

Dear Committee

This is a submission on the NSW government's proposal to raise Warragamba Dam's wall 14-17 metres so developers can build houses on low-lying floodplains in Western Sydney. The Warragamba Dam, situated in the foothills of the Blue Mountains, is Australia's largest urban water supply dam, supplying water to more than 5 million people in Greater Sydney and surrounds.

Raising the dam wall will flood pristine wild rivers and important bushwalking areas west of Sydney that are irreplaceable and once lost can never be restored. We are extremely concerned about this proposal. This proposal is one of many by the NSW government that will destroy these valued environmental treasures. Our natural environment is suffering, so are the wildlife and we are losing valuable ecological communities.

The NSW government is set on a path to destroy our state with their focus on development, fossil fuel, gas, and mining projects regardless of the huge ramifications this will cause our state in the future.

Our motivation in this submission is we have witnessed a decided ramping up of the destruction of our state's environment that has never been witnessed before. We are very concerned residents of NSW living close to this beautiful area, so we fiercely oppose the NSW Government's proposal to raise the walls of the Warragamba Dam in the foothills of the Blue Mountains near this world heritage listed site. We strongly urge you to stop and reconsider whether this project is needed at all.

We love the Blue Mountains and the greater area beyond this world listed heritage site. As we live in Sydney, the Greater Blue Mountains has always been a beautiful area to escape to quickly, where we can revitalize and de-stress. This will impact us personally if this development proceeds. The bushwalking trails are a beautiful escape from hectic city life and an absolute necessity for our emotional well-being. With the overdevelopment of urban sprawl in western and south-western Sydney preserving these remaining natural environments is important to us, those residents in the immediate area and tourism.

We value the beauty of our country and especially our state of NSW and this area of the Greater Blue Mountains is an irreplaceable 'natural gem.' We have seen an escalation of development by this government and an unrelenting destruction of our environment. What we have witnessed is-

- The accelerated decline of our public forests through unsustainable logging quotas set through FCNSW and within the boundaries of the proposal for a Great Koala National Park in northern NSW. This Park would also help to save greater gliders, wombats, quolls, birds from extinction. Total logging areas completed or zoned in only some parts of the north coast in Clarence Valley, Coffs Harbour and Bellingen Shire total 27987 HA. The Federal Government announced that 30% of the Mid-north Coast's koalas died in the fires, yet the NSW Government continued to log koala habitat as if nothing had changed, further fragmenting their habitat. There is more logging that exists on the south coast of NSW. Logging and clearing of forests are set to increase even more.
- Major residential developments (Lendlease development over the next 7-8 years in multiple stages in the south-west region of Sydney- Campbelltown) which affects the survival of the last remaining healthy koala population in the whole state and with reduced dimensions of recommended koala corridors will also affect their survival.
- Approvals of new coal and/or gas expansion mining or exploration in NSW have occurred. Currently there is a proposal for Hawkins Rumker coal exploration near the beautiful region of Rylstone that even runs alongside the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area and includes important waterways, koalas, and woodland bird habitat. So, raising the Dam walls to flood other areas to allow developers more land for urban sprawl will just be another pressure this specific heritage area has to endure.
- There is also a proposal to burn millions of tonnes of forest 'waste' in trees for electricity at the Redbank power station. There is an ongoing legal challenge for this proposal to proceed.

- Existing expansions of quarries (Brandy Hill) and the current proposal to expand Martins Creek Quarry north of Sydney, will cause increased degradation of habitats and survival of species as well as affect the local community.
- Investments in the fossil fuel industry in NSW has increased through coal and gas investments. The Narrabri Gas Project will destroy large parts of the Pilliga Forest is 95,000 hectares in size as well as proposed gas projects in the far west of the state.
- A proposal recently put forth by the NSW government is the commercial development of Kosciuszko National Park, the only alpine national park in NSW. If this proposal succeeds further habitat loss, environmental stress and threatened species survival will result.
- Ramped illegal floodplain harvesting has caused the deterioration of our Murray/ Darling River systems in NSW and fauna and flora are struggling to survive, especially birds and fish species (the Silver Perch is critically endangered).

These are just a few examples to support our statement that we are destroying and interfering with nature so much now that its ability to survive or indeed recover is questionable.

How much more destruction of our environment of these natural assets that belong to the people of NSW is the state government willing to destroy. When does it stop? We urge this government to stop and pause and consider in their entirety all the projects they have approved in the past few years as well as projects awaiting approval.

If the NSW Government approves the raising of Warragamba Dam wall, huge areas of World Heritage-listed National Park and culturally significant land in the Blue Mountains and thousands of hectares of Critically Endangered Regent Honeyeater breeding habitat would be at risk of extended flooding and potential destruction. Flood experts, the International World Heritage Committee, and even NSW Government members continue to raise significant questions about the need for this project.

