

Submission
No 286

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

Name: Jillian Napier
Date Received: 7 September 2019

Dear Committee,

Submission to the Legislative Council's Select Committee Inquiry into the Proposal to Raise the Warragamba Dam Wall. I consent to this submission and my name being published in full.

I urge the committee to recommend the NSW Government abandon this proposal to flood a World Heritage area.

I am concerned that this proposal affects an area which achieved World Heritage status, it will endanger local fauna and ignores the deteriorating status of Australia's natural heritage. I was born in the Blue Mountains and I am aware of its fragility having seen the impact of the past 60 years of development.

The NSW Government's plan to raise the Warragamba Dam wall by at least 14 metres follows the destructive policies of NSW governments of the past by valuing development at any cost. Where are the progressive strategies to deal with a growing population - why must we always be the State known for being 'the first to the wrong answer'.

The project may result in the loss of over 300 sacred Aboriginal sites in the Burratorang Valley, including the last remaining waterholes of the Gundungurra peoples dreaming stories and grave sites. It is unacceptable that the draft cultural assessment undertaken by SMEC Engineering only covered 26% of the entire area that will be submerged by the raised dam.

I understand that the UNESCO World Heritage Committee found that raising the dam wall would significantly impact the 'Outstanding Universal Values' of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.

The members of the NSW Parliament are charged with building a better future for its people not destroying our fragile heritage. This does not mean poor development or wholesale development in any part of the State. It does mean protecting our natural environment and the heritage of our nation's First Peoples for future generations .

The real driver behind the proposal appears to be a push to increase housing development across the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley floodplain. The Government should abandon plans to double housing on the floodplain, adding at least another 134,000 homes to an area which has a known flood risk.

Yours faithfully
Jillian Napier ,