

**Submission
No 304**

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

Name: Miss Jardine Hansen

Date Received: 9 September 2019

To the Legislative Council of the NSW Parliament,

My name is Jardine Hansen, I have lived in the Blue Mountains for nearly 3 years and have loved visiting the area right through my childhood, spending time bush walking, canyoning, gardening and now raising a family here.

I call on the Council to look into the significant ecological and cultural damage which may be caused by raising the Warragamba Dam wall. The area which will be effected by raising the wall is 4700 hectares of pristine World Heritage land, there are 48 threated species which will lose their habitat with the flooding of this area. Of significant note is the critically endangered Regent honeyeater which currently lives in the area.

There are so few truly wild and untouched areas left in Australia and in the world, it appalls me to think that this will disappear too. It is a place of ecological and cultural significance which should be preserved for it's inherent value. In raising the dam wall, Sydney's last remining wild river will be effected. The mighty Franklin River was preserved in 1983 with the decision not to dam the Gordon River in Tasmania and I feel it is important for us to consider very carefully the full impact of raising the dam wall.

The draft cultural assessment of the area only assessed 26% of the region which will be effected, the loss of sacred and archaeological sites is unacceptable. The land which will be lost covers the last remaining features of the Gundungurra people's dreaming stories.

The raising of the wall will allow a vast amount of development in the Hawkesbury Nepean floodplains which historically has been a food bowl for Sydney. Growing up I spent a lot of time around Dural which also used to be studded with agriculture and plant nurseries. There is now a lot of housing development and farms have disappeared, the wonderful soil in the region covered with concrete. It also seems that the rapid development in the area that is sure to follow is dangerous as Australia's zoning regulation for flooding which is 1:100 year is quite far below other international best practice.

Please inquire deeply on this matter as it seems riddled with risks for people, plants and animals. The loss of such a special area would be felt keenly by future generations.

Thank you for your time,
Jardine Hansen