

**Submission
No 295**

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

Name: Mr John Holliday

Date Received: 9 September 2019

Dear Members of the Select Committee,

I am a farmer and mining industry executive from near Orange in NSW. The Blue Mountains World Heritage area is one of my favourite recreation areas.

I am opposed to the proposal to raise the Warragamba wall for flood mitigation purposes because it is an expensive and inadequate solution to the problem of extreme flood security on the Hawkesbury-Nepean floodplain, while also resulting in irreparable damage to the World Heritage area of wild rivers, aboriginal heritage and rare flora upstream.

The proposal does not provide the extreme flood security required because it is well-recorded that much of the flood water comes from rivers other than those upstream of Warragamba Dam. Therefore existing and any new housing on the floodplain will still be at risk in extreme weather events.

There is also the perhaps inevitable possibility that in the future the flood mitigation capacity will become less important than the need for water supply. Thus I suggest that the proposal needs to be considered in the context of long-term planning for Greater Sydney's water supply. If more flood mitigation capacity is desired then the normal full water supply level of Lake Burragorang could be lowered. Whilst this would result in a medium-term reduction of stored water, the money saved from not raising the Warragamba wall could be put towards non-weather-dependent water supply solutions such as water re-cycling and solar/wind-powered ocean-water desalination. These are the only long-term sources for more water for Greater Sydney.

In conclusion an all-round win:

- A less weather-dependent water supply
- Improved flood mitigation
- World Heritage lands saved

Thank you for considering my submission