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Submission – Warragamba Dam Raising Project – SSI- 8441

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The reasons why I **object to the proposal** are based on many factors but as not one with expertise in this matter I rely on the knowledge of, and trust in, those who have the qualifications, experience, expertise to provide accurate and informative information on which I can base my objection.

Additionally I value highly the work and evidence provided by Indigenous leaders and experienced and qualified Environmentalists who have no connection to developers and thus no vested or conflict of interest in regard to the matter.

The people of NSW rely on our government to make decisions on full and complete knowledge of the matter under consideration and in no way to put people's lives at risk because of the withholding of relevant information. I do not believe the EIS has accomplished this in the case of raising the Warragamba Dam Wall and request that all expert's views are considered fully and without bias.

I would appeal to all involved in this proposal to be honest, transparent and to provide complete information to those who will decision make.

The following points written by myself as a layman, and by no means comprehensive, illustrate my reasoning for objection:

1. There is no verifiable proof or evidence that by raising the Warragamba Dam wall would future-proof the Hawkesbury Nepean Valley against flooding.
2. If Warragamba Dam Raising is a project only to provide temporary storage capacity for large inflow events into Lake Burragorang to facilitate downstream flood mitigation then what other proposals have been considered such as tunnels to move water to areas of need?
3. I do not dispute that the raising of the dam wall by 14 metres, will temporarily store floodwaters upstream and hold them back from the Warragamba catchment.

However as was evidenced in the Queensland floods of 2011 and recent and past flooding in NSW, the public are not able to rely on the release of water in a controlled matter by the authorities in charge. Evidence shows that human error has occurred in the past and appears to continue to do so.
4. The EIS does not appear to provide actual evidence of reduction in flooding
5. Additional drinking water for times of drought will not be provided as there remains the layer that cannot be used
5. Clearly only around 25% of the impacted site was surveyed. This would appear to be a totally inadequate survey for something that will have so much impact on both the environment and the people of NSW.

- 6.. The environmental impact upstream is unacceptable and without conscience. The flora fauna and artifacts from both indigenous culture and that of early settlers will be lost forever. Something future generations would be deprived of by our current government
7. The potential loss of World Heritage listing would be deplorable and open the door to those developers who only consider profit.
8. Warragamba Dam is an area of seismic activity but I do not see in the EIS any mention of this fact nor the impact it could have on the viability of the current wall structure or even the future extension. The potential of dam wall failure surely should have been considered and evidence based research provided in regard to this. The potential loss of human life in the Sydney basin would be catastrophic.

Those who doubt the veracity of this would be well advised to read the following:

Marieann Duncan's submission to Parliament of 9 Sept 2019.

Another document supporting this view: "Earthquake in China Linked to Reservoir Water" by Carrie Bebermyer (Saint Louis University)

I'm sure there are many more that should have been considered.

The potential of additional seismic activity caused by the weight of additional water is an additional reason for decision makers to not approve this dangerous and seriously flawed proposal.

The saying that "*there are none so blind who do not want to see*" should not be applied in this life affecting manner.

CM Neilsen

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