

The Warragamba Dam Wall Raising Project EIS.

Submission from Rosie White
rosie_w@bigpond.net.au

I submit that the raising of the Warragamba Dam wall should not be undertaken.

I believe that this a flawed proposal that is not only inappropriate at this time but also an inadequate long term solution.

The waters of the Warragamba Dam lie within a World Heritage Area. A landscape that includes diverse and important ecosystems and Aboriginal Heritage on a substantial scale. Raising the dam wall will result in inundation of areas that are protected at a global level, areas that we have a duty to protect as a Nation.

The most pressing reason for this proposal arises from historically poor planning issues. Planning that has permitted construction in flood prone areas now exacerbated by the intent to allow further such development.

The geology of the area with the Blue Mountains landscape upstream from the western Sydney floodplain dictates water run-off. Estimates are that almost half the waters that cause inundation actually come from sources other than the Dam.

Climate change predictions indicate unpredictable but inevitable storm events that will increase flood events.

Since the settlements downstream from the Dam are the issue, in respect of protection, it would appear that raising the wall is not a reliable solution nor a financially sound one.

Buy backs must be seriously considered with a committed view to implementation along with absolutely no further development on the floodplain.

Additionally there are the numerous environmental and heritage issues that absolutely preclude raising of the wall. The assessment of these attributes undertaken by government to date have been seriously questioned as flawed and inadequate.

There is no doubt that the impacts will be extensive and include:

Flooding of wild rivers,

Destruction of the Kowmung River,

Inundation of thousands of Aboriginal sites including art galleries and burial sites,

Inundation of threatened ecosystems,

Habitat destruction for threatened species,

If the dam wall is raised, 4,700 hectares of World Heritage listed national parks and 1,800 hectares of declared Wilderness Areas will be inundates.

Environmental damage will include scarring from sedimentation, erosion and invasion of exotic plants into a vulnerable landscape that we have undertaken to protect.

Even this snapshot look at what will be lost with the raising of the wall should be sufficient to result in the consideration of other solutions and the adoption of a less destructive one to the World Heritage landscape..

The scientific and informed advice regarding the multiple issues of raising the wall must be accepted and acted upon.

I do not believe that raising the Warragamba Dam wall is the appropriate solution for the flooding issues that it is proposed to solve. Properly addressing management of the use of the floodplain, along with essential changes to that use, must be undertaken.

The cost of buy backs and no further development in the flood prone area must be considered as the better long term solution.

Rosie White
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