

Warragamba Dam Assessment Team
Planning and Assessment
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
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Submission—Warragamba Dam Raising Project—SSI-8441

Strong objection to the proposal to raise the dam wall.

My objections to the proposal to raise the dam wall are:

1. Inordinate spending on a poorly conceived stop-gap addition to a wall that was never designed for such an addition is NOT a solution for years and years of ignoring known flood patterns in the flood plain of the Nepean-Hawkesbury system. Greed and short-term gain should not be paid for from the public purse. As a child, I had etched into my consciousness the scope of major floods, and then, in horror, have watched on as development has proceeded in areas that I remember being inundated. The natural function of a major flood plain has been ignored. The solution is NOT to further the folly.
The only viable solution to the problem of future flooding in the Nepean-Hawkesbury flood-plain is to create evacuation plans and develop infrastructure that will accommodate the necessary movement to higher ground, and to buy back the most vulnerable properties. Wise planning would not be projecting population consolidation in flood-prone areas as inevitable. Good planning would have been incorporating intensive crop-growing in such fertile, market-accessible lands. The land's function is flood plain. Don't throw more tax-payer money after an empty dream of stopping the inevitable at the expense of further wrongs.
2. The impacts of raising the wall of the Warragamba Dam are totally unacceptable in terms of environmental and cultural desecration. We are no longer living in oblivion of the genocide and cultural arrogance of our forebears. I cannot live with more of the same being undertaken in today's world.

Specifically,

- a) Upstream impact on wild rivers such as the lower sections of the Kowmung River (now a declared a 'wild river' with pristine ecological values).
- b) Endangering, yet again, 6000 hectares of World Heritage listed Blue Mountains National Park and the flora and fauna therein, as well as the highly valued World Heritage listing itself.
- c) 1200 nominated sites of great cultural, natural and historical significance in the Burratorang Valley. We all, these days, value such remnants of the original fabric and culture of our land. We know about these sites now and value preserving this remaining indigenous history of the Gandangarra people. We do not want to perpetuate the crimes of of forefathers.

3. The floods that affect the Nepean-Hawkesbury flood plain are not solely caused by waters upstream of Warragamba Dam. The 2021 floods, for example, had little effect on Camden as rain was not falling in the Robertson area (headwaters of the Nepean). When this area is affected, no heightened dam wall would help in the dispersal/retention of flood waters.
4. The timing of water release is all. In 2021 the waters were not released early enough.
5. The original EIS is totally inadequate, neither does it address the already fragile ecosystem following the bushfires of 2019/2020.
6. This proposal is almost laughable in the face of climate change which cannot be ignored.

Contact details and scanned disclosure document sent separately (following).