

**Submission
No 257**

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

Name: Ms Robin Buchanan

Date Received: 7 September 2019

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 Committee

Re Inquiry into the proposal to raise the Warragamba Dam wall

I am writing to object to the proposal to raise the Warragamba Dam Wall.

1. The flooding of a World Heritage areas is unforgivable. A lengthy process of documentation has been undertaken to enable this declaration to take place. It is not done lightly and therefore this declaration has really status and establishes this area as having outstanding value.
2. Even temporary flooding will cause damage to all flooded ecosystems; plants, animals and their complex interactions. These systems are not adapted to flooding and damage will be enormous.
3. Threatened species, not least the Regent Honeyeater, will be directly killed or their habitat destroyed
4. The visual impact will be enormous.
5. Damaged areas will be visible from major tourist destinations and economic loss to the Blue Mountains tourist industry will result.
6. Damage to significant Aboriginal sites will occur. This is absolutely unacceptable both legally and morally.
7. The raising of the Dam wall will not prevent serious flooding in western Sydney. While the Warragamba River can be a major contributor to floods, the Nepean, Grose, and other smaller creeks and rivers can contribute large volumes of water. Choke points at Wallacia, Castlereagh and Sackville greatly exacerbate flooding in the region, <https://www.ses.nsw.gov.au/hawkesbury-nepean-floods/>.
8. There will be enormous pressure to build on the flood plains if the wall is raised. This Flood plain land is better used for horticulture, agriculture and conservation. It supplies food and other resources to Sydney without huge carbon emissions.

In conclusion I strongly object to the proposal to raise the Warragamba Dam Wall.

Yours faithfully

Robin Buchanan