

**Submission
No 261**

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

Name: Mr Joe Wachter
Date Received: 7 September 2019

Dear Committee,

Please accept this submission to the Legislative Council's select committee Inquiry into the proposal to raise the Warragamba Dam wall.

I oppose this proposal as it is based on a Lie. The aim of raising the wall is flood mitigation to save life and property in a severe flood. If this was the case urban development would be totally banned on the flood plain. Since the dam was built the relative effect of the dam catchment on flooding has greatly diminished compared with the contribution of urbanisation of the former Sydney Green Belt now covered with bitumen, concrete and roofs creating massive run-off. We can add to this greater volumes in downpour events courtesy of global warming. Pressure from politicians and developers to open up the flood plain for housing should be strongly resisted.

I also believe that if the wall is raised there will be overwhelming pressure to use the dam for increased water supply storage. This pressure will come from increase population, less rain in parts of the catchment due to global warming and the possible loss of storage capacity in the dams south of Sydney which may be compromised by long wall coal mining.

I oppose the proposal because of the damage and eventual loss of cultural sites of the Gundungurra people of the area another blow to these people considering so much has already been lost under Lake Burrangong. I was sad to hear from these people at a recent meeting in Faulconbridge that they have been given little time to comment on a cultural assessment by SMEC Engineering covering only 26% of the affected area.

I oppose the proposal because of the impacts it will have on features that make it a World Heritage Area, wild rivers like the Kowmung and Nattai, species like the Regent Honey Eater and the Camden White Gum (the first little forest planted in the National Arboretum because it is classed as "vulnerable"). The proposal will endanger its UNESCO status and the associated ecological and economic benefits.