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Submission: Warragamba Dam Raising

Attn:

Date: 12-December-2022

Ref: ADG2022WDR02

Major Projects

NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

GPO Box 39, Sydney NSW 2001

320 Pitt St, Sydney 2000

Phone: 1300 305 695

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Warragamba Dam Raising (Application Number SSI-8441)

Submission by David Gray, having a long-standing connection with the Blue Mountains and the Lake Burragorang catchments - valuing its World Heritage status, its unique physiography, indigenous heritage, mountains, and waterways.

I **oppose** the project, based on:

- Damage to the World Heritage Area, upstream of the dam: its values, environmental and indigenous heritage. Damage is unconscionable, analogous to the Juukan Gorge
- Insufficient consideration of alternatives, which provide equivalent or better levels of flood mitigation, noting the rapidly changing and uncertain climate change driven future. Options for reducing the Lake Burragorang FSL while providing alternate options to water security have not been considered
 - Decarbonisation with excess intermittent renewable energy, will lower desalination costs, provides options for cost effective water security
 - Alternative water security options such as utilising large mine final voids, in the adjacent Hunter Valley, should be considered
 - Consideration of pumped hydro, which will become increasingly important in firming renewable based electricity supplies is not apparent. How pumped hydro option could be integrated into a Nepean flood mitigation solution that does not involve destruction of World Heritage values should be investigated

In summary, I oppose the proposed option to raise Warragamba dam due to its associated environmental and indigenous cultural heritage impacts (irreversible damage, flooding areas that have never been submerged, for extended periods).

The mitigation of flood impacts on Greater Western Sydney should be undertaken, but by means other than destruction of parts of the World Heritage area. There are options available that appear to have not been adequately considered. Questions remain, relating to the costing of alternatives, considering Climate Change and rapid decarbonisation.

Regards,

David Gray