1. We oppose this proposal on the following **environmental** issues:

- An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) confirms that this proposal would have a significant impact on numerous threatened species, identifying up to 76 threatened plant species and 16 threatened species of birds and other animals that could be impacted.
- Upstream inundation would also destroy the mighty Kowmung River, 6,000 hectares of the World Heritage-listed Blue Mountains National Park, and further endanger already threatened species (Regent honeyeater and the Camden white gum).
- It is an area of outstanding biodiversity. The grassy woodlands of Burratorang would be threatened by this proposal to raise the dam wall and flood more of the valley. The proposed raising by 17 metres for flood mitigation will flood a further **5,700 hectares** of the Warragamba catchment and **inundate 65 kilometres** of wild rivers. This falls within the Blue Mountains and Nattai National Parks, which are part of the World Heritage Area, and parts of the Yerranderie and Burratorang State Conservation Areas. This is World Heritage listed National Parks and 1,800 hectares of declared Wilderness Areas will be forever scarred from sedimentation, erosion, and invasion of exotic plants.
- Platypus and rakali inhabit the streams and rivers of the Wollondilly, Nattai and Kowmung areas of the Greater Blue Mountains. A landmark assessment by scientists at UNSW Sydney has recommended the platypus be listed as a threatened species under Australia's and NSW environmental legislation. In NSW, the number of **platypus observations declined by around 32 per cent**, so their survival is already compromised.
- The Blue Mountains area is the home of many species ranging from ground and tree frogs, bush birds, swallows, swifts, kingfishers, parrots, waterway birds, birds of prey, nocturnal birds, geckoes, turtles, skinks, bandicoots, kangaroos, wallabies, possums, gliders, monotremes, koalas, wombats, fish and more and this proposal will affect their survival by changing their habitats. These species depend on the Greater Blue Mountains habitats remaining intact, due to the impact from greater Sydney residential development where they have already lost much of their habitats. More than 400 animal species such as the Spotted-tailed Quoll, Koala, Yellow-bellied Glider, Long-nosed Potoroo, Green and Golden Bell frog and the Blue Mountains Water Skink will be negatively impacted by this proposal.

- Populations of kangaroos, wallabies (including the endangered brush-tailed rock wallaby) and emu live in a natural equilibrium with their predators the wedge-tailed eagle, dingo, and spotted-tailed quoll. This proposal would disturb this natural balance and these inter-connected ecosystems, where if one species becomes extinct and it was a food source for another species, this then affects their ability to survive.
- Much of the area to be flooded supports grassy woodland and dry open forest ecosystems *identified as priority conservation habitats by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service*. There is concern for the loss of threatened woodland ecosystems, threatened flora species, wild rivers, declared wilderness, and World Heritage Areas. Wet and dry sclerophyll forest, Mallee heathlands, Localised swamps, wetlands and grasslands all need to be protected. The flora **biodiversity** is extensive with 10% of the vascular flora, large numbers of rare or threatened species (The Wollemi pine) and 96 species of eucalypts that must be protected habitat for our wildlife to survive.
- The water catchment area of Warragamba Dam is **one** of the most intact grassy box woodlands in south-east Australia, having revealed these rare and threatened woodland birds that breed here.
- Of serious concern is the Critically Endangered Regent Honeyeater. **The draft EIS concludes that the project poses potential significant impacts to contemporary breeding habitat for the Regent Honeyeater that “cannot be avoided or minimised.” The Regent Honeyeater is listed as Critically Endangered at both a state and federal level, with as few as 350 individuals remaining in total in the wild. It is the most threatened bird in NSW.** There are only a handful of contemporary breeding sites for Regent Honeyeater and during the assessment of the project active nests, were recorded within the impact area. The destruction or degradation of a contemporary breeding site for Regent Honeyeaters would have dire consequences for the species.
- **Regent Honeyeaters are one of Australia’s most threatened species.** If this amazing bird is going to survive and recover, we must then obviously protect the precious places where they breed and raise their young. Considering this fact, we are utterly amazed that the NSW government would even consider this proposal. Leading ecologists have said flooding the Burratorang Valley will be tantamount to signing off on the **bird’s extinction**. *The state government have already tried to cover up the existence of this bird in the area, embarrassed that they intend to destroy one of the most important breeding sites left for the species.*
- The Burratorang Valley, located within the Warragamba Dam-raising footprint, *is considered a key site for the conservation of the Regent Honeyeater into the future. The few remaining Regent Honeyeaters now breed around the edges of the Greater Blue Mountains, and we must protect every breeding site, especially those situated inside and around a World Heritage-listed National Park.*
- Regent Honeyeaters and many other animals are deserving of our attention. Under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016- the purpose of the Act was to *effect biodiversity reform in New South Wales, and to provide better environmental outcomes*. This proposal **will not** provide better outcomes for this already struggling species of bird and let alone the many other animal species that call this area home like the platypus, brush tail wallaby, eagle, and spotted-tail quoll also facing challenges to survive.
- Modelling by BirdLife Australia suggested that up to **50% of contemporary Regent Honeyeater foraging and breeding habitat was burnt in the 2019/20 bushfires**. Protecting remaining unburnt breeding habitat is of the *highest conservation priority*. This was **not** even considered in the EIS.
- **Any breeding habitat is considered *habitat critical for survival* of the species under the National Recovery Plan for Regent Honeyeater and it states, “It is essential that the highest level of protection is provided to these areas and that enhancement and protection measures target these productive sites”.** If the NSW government proceeds with this dam wall raising, they will be acting in direct contradiction to the stated objectives of the National Recovery Plan, including the Regent Honeyeater Captive Breeding and Release program.
- **It is unacceptable with a National Recovery Plan in place (in effect under the EPBC Act from 2016) for this bird to deliberately cause loss or degradation of breeding habitat. This state dam wall raising proposal is in complete contradiction to firstly, the recognition of this species that it is critically endangered and accepted as so, by both state and Federal governments, and secondly the time and financial commitment that has already been invested in its recovery plan.**
- We strongly oppose the Project’s biodiversity offset strategy for the Regent Honeyeater. Offsets are rarely an appropriate response to proposed biodiversity loss and especially for critical habitat for the survival of a species, in this case their breeding habitat. Offsets in this case to provide such a unique habitat to replace

