

**Submission
No 278**

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

Name: Ms Susan Ambler

Date Received: 8 September 2019

Sunday 8th 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
Inquiry into the proposal to raise the Warragamba Dam wall

I, Susan Ambler, would like to make a submission to the Legislative Council Select Committee on the proposal to raise the Warragamba Dam wall.

I am a local resident of the Blue Mountains and I hold grave concerns regarding the proposal to raise Warragamba Dam Wall. The areas that will be inundated will have a hugely detrimental impact on the biodiversity and cultural values of the Blue Mountains.

I am particularly concerned at the lack of proper consultation with local Gundungurra elders and peoples in relation to irreplaceable areas of cultural heritage that will be inundated by the unnecessary raising of the Warragamba dam wall. Only 26% of the entire area to be inundated has even been assessed for heritage values by the consultants!

I am also worried about the immense areas of wilderness that will be destroyed by the inundation that are home to endangered animals, birds and plants. There are 48 Threatened Species that will be affected by this proposal.

The areas of the Blue Mountains that will be destroyed by the proposal to raise the Warragamba dam wall are part of a World Heritage Area, recognised for their Outstanding Universal Values. These values will also be severely impacted by the proposal. If we lose our World Heritage listing that will devalue the tourism potential of the Blue Mountains too.

The extreme irony of this proposal is that it will not in fact do much at all to reduce flood risk for those already in the flood plain, historically 45% of flood waters have originated from other rivers and catchments anyway, and if more people feel encouraged to live in the flood plain areas then even more lives and property will be at risk instead of less. This prime farm land should be kept for feeding Sydney instead of sprawling development.

Yours Sincerely,
Susan Ambler
Librarian, Katoomba, Blue Mountains, NSW