

SUBMISSION -WARRAGAMBA DAM RAISING PROJECT-SSI-8441

My background:

I am DIANA HOFFMAN and I am a resident of DUBBO NSW. I am presenting this submission as an individual, not as a representative of any organisation.

- I was born and educated in Sydney prior to moving to Far West NSW.
- I trained as a Science teacher and taught in NSW Government schools for over 27 years
- A member of my family was employed in the Clerical division of the then Sydney Water Board and was posted to a position in Warragamba from the outset of the planning and construction of the new Warragamba Dam. I visited the site many times over those years and so have a great interest in this proposal.
- I have no objection to this information being published.
- I am not a member of, or affiliated with, any political party.

I STRONGLY OBJECT TO THIS PROPOSAL

Concerns and Reasons:

- The rivers in the region have along history of flooding and Early settlers documented the losses suffered as a result of developing the floodplain area.
- The floodplain area is highly unsuitable for Urban development-a fact now recognised by Insurance organisations. Additional penalties and charges may be incurred by both private and commercial developers in a floodplain area.
- The World Heritage status of the Blue Mountains National Parks provides worldwide recognition of the ecological, conservation and biodiversity importance of an area which MUST be protected for all future generations.

- Should the Dam wall be raised the reality is that flooding will devastate Aboriginal sites and places of Cultural significance, along with threatened populations of unique flora and fauna, some only existing in this internationally protected region.
- It is my opinion that the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has not taken adequate consideration of the Commonwealth and NSW Government's obligations to protect the Greater Blue Mountains Heritage Area for future generations. The reality is that flooding will cause the total destruction an environmentally unique area of international significance.
- The current EIS is a failure on many levels. NSW and particularly the World Heritage listed area has been severely impacted by record bush fires, rampant land clearing and extinction crises in species such as the Koala and the rapidly disappearing Regent Honeyeater.
- NOW is the time to stop any further planning or development of this project to raise the height of the Warragamba Dam Wall. This project should not proceed -the area needs protection not extinction.
- Will all the people of NSW/the taxpayers /the caring citizens be told the full costings of this project?? We are being left to assume we will see no proper offsets or proper budgets over time in relation to this. What are the true dollar costs for all the people of NSW for proceeding with this ill-conceived and ill researched project??
- As a resident of a regional area, I have strong concerns that, this project to aid development in the Sydney urban area, will have severe consequences for development of urgently required projects regionally. Government funding resources for housing, schools, road infrastructure, medical services will be re-directed from the regions to service the cost of this catastrophic project.

