From: Margaret Anne Lester
To: DPE Warragamba Dam EIS Mailbox
Subject: Submission – Warragamba Dam Raising Project – SSI-8441 – Margaret Anne Lester, WINMALEE, 2777
Date: Wednesday, 10 November 2021 3:48:43 PM

To whom it may concern,

Personal: I am Margaret Anne Lester. My Husband & I purchased our property & moved from Bossley Park Sydney NSW 2176 to The Greater Blue Mountains 2004 with 3 off our 8 children.

Prior to moving to The Greater Blue Mountains, we had been living & working in Sydney NSW for more than 20 years adventuring out for family, community gatherings, activities, school & sport camps & holidays which was just a stone throw away. As our children grew, we spent many days on the Coast but most of our camping, walking, swimming & exploring days were at Bents Basin, Warragamba, Nepean River, Kangaroo Valley, Greater Blue Mountains & surrounding areas near & far.

Having lived in Australia since 1978 a total of 43 years & travelled to every Australian State for work & holidays as well as international travel & Australia is my most treasured place to be today.

It is a wonderfully adventurous country with every type of natural environment to Enjoy, Respect, Care For & Protect. When I travel to or through The Greater Blue Mountains I am always in awe of its vastness & natural spaces. The freedom to walk, explore & see nature is the most beautiful action we have to share with our children, their children, visitors & so on.

To this day we still travel within the Greater Blue Mountains exploring history in towns walking with friends from Australia & other countries, immediate family, our children, their children & so on. We always explore & learn no matter how many times we are in a natural environment or town it is always rewarding both personally & emotionally to share time with others in these places.

My concerns about **Warragamba Dam Raising Project** are the effect it will have on the unique plants, animals that live within & surrounding the Greater Blue Mountains that relate an extraordinary story of the evolution of Australia's unique eucalypt vegetation and its associated communities of plants, animals & the horrendous effect it will have on areas/suburbs, environments, nature, native culture, communities, myself, our children & their families.

As we know the rivers, creeks, water ways have changed in the past from what we have done & how they have been affected then & still to this day. I do not want to be remembered as the generation that caused devastation to all living things that serve a purpose but be remembered as making a Submission to the EIS November 2021.

We live on Hawkesbury Road Winmalee NSW 2777 which **Turning Right** is our only Main Road to get to Yarramundi, Agnes Banks, Richmond, Windsor & The Ponds areas/suburbs where three of our children & families live. If we **Turn Left** on Hawkesbury Road Winmalee NSW 2777 this is our only Main Road to get to Great Western Highway, M4, Sydney, Seven Hills, Green Valley & Leppington areas/suburbs where four of our children & families live. Many changes with infrastructure, construction, new areas/suburbs are already begun with destruction of nature along the way. I do not want my children, their families & communities not having the opportunity we all have to Enjoy,

Respect, Care For & Protect what is left.

Yes, we are in a lovely place but our children & their families do not require more confusion, stress or added environmental changes that are not necessary.

We have seen many floods over many years from Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley (the valley) which covers 500 square kilometres from Warragamba Dam, Bents Basin, Wallacia, to the Brooklyn Bridge area/suburb.

The negative effect when releasing the Warragamba Dam has on the land, river, families & communities has not focused on the care & safety of **ALL** existing life (Nature, Land, Vegetation, Plants, Animal, Native History, Communities, People, Dwellings & so on)

However, our laws are made & at times broken for Self-Importance be it Political, Personal, Power or Business Driven.

What happens when we damage what we have? Making mistakes for the **Future** in the **Past** let's **NOT** continue to do that again & again.

For example: NSW's 6 World Heritage Sites

Historical Building Site *To look at & remember our Humility right & wrong*

- Sydney Opera House
- Australian Convict Sites

Always Serves Purpose Natural Life on Earth *Enjoy, Respect, Care For & Protect what is left*

- Greater Blue Mountains
- Willandra Lakes Region
- Gondwana Rainforests of Australia
- Lord Howe Island Group

Facts:

The Greater Blue Mountains Area was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2000 in **Recognition of its Significant Natural Values**. It possesses unique plants and animals that relate an extraordinary story of the evolution of Australia's distinctive eucalypt vegetation and its associated communities.

I remember that day I was grateful & proud & at that time we still lived in Quarry Road Bossley Park NSW 2176. The following weekend I drove over The Greater Blue Mountains to Little Hartley, Jenolan Caves, Blaney, Orange & returned through Oberon, Katoomba, Leura with my children to enjoy the beauty & history.

As this is part of my submission, I reviewed many articles/notes both historical/current. I am aware of the lack of Respect, Poor Behaviour & Dishonest Leadership of things that **MUST STOP** & **IMPROVE.**

For example: Environmental Impact Statement

Certificate: Warragamba Dam Raising
SMEC Internal Reference No: 30012078
Prepared for: WaterNSW

Date: 10th September 2021

After reviewing the **Environmental Impact Statement** - Table of Contents & EIS Certificate **Warragamba Dam Raising** *I* ***OPPOSE*** *Warragamba Dam being raised/enlarge in anyway. We cannot control the weather be it rain or shine, storm or earthquake but we can control & improve on keeping a healthy natural environment.*

- **Gundungurra Traditional Owners have not given Free, Prior and Informed Consent for the Dam proposal to proceed**

- *Over* ***1541 identified cultural heritage sites*** *would be inundated by the Dam proposal with many more that have not been included.*
- The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report has been severely and repeatedly criticised by both the Australian Department of Environment and the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) for not appropriately assessing cultural heritage in meaningful consultation with Gundungurra community members.

- **Alternatives to raising Warragamba Dam wall**

- There are many alternative options to raising the Warragamba Dam wall that would protect existing floodplain communities. A combined approach of multiple options has been recommended as the most cost-effective means of flood risk mitigation.
- Alternative options were not comprehensively assessed in the EIS. Any assessment of alternatives does not take into account the economic benefits that would offset the initial cost of implementation.
- On average, **45% of floodwaters** are derived from areas **outside of the upstream Warragamba Dam catchment**. This means that no matter how high the dam wall is constructed, **it will not be able to prevent flooding in the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley downstream**.

My Position: I **OPPOSE** Warragamba Dam being raised/enlarge in anyway.

Our individual duty **NOW** to the **ENVIRONMENT** & **LIFE** of **ALL** Living things is to Respect, Care For & Protect what is left from our destruction of what we have done in the past. There is no time to continue with destruction of our planet. I do not want to cause a horrific environment for the future of our children, their children & so on.

For myself, Aboriginal Cultural Heritage is about the natural environment we all share to Enjoy, Respect, Care For & Protect what is left.

We have witnessed & learnt of through history & to this very day how **Australia & Our Worlds Environment** has been mis-used, destroyed yet it is what keeps **US** & **ALL** living thing that serve a purpose **ALIVE.**

It is called **Life** let's not continue to ignore how we can keep **Australia & Our Worlds Environmental Life Alive.**

I **OPPOSE** Warragamba Dam being raised/enlarge in anyway.

Yours sincerely,
Margaret Anne Lester
589 HAWKESBURY ROAD
WINMALEE, 2777, NSW

I accept the Department's submissions disclaimer and declaration

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

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