

## **Submission – Warragamba Dam Raising Project – SSI- 8441**

To whom it may concern,

I oppose this proposal to raise the Warragamba Dam wall because it is development for developments sake and fails to respect the existing internationally recognised values within the Blue Mountains WHA, with numerous experts saying the flood mitigation benefits do not justify the financial or environmental costs.

The Blue Mountains World Heritage Area is a priceless jewel in the Sydney landscape and it must not be sacrificed to further the aims of a few wealthy land developers intent on cashing in on more unsustainable and inappropriate western Sydney suburbs built across the flood plain. The natural biodiversity, cultural heritage and threatened species habitat that would be inundated by this unnecessary proposal is too precious to lose. The UNESCO recognised values of the national park on Sydney's doorstep provides the city's populace with important recreational space to maintain health and well being. Its intrinsic values must be preserved and protected.

SMEC Engineering have a poor track record when it comes to assessing indigenous cultural heritage and the EIS surveys have been criticised as inadequate in assessment of areas of threatened species, endangered ecological communities and in regard to animals impacted by bushfires within the dam footprint. The predicted dam levels would degrade existing regent honeyeater habitat and risks accelerating the extinction trajectory of this critically endangered bird.

Over 1500 of the Gundungurra Traditional Owners important cultural heritage sites would be flooded by this proposal without informed consent from, or reasonable efforts to consult with, the land's first nations custodians.

There are a range of other options that could be modeled which have not been considered in the EIS. Alternatives must be explored to improve flood mitigation outcomes in existing communities - less expensive proposals that do not involve a costly dam raising project which experts say will do little to prevent flooding in the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley.

Tax payers money would be better spent on exploring a range of housing options to minimise sprawl and to improve flood outcomes, enhancing the live-ability of western Sydney's existing suburbs. Ecologically sustainable, low cost living, residential designs that offer greater benefit to a larger number of suburban communities must be explored.

The current proposal is out of step with the ecological and climate reality we grapple with as a society living beyond the capacity of our finite planet. Intact natural landscapes are our best defense against extreme climate impacts.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Yours sincerely,  
Meredith Stanton  
Clouds Creek NSW

I accept the Department's submissions disclaimer and declaration

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