

To whom it may concern:

I strongly oppose the proposal to raise the wall of the Warragamba dam. Such an action will not prevent flood risks in the future as more than 45% of flood waters come from areas outside the Warragamba catchment. (This concern was raised by Bob Debus, the former minister for the environment and emergency services.) Raising the wall will create a higher water level which will devastate large areas of riverside vegetation and a loss of biodiversity in this precious area of Sydney's last wild river, the Kowmung river. Scientists and ecologists state that this UNESCO World Heritage area needs to be preserved and protected for its biodiversity of flora and fauna and microrefugia.

Archaeologists warn that rare and significant cultural Aboriginal sites and artefacts will be lost. The proposal, to raise the wall, ignores the rights and concerns of the traditional Aboriginal owners.

The World Heritage boundaries of the Blue Mountains must not be reduced as they are both a national and world treasure, in our care not just for our generation but for generations to come. Once destroyed this area cannot be replaced.

Experts, and conservationists and others concerned with the protection of critically endangered species such as, the Regent honeyeater and the last remaining population of Sydney's emus, predict that the loss of habitat and land clearing will have dire consequences.

Sydney Water and NSW Health have serious concerns about the effects that the dam project could have on Sydney's water quality. The EIS report has not dealt with this major concern.

The EIS report has not accurately assessed and researched alternative options to protect flood plain communities. The proposal for a major infrastructure build, using our taxpayer's funding, requires careful and thorough research which looks at all options. More time and scientific research are needed before such an irreversible project, to raise the Warragamba wall, can be undertaken. It is poor management by NSW government to rush through this proposal as it has not considered all the outcomes thoroughly.

The time given for consultation and research is too short and inadequate. There needs to be a longer period of exhibition and consultation for a broader assessment and well thought-out, long-term response to such a major development.

Yours sincerely,

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*I accept the Department's submissions disclaimer and declaration.*

*I have not made a reportable political donation in the past two years.*