



PO Box 552
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9th November 2021

CHEN Submission to the WaterNSW Warragamba Dam raising project EIS.

Cattai Hills Environment Network Inc. CHEN is the peak community organisation looking at environment concerns in the Cattai and Little Cattai catchment in the Hawkesbury- Nepean River. We are affected by flooding of this river system.

CHEN is opposed to the raising of the dam wall. The EIS is inadequate and contradictory, CHEN would like to see the geology and technical aspects of raising the dam wall to be included in the EIS.

CHEN would like to note that past planning approvals have not occurred with due regard to flooding. We will have floods in the future and the height proposed would not have meant that flooding was eliminated so will occur again, and it could lead to a worse flood if water is needed to be released at a moment's notice.

CHEN notes that the Select Committee on the proposal to raise the dam wall concluded that there were severe limitations on the proposal due to downstream impacts in a flooding event.

CHEN notes that the insurance industry is not supportive of this proposal. The money being set aside for this project could be better spent on mitigation. Land buy backs ensuring our agricultural sector survives in the Sydney basin. CHEN notes that planning proposals for future development are in train and so the claim that no new development will happen is green wash. We will see more development.

CHEN notes that offsetting is discussed in the EIS, CHEN would like the NSW government to consider future offsetting proposals to include the very large tracks of land in north-west Sydney in private ownership, that has extremely high biodiversity values.

CHEN has concerns on the safety of residents down stream in the case of a catastrophic event. Altering the structural integrity of the dam wall and surrounding geology does not give us peace of mind especially in a time of flood with the extra weight of the water being held if the dam wall is raised. This is a question to geotechnical engineers that we do not see covered in any report.

CHEN acknowledges the impact this will have on First Nations culture and the lack of regard to cultural significant impacts in the EIS. Cultural custodians need to be better consulted.

Thank you for considering this submission.

Sue

Sue Martin

CHEN Chair

Pat

Pat Schwartz

CHEN member

"an organisation educating, advocating, and celebrating the natural wonders in Cattai & Little Cattai catchments."

