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Warragamba Dam Assessment Team
Planning and Assessment
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To Warragamba Dam Assessment Team,

Submission – Warragamba Dam Raising Project – SSI-8441 – Mrs Carla Hill, Camden South NSW

According to the EIS the objective of the project of raising Warragamba Dam wall is to reduce risk to life and property damage downstream in the Hawkesbury-Nepean valley (the Valley). It is a costly project to be funded by Taxpayers.

As not all flood waters come from the Warragamba catchment, the project can, at best, only mitigate downstream flood risks, and this at the expense of upstream impacts. I object to the project for the following reasons:-

- It does not factor in the effects of climate change – Second guessing the future climate is fraught with uncertainty & cannot be factored reasonably into any potential benefits;
- It has unacceptable upstream impacts – The upstream impacts are not adequately researched and assessed but are, by all accounts of experts including the indigenous community, very severe & will result in irreplaceable loss;
- It does not address population management of the floodplain now or into the future – people & property on the floodplain will still be subject to flood risk which makes the objective of the project unattainable;
- It does not factor in the effects the opening of Badgery's Creek 24 hour airport may have on the water quality – Until the Federal Govt releases the flight paths for Badgery's Creek airport & the airport is in full use for the proposed 24 hours/day it is impossible to tell what effects may occur to water quality in Warragamba Dam. It makes no sense to capture more water in the one dam.

A more logical and responsible approach is to concentrate on direct ways of managing risk to life and property in the Valley by:

- acquiring existing flood affected properties;
- providing sufficient road capacity for evacuation;
- providing education and requiring plans to minimise risk;
- ceasing housing development on the floodplain;
- better management of the flow into Warragamba Dam of other rivers & streams in the catchment.

The above approach is superior because it reduces risk to life and property, reduces the long-term costs to the economy and eliminates the upstream impacts.

This project is ill-conceived and not in the public interest. The full social, environmental and economic impacts of raising the wall have not been appropriately researched and assessed.

I submit that these impacts are clearly unacceptable and that the project should not proceed.

Yours truly,

Carla Hill