



Submission opposing the proposal to raise height of Warragamba Dam

The Ryde Gladesville Climate Change Action Group is comprised over 640 citizens who are greatly concerned about climate change and want to see definitive and immediate action by all levels of government to reduce carbon emissions, phase out fossil fuel mining and our heavy reliance on fossil fuels in all sectors of the economy and move to 100% renewables by 2030.

Included in our concerns are the impacts on biodiversity and habitats from major developments and the need to strenuously protect our unique flora and fauna and the natural areas where they occur.

We are, therefore, extremely concerned about this proposal and strongly object to it for the following reasons.

1. The justification for raising the wall that it will reduce the risk of future flooding is flawed because nearly half the floodwaters that have historically affected the floodplain come from rivers outside the Warragamba catchment. Development should not be allowed in areas subject to flooding.
2. The Blue Mountains National Parks have been given World Heritage listing which means that both federal and state governments must ensure it receives the highest status and protection in recognition of its extraordinary biodiversity and integrity and should not be destroyed because of floodplain development. If the EIS is approved, it will confirm Australia's reputation as an environmental vandal.
3. Raising the dam wall will decimate 5,700 hectares of National Parks, 1,300 hectares of World Heritage Area, more than 60 kilometres of wilderness rivers and thousands of Aboriginal sites and places of cultural significance. The area that will be destroyed contains some of the best remaining grassy woodland ecosystem in NSW, complete with healthy populations of dingo, quoll, woodland birds and many other native species and will drive threatened species, such as the Regent Honeyeater into extinction, adding yet another species to Australia's unenviable record for the highest species extinction in the world.
4. The current environmental and cultural surveys are inadequate and out-of-date because they were done before the wildfires of 2019/20. A new survey must be done to ascertain the impact the fires have had on flora and fauna species.
5. We believe biodiversity offsets are an unacceptable method for developers and the NSW government to justify the extensive destruction of habitats. In fact, we made a submission to the Inquiry into the Integrity of the NSW Biodiversity Offsets Scheme which had been set up because of major concerns about biodiversity offsets and how they are applied to major developments.
6. This proposal relies on the payment of biodiversity offsets to mitigate the environmental damage that will be done. In fact, the NSW government's own calculations suggest the total

cost of offsets will amount to approximately \$2billion. It is extremely concerning that the EIS has not calculated the true cost of the offsets and disclosed this to the public.

In conclusion, we believe that priority must be given to protect Aboriginal cultural heritage, National Parks, World Heritage areas and threatened species ahead of inappropriate and unnecessary major development proposals such as this. There is no point in the government announcing the establishment of new national parks if it is intent on destroying an existing, environmentally significant, World Heritage site.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on this important issue.