

**Submission
No 361**

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

Name: Ms Heather Gray
Date Received: 10 September 2019

I write to encourage the rejection of this proposal.

While others have written substantial and well researched objections based on the loss of aboriginal cultural heritage and loss of diverse environmental assets, arguments which I concur with and fully support, I would like to reflect on what appears to be a gross neglect of the long-term economic cost of the proposal.

The goal of permitting further inappropriate land use in flood-prone land, with no proven mitigation of flood risk in extreme events will lead to increased insurance policy costs state-wide (as did the Brisbane floods of 2011 contribute to a massive increase to house insurance premiums in even non-flood prone areas in NSW) and increased disaster relief costs to the community, both state-wide and federally.

Further, the degradation of value to the World Heritage listed National Parks will cause reckless economic damage to the tourism businesses of the Blue Mountains. Tourism to this area is the highest of any National Parks in the state and enormous economic benefit is gained by the world heritage values. Any reduction in these values will result in consequent reduction in tourism.

These costs would be ongoing. Forever.

What planning alternatives have been adequately considered compared to raising of the dam wall?

Thank you for consideration of this submission.