vast area of the National Park will cost a lot of money to control and worst of all we will lose many significant aboriginal sites and their culture will diminish.

If you raise 14m now, probably in 30 years (if not earlier), you will do it again. Because I know well this area, there is not enough done in the upper catchments of Warragamba Dam. Firstly, feral cattle and farmers live along the Coxs River, creating lots of sediment and erosion in the river. No weed control is in place. Lots of carps roam the rivers, destroying the river banks, causing turbidity of water and sediment. Secondly, lots of development is taking place in the catchments and upper catchments, such as grading of unsealed roads and clearing the land, causing a huge amount of sediment.

First, use the money to fix the issues in the upper catchment – slow down sedimentation and erosion, then we don't need to rise the Warragamba Dam wall. Instead, maintain it and take the sediment out of Warragamba Dam regularly.

Raising the wall is just a temporary solution. It is enough that you are building an airport near the World Heritage Area and now you want to destroy one of the most pristine lands of Australia. Please don't do it. We have four kids and we want to leave something for the next generation.

Thank you.