

Sue Way

55 Macarthur Rd

Camden 2570

Email: sueway75@hotmail.com

Mob: 0410179790

19 December 2021

Warragamba Dam Assessment Team

Planning and Assessment

Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Locked Bag 5022

Parramatta NSW 2124

Dear Warragamba Dam Assessment Team,

Submission- Warragamba Dam Raising Project -SSI-8441-

I am writing to object to the above proposal.

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Warragamba Dam Raising Project is a tome not for the faint hearted. Its sheer volume could, arguably, be seen as a tactic designed to dissuade close scrutiny.

Among the most egregious flaws (or perhaps more appropriately 'deceptions?') contained within, is to assess the potential impact *upstream* of inundation behind the +14 metre increased height of the Dam at only approximately half that level. Also the findings regarding impact on Indigenous sites upstream are based on having completed survey work on only 27% of the potentially impacted area and allocating only 25 days to field studies; this despite the EIS being 4 years in the making! Combined these sleights of hand serve to ***totally underrepresent*** the degree of ecological damage to the Blue Mountains Heritage Area and communities upstream, the devastating implications for innumerable sites of cultural significance to Indigenous people of the area, and destruction of habitat and loss of vulnerable and unique flora and fauna.

So ill-considered is this proposal that should it go ahead UNESCO has flagged its intention to pursue withdrawing the World Heritage Listing of the Blue Mountains.

The premise consistently forwarded for the wall raising, concern for public safety of communities, for life and limb and property *downstream*, constitutes a blatant misdirection. This burst of civic responsibility, announced loudly and paraded to be applauded, is nothing less than a Trojan horse; within its belly reside a legion of developers oh-so-eager to plunder newly 'rescued' areas, erstwhile potentially flood affected green space, and transform them

into yet more fuel-dependant heatsinks of unrelieved housing and paved surfaces. Such developments already exist in many flood-prone areas of the Hawkesbury/Nepean. It's most certainly the case that concern for catastrophic outcomes have been nowhere in sight when \$'s have lit up the eyes of the unscrupulous in the past.

Only a deeply committed Pollyanna could read this as anything but a cynical ploy; lucrative land sales constituting public and private windfalls, generating further windfalls for developers with their cheek by jowl housing estates. All at a cost to taxpayers estimated at over a billion dollars for the wall; and upstream at the loss of priceless Indigenous cultural sites and native flora and fauna (perhaps to the point of extinction) and the inundation and desecration of a precious environment of World Heritage value.

I most strenuously request that the Warragamba Dam Assessment Team not support this proposal.

Yours sincerely

Sue Way