

Submission
No 294

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

Name: Ms Veronica Stephenson

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Partially
Confidential

I am extremely concerned for 3 reasons that the NSW government are proposing to raise the wall of the Warragamba Dam.

1. It will take away land from the Blue Mountains and put in danger its world Heritage listing. It would permanently flood significant Aboriginal sites in that area, and the Aborigines are not happy about that.

2. The only group to benefit from this proposed wall raising seem to be the developers who will be allowed to build on flood prone land.

3. Building on flood prone land is reckless and potentially catastrophic. If the raised wall should collapse for some reason, what happens to the people on the flood plains??? I am concerned that a Chinese Australian developer, _____, a Liberal party donor, sold land in the flood plain area recently for a threefold profit after the announcement was made that the government intended to raise the wall of the dam. This smacks of corruption. In fact the whole deal reeks of corruption, as it is criminal to build on flood prone land. It is no excuse to say the higher wall will hold the water at bay, because we all know that dams have collapsed in the past, and there is no reason to believe they won't collapse in the future.

I agree with Mayor Mark Greenhill of the Blue Mountains Council that the government's justification is indefensible. As he says, "If it is genuinely about flood mitigation, I have a suggestion, don't develop on a floodplain".