

Yerranderie Management Committee

Submission – Warragamba Dam Raising Project

SSI – 8441

Yerranderie Management Committee (YMC)

The Yerranderie Management Committee Objects to the project due to lack of non-Aboriginal Heritage investigations in the upstream area of the project and the fact the project will not prevent the flooding from the major rivers and water courses downstream of Warragamba (Nepean, Grose, Colo, McDonald etc).

Non-Aboriginal Heritage
Chapter 17.

The Yerranderie Management Committee was set up in 1994 by Wollondilly Shire Council (WSC) to bring together Government Agencies (NPWS, Police, (now) Water NSW, WSC & RFS), First nations representative, local landowners, residents, and ex-residents of Yerranderie and Burragorang Valley (Burragorang Heritage Society Inc) and other relevant stakeholders, to discuss the best management and other matters within the area.

Our Committee received a visit and a briefing from Water NSW WDR Team outlining the proposed raising of Warragamba Dam for flood mitigation in the early stages of the project and were requested to contribute submissions.

Our committee has submitted submissions regarding many non-Aboriginal sites and items in area of the proposed raising of Warragamba Dam with detailed knowledge of the sites from ex-residents (people whose properties or their families' properties were purchased or resumed for the inundation of Lake Burragorang and the foreshore and catchment protection for water quality purposes) and other primary information sources of the sites.

There has been no consultation or feedback from Water NSW to our committee or any of the local Heritage Societies that have many archival records and knowledge of these sites.

SEARS is very restrictive and appears to be deliberately excluding the many known non-Aboriginal sites within this proposed area by their study approach.

17.2 Assessment methodology

17.2.1 Study approach

*Desktop Review of Statutory Heritage Lists including:

- Heritage Schedules on Local Environment Plans (LEPs)
- Section 170 Heritage & Conservation registers (S 170 registers)
- World Heritage List (WHL)
- National heritage List (NHL)
- Commonwealth Heritage List (CHL)

*Review previous heritage reports and management and reference documents, which informed the preparation of detailed land use histories to identify potential heritage sites and historical archaeological resources

Yerranderie Management Committee

* Field surveys to inspect listed heritage items and heritage conservation areas (HCSs)

The above does not seem to have been a thorough assessment because there is one site that is listed on NSW State Heritage Register that is not featured within the non-Aboriginal Heritage list is State Heritage Listing No 01372 stone track -Pearces' Track - is on the Lake Burragorang foreshore (from under the lake towards Mc Mahons Lookout). This is listed in Blue Mountains LGA but is in fact within Wollondilly Shire LGA (Heritage NSW have been informed of this error).

This is an important site and if the consultants had been diligent about reviewing previous heritage reports, they would have known that it was recognized as a 'Regionally Significant Heritage Site' within the Mitchell McCotter EIS for Sydney Water Corporation 1995 European & Natural Heritage (First proposed raising of Warragamba Dam – 23 meters).

It should also be noted that three (3) other sites were listed as Regionally Significant Heritage Sites in this document:

Grave site (James Taylor died 18 Dec 1870 still has headstone and remnant fence and Kurrajong tree planted at the time) located at Nattai River arm of Lake Burragorang .

Charcoal Pit (later found to actually be a tobacco kiln, possibly the only one still in existence and this item was confirmed in a Water Board file from when they were purchasing /acquisition of properties for Warragamba Dam and Catchment area, location Wollondilly arm of Lake Burragorang,

Jooriland Property (did have a Conservation Management Plan) as listed, Wollondilly River.

Not listed nearby is the site and stone footpath remains of the old Jooriland school (south of the homestead) and an old Federal truck, previously used on the property is also at this site.

These sites were identified by James Stephany who was the specialist consultant at the time. Many more locally significant sites were inspected, identified and included within a report :- such as, steam boiler at sawmill site and house remains nearby (local lap-stone chimney), Wollondilly Hotel Site (inventory No 257 Wollondilly Heritage Study Volume 2) Heritage NSW Records Wollondilly Shire Council, Buick car with tractor rear end (homemade), Model T Ford, other vehicles, Coleman's Creek / Beloon school site remains with teachers grave (unmarked) 1875, other school sites, other house sites, vehicles and equipment.

It should be noted that Water NSW has (or access to) archival files containing information regarding non-Aboriginal sites both below and above Lake Burragorang. Water NSW and Sydney Water share a comprehensive historical archive of photographs and documents regarding the sites that now are located within the raising Warragamba Dam project area.

During the preparation for the Joint Management Plans 1996-97 (as required by Sydney Water at the time) there was a Heritage Report undertaken (in house) of almost all non-Aboriginal sites within the entire Special Areas including Warragamba. Both NPWS and Sydney Water (at the time) had access to these.

It is very odd that NPWS have little or so few records on its Section 170 Heritage and Conservation register about the impacted area as most of the area on the foreshores has been under its control for about 30 years and also in a joint management arrangement with Water NSW and its agency predecessors (Sydney Water & Sydney Catchment Authority) and is within a Joint Management arrangement with Water NSW and are joint sponsors of the Special Areas Strategic Plan of Management (SASPoM) 2015.

Page 16 3.8 Cultural Heritage

'The cultural values of the Special Areas are significant for communities'. (This includes the ex-Burragorang Valley residents and their families and others, and in the past this has occurred.)

Yerranderie Management Committee

‘Culturally important places, sites and objects of both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal origin occur throughout the Special Areas and provide a record of human activities related to the natural features of the area’.

‘Under NPWS Act and Heritage NSW Act 1977 the agencies are required to have regard to the conservation of aboriginal sites and historic places within the Special Areas’.

These statements appear to have been ignored by Water NSW itself when preparing this EIS.

After 30 years of management, NPWS should have recorded all or most non-Aboriginal sites within as Water NSW would have or should have transferred this information as well as their own staff must have observed and been to most of these sites.

Why are they not on their S170 register? Or is Water NSW not listing them?

The area downstream has had extensive heritage investigations, with some heritage items listed that will not be impacted at all by this proposal.

The area of the construction site appears to have had extensive heritage investigations.

The area that will receive the most impact, that is the foreshore areas and rivers leading into Lake Burragorang, is the area that has had the least non-Aboriginal Heritage investigations making a very biased report favoring downstream sites rather than what occurs upstream.

The YMC ask if the SEARS could be reviewed to include all known sites in the upstream area of Lake Burragorang and appropriate investigation, recording, mitigation, and management options.

The YMC request Water NSW to complete an investigation of the non-Aboriginal Heritage sites above Warragamba Dam within the project zone.

YMC request Water NSW to have consultation with ex- Burragorang Valley Residents and families and contact local Historical Societies for further information.

It should be remembered that it was the residents and long-established families and Communities of Burragorang Valley that were required to give up their lands for the water storage area and all lands adjacent for water quality protection, and it is they who have been left out of the consultation process.

Yerranderie Management Committee

04/12/2022