

Submission
No 381

INQUIRY INTO PROPOSAL TO RAISE THE WARRAGAMBA DAM WALL

Name: Dr Susan Cochrane and Mr Michel Bonnefis

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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

As residents of the Blue Mountains we concerned to protect the natural environment and the Blue Mountains World Heritage National Park for our children and future generations we, Susan Cochrane and Michel Bonnefis and family join our voices to the multitude of Blue Mountains residents opposing raising the Warragamba Dam wall.

We entirely agree with the well researched and accurate arguments raised by fellow Blue Mountains residents against raising the Warragamba Dam wall, in particular the Colong Foundations contribution to this inquiry addresses term of reference 1d(iii), highlighting concerns over the ecological impacts this project will have on the Greater Blue Mountains National Park and how it has been assessed to date.

We are privileged to live in the traditional country of the Darug and Gundungurra people and are aware from their elders that the raising of the wall will do irreversible damage to Gundungurra traditional country by destroying significant heritage and cultural sites. A comprehensive and detailed assessment of the entire area that will be affected by raising the dam wall still needs to be undertaken in collaboration with Gundungurra elders, archaeologists and other experts as it is evident that to date only 26% of the entire area that will be submerged was assessed by consultants.

As residents within the region inscribed by UNESCO as the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage National Park, we are aware that raising the Warragamba dam wall will cause massive ecological damage to the wild river system including the Kowmung River. As well, it is devastating threat to rare native species such as the endangered Regent honeyeater and the Camden White Gum.

We are horrified at the rapidly escalating pace of housing development on valuable formerly pastoral land in the Hawkesbury region and (Mulgoa to Campbelltown), major semi-rural regions which have historically served Sydney's food bowl. Raising Warragamba Dam wall will continue to promote over-development on the Hawkesbury-Nepean floodplain (planned population by 134,000 by 2030). This will

entirely change the character of the demographic of this region. Significantly this huge urbanisation housing and infrastructure is not insisting on all new housing developments to have solar panels and water tanks to provision their own water and power.

We request full transparency in environmental impact statements and peer-reviewed scientific evidence contained in government sponsored reports on mitigating flood risk on the Hawkesbury-Nepean floodplain. Research indicates that 45% of historical flood waters in the valley have originated from other catchments besides Warragamba. Australia's zoning regulation for flooding (1:100 year) is far below other international best practice, with the US (1:500) or the Netherlands (1:1250 Years) as examples. *Introduce yourself or the organisation you are representing:*

Yours Sincerely,

Susan Cochrane (PhD) and Michel Bonnefis