

Submission
No 297

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 9 September 2019

Partially
Confidential

As a trained earth and environmental scientist I would like to state my opposition to the raising of the Warragamba dam wall.

It is entirely unacceptable to be proposing a project that could lead to the inundation of up to 4700 hectares of a world heritage area, national park, and area of huge cultural significance to the Gundengarra people. This area is home to many threatened species, irreplaceable cultural artefacts and sites, and large areas of intact vegetation that are relatively pristine due to their remoteness.

In addition, the floodplain area downstream should be kept as such. Floodplains are a vital geographical features, and are of particular importance in the Sydney basin. This is borne out by the historical pattern of settlement, wherein the colony struggled to produce food on poor soils elsewhere in the basin, and was eventually able to move towards self-sufficiency with the establishment of agriculture in the Hawkesbury-Nepean floodplain. This land use remains a major part of the area today.

The perception of decreased flood risk may raise the value of land in the area, and encourage development of suburbs over farmland. This continuing loss of agricultural land in the Sydney Basin is a major strategic threat to the food security of the City of Sydney, especially as the ongoing drought impacts food supplies from West of the great divide.