

Submission.

I strongly oppose raising the Warragamba dam wall as a flood mitigation scheme to allow residential and commercial development on the downstream Nepean floodplain.

I have experienced walking a river valley that had suffered submergence in 1970. We walked into the Tumut river above the Talbingo dam site. All the vegetation was dead with suspended litter and mud to the uppermost twigs. All living creatures unable to swim or escape the rising water had perished.

2. The existing Kowmung and Cox's river valleys above the current high water mark are absolute jewels of wilderness. They have values higher than anything in other national parks close to Sydney. To have wild rivers in pristine condition within 100km of the CBD is a priceless asset.

3. In a major big rain event enough floodwaters will flood these new developments downstream as the Nepean is in a separate catchment.

4. If the Government is determined to develop on floodplain land then they could use the current dam wall height as their control mechanism by leaving capacity to take the peak off the next big rain event in the Kowmung, Cox and Wollondilly catchments. If this impacts domestic water supplies too much then the money spent on raising the wall could be redirected to desalination plants and improved water recycling.

5. Conclusion.

I suspect that this major project is driven by the commercial interests taking advantage of easily developed land for immense profit and the wall raising an insurance policy to trick the public. In my opinion the premium on the insurance is too high and will not stop flooding. It will be another classic example of individuals privatizing the profits while socialising the costs. The NSW government should abandon this project.

Jim Lavis

3/21A Addison Rd New Lambton 2305.

0481065266.