

Submission  
No 309

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

**Name:** Mr Matthew Riley

**Date Received:** 9 September 2019

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To whom it may concern;

This submission is written in relation to the raising of Warragamba Dam for flood mitigation works.

I am a Gundungurra man, and a direct descendant of George Riley, a well-known historical figure from the effected area. My family has been living in the area for tens of thousands of years. The Burratorang Valley and the surrounding areas has always been a sacred place for our people.

The construction of Warragamba Dam in the 1950's had little regard for Aboriginal cultural heritage. We lost are strong part of our culture and learnings from our ancestors. It became impossible to even visit the areas where my Grandfather and his family members worked and lived. We are now working hard to reconnect with our family and with our land.

Whilst I understand the significance of Warragamba Dam for water supply, I am concerned there has been limited thought placed on the way in which the raising of the dam wall will further impact our sacred land. It is likely that more artefacts will be impacted and further disconnection from our land will occur.

The preliminary studies prepared to support the proposal indicate that there will be negligible cultural heritage impact. This seems improbable due to the significance of the location and the activities that have occurred within the lands for so many years. I would suggest much stronger dialogue and discussions are required with the community to ensure that the sensitivities can be captured in the studies appropriately.

The justification for the infrastructure seems ill thought. The principles of sensible development are to avoid residential development on flood prone land. It seems that this whole process is lacking appropriate strategic justification.

I have concerns that the proposed works do not need to occur as residential development should not occur in flood prone areas. Appropriate stormwater management could mitigate existing areas within the catchment.

The basis for my objection is the negative impact on Gundungurra land and its people, and nonsensical strategic justification for the works.

Regards,

Matthew Riley