

This is a personal submission not on behalf of an organisation.

My name is Ann Lindsey and I live in Newcastle, NSW. It is important to me and my well-being that woodlands and the biodiversity they support survive into the future in a manner that they are healthy and productive and above all not threatened by human-produced development. Woodlands are threatened by natural events and in their protection, the reality of such events should be factored into their planning.

I do not wish to live in an environment where most of the land is developed in the interests of human needs many of which are completely unnecessary.

I completely oppose the proposal to raise the Warragamba Dam as this action will put at risk thousands of hectares of woodlands.

I am most concerned about the plight of the Regent Honeyeater, one of our most beautiful birds. It is critically endangered and its loss would be devastating to me and to Australia on the world scene. Internationally Australia already has a very fishy smell about it with its record of extinction including the very real possibility that we may send the Koala to extinction. Can you imagine that??

The destruction and degradation of breeding habitat for Regent Honeyeaters is incongruous with the time and money that the Federal and NSW Governments have invested into the recovery program, including the Regent Honeyeater Captive Breeding and Release program.

It is unacceptable and inconsistent with the National Recovery Plan for any avoidable loss or degradation of breeding habitat to occur.

The practice of “offsetting” has done immeasurably harm to Australia’s fauna and flora by its posing as a good outcome for the environment when it is really just another way to justify habitat destruction. The way we treat our natural landscapes is deplorable and policies at all levels of government need to be overhauled.

Do not proceed with plans to raise the Warragamba dam wall. Scuttle this plan.

Ann Lindsey