

Submission
No 306

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 9 September 2019

Partially
Confidential

9/9/2019
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, _____, would like to make a submission to the
Legislative Council Select Committee on the proposal to raise the Warragamba Dam wall by the
current state leadership.

I reside in Blackheath within the Blue Mountains and have long cherished this area for its natural beauty, wildlife diversity and relaxed lifestyle. I work as a physiotherapist and enjoy exploring the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area on my weekends and holidays. I will outline my concerns regarding this proposal below.

Firstly, my concern is with the fact that there are 48 threatened species found within the 4700 hectare area that is to be inundated, all of which is contained within a World Heritage Site. The greatest concern and efforts should be made to protect and ensure the survival of endangered birds such as the Regent Honeyeater and trees such as the Camden White Gum. That species such and these and others in the region will be pushed closer to extinction by the raising of the dam wall is a blight on the current government. The wild Kowmung River which flows freely through this area should also be left undisturbed in its current condition to be enjoyed by future generations.

Secondly, no thorough cultural assessment has yet to be completed on the area to be submerged, as it has been documented that only 26% of the affected land was assessed by government consultants. Once again this is a blatant disregard for the values and interests of the traditional land owners. I urge the committee to push for a thorough cultural assessment to be conducted over the land to be lost that includes full consideration of indigenous heritage and values.

Finally, it is of great concern that the raising of the dam wall will allow for the increasing of the Hawkesbury-Nepean Floodplain population to 134000 people by 2030. Western Sydney is already becoming victim to over-development that is reducing the quality of life of residents in the area. Any move to further populate this area should be considered very seriously before being done, as it places further stress on already straining public infrastructure.

I urge the committee to consider alternative solutions to raising the dam wall for flood mitigation in this area that can keep our World Heritage Site intact. Alternative solutions have been addressed in Jamie Pittock's 'Alternative's Report'.

Yours Sincerely,