

Submission
No 328

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

Name: Mr Graham Lalchere

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Partially
Confidential

**Submission to
NSW Legislative Council Select Committee on
NSW Government
Proposal to Raise the Warragamba Dam Wall**

I object to this proposal on the following grounds:

1. Flooding of the valleys behind the raised dam would destroy large areas of World Heritage listed wilderness. This alone should be enough to put a stop to this proposal. Australia has given an undertaking to the Australian people and to the world to protect this area for all time for future generations,.
2. It would destroy some of the most intact examples of Temperate Grassy Box Woodland ecosystems still existing in south-eastern Australia.
3. It would adversely affect large areas of habitat of the Critically Endangered Regent Honeyeater and Endangered Swift Parrot.
4. It would adversely affect the habitat and lives of the many native species that live in and near the rivers that will be flooded by this proposal, including platypus, water-rat, quolls, yellow-bellied gliders and microbats.
5. Extensive areas of habitat of many species of birds will be lost along the rich riverine flats, affecting Glossy Black and Gang Gang Cockatoos, Powerful Owl, Sooty Owl, Greater Broad-nosed Bat, Eastern Bent-wing Bat and Large-eared Pied Bat, etc.
6. It would destroy ancient landscapes and archaeological artefacts and waterholes on the land of the Gundungurra people.
7. It would impact on the heritage of the historic pastoral properties within the Burrangang Valley in the catchment area.
8. It will not prevent large floods from affecting the flood-plains downstream of the dam, as flood waters also originate from rivers below the dam. This is shown in charts compiled for the environmental impact statement being prepared for Infrastructure NSW (SMH, 5/8/2019).
9. Other strategies should be developed to alleviate the affects of future floods on existing development downstream of the dam, eg, high level roads to improve evacuation routes (also providing other benefits), relocating the most flood prone residents, lowering the dam levels and building more desalination plants.

I further contend that more development in the flood plain (lower than 0.2% flood return threshold) below the dam should be curtailed to avoid putting more people in danger. This would also retain good agricultural land, which will be much needed in future,.

Mr Graham Lalchere