

Submission – Warragamba Dam Raising Project – SSI-8441 – Maurie Smith (Windsor, NSW, 2756

Christine and I support this proposal to raise the Warragamba Dam wall for flood mitigation purposes as laid out in the EIS Reference No. 30012078.

We support this proposal as it has been shown through numerous investigations, detailed studies, and reports that this is the mitigation step that give the most protection to the valley out of all the mitigation options investigated.

In our opinion the protection afforded to the environment and the communities down stream of the Warragamba Dam far out ways the possible long term environmental and cultural losses up stream of Warragamba Dam when the temporary inundation takes place for a short duration of time in major flood events.

The statistics are contained in the EIS bear this out.

Having lived in the Hawkesbury Nepean Basin our entire lives, 70 Years, we have witnessed the increase in both development of enterprise, population and diversity that follows.

We are the 3rd generation of our families that settled in the Hawkesbury Nepean Valley bounded by the Cumberland Plain and the Great Dividing Range.

During this time, we have seen the urban development move from the coastal fringe to the western Cumberland Plain and beyond.

Development along Eastern Creek, South Creek and the Nepean /Hawkesbury take place in areas which now have been identified as Flood effected and require protection.

We have seen narrow dirt roads become 4 lane expressways, Electrification of the Blacktown Richmond line, Sewerage delivered to most communities, street lighting and large-scale community facilities to mention a few.

However, mother nature still controls our major flood events. This project will not prevent flooding but it has been shown by recent flood events 2019 and 2020 and modelling in the EIS will reduce the impact on the environment and communities downstream.

I liken the project to the seat belt in a motor car, which have been introduced National during my lifetime, whilst the seat belt will not stop you from having an accident it has been proven that it may well save your life or restrict you from serious injury.

This project is the seat belt for the Hawkesbury Nepean Valley. Whilst it will not stop it from flooding it will drastically reduce the impact.

The development of the and funding for SES and Rural Fire Services to protect these communities.

This project will further extend these services ability to assist in the protection and evacuation of those currently living in those identified areas by Mitigating the risk and extending the evacuation time available.

In regard to Biodiversity offsets discussed in the EIS we believe that these should be recalibrated to represent the proven fact that verry little, long term damage will be sustained by those areas

temporarily inundated when the inflow waters are required to be held back till the flood river level drops as per the EIS.

Regards

Maurie Smith

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