the loss of this habitat would be implausible, as this bird has become critically endangered because it has already lost its habitats and there are few habitats remaining for this species. Destroy this last remaining habitat and you herald the extinction of this species.

- There is **no evidence** that breeding habitat for Regent Honeyeaters can be successfully offset, and any offsets would be unlikely to provide direct benefits for both the local affected population and the species as offsets rarely are the same quality exchange.

2. We oppose this proposal on the following **cultural/historical** issues:

- If the dam wall is raised, sites of immense cultural and historical significance in the beautiful Burragorang Valley — irreplaceable Indigenous cave art galleries and occupation and burial sites — will be drowned under metres of muddy water.
- **Indigenous heritage studies are insufficient and fail to recognise the need to protect Gundungurra sacred sites.**
- All owners of this area must be acknowledged and respected in any decision making- the Dharug, Gundungurra, Wanaruah, Wiradjuri, Darkinjung and Tharawal Nations who are the traditional owners of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.
- Gundungurra Traditional Owners have NOT given free, prior, and informed consent for the dam proposal to proceed. If we are to restore Indigenous rights to 'Country' and mend relationships with First Nations People, we must respect them and their land in any formal process and give them a say otherwise this action indicates bullying by the government.
- Over **1541 identified cultural/ Aboriginal heritage sites** would be inundated by the Dam proposal.
- The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report has been severely and repeatedly criticised by both the Australian Department of Environment and the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) for not appropriately assessing cultural heritage in meaningful consultation with Gundungurra community members. This demeans their cultural heritage.

3. We oppose this proposal on the following **valid concerns made by different agencies** and organisations:

The NSW Government's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) downplays, minimises, and denies the environmental and cultural damage this project will cause. It has not fully considered the environmental protections necessary to protect species and valuable ecosystems.

The impact assessment was heavily condemned by several agencies including-

- The National Parks and Wildlife Service which said that the EIS had failed to address impacts on species and ecological communities affected by last year's catastrophic bushfires, the worst in living memory.
- Heritage NSW said the EIS failed to properly consider cultural heritage values or adequately consult Traditional Owners.
- The Commonwealth Environment Department said the evaluation failed to consider impacts on iconic species like the platypus and told the NSW Government to **redo the entire heritage assessment**.
- Fluvial flooding experts and Federal Government officials have also raised a number of concerns about the proposal to raise the height of the dam wall.
- Local government criticism from Wollondilly Shire Council and the immediate community has condemned the inadequacies of the recently released Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Warragamba Dam Wall raising project, by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and Water NSW. There has been inadequate consultation with Wollondilly Council, and it appears the government is rushing ahead without considering the above negative impacts. Wollondilly communities also will be impacted by heavy vehicles, noise, and dust. There is a need to also protect Warragamba businesses and the tourism economy of this region.

- Environmental conservation groups like Nature Conservation Council, Blue Mountains Conservation Society, Total Environment Centre, and the Wilderness Society are among many that along with the wider community have expressed very serious concerns on this development proceeding. BirdLife Australia and Colong Foundation for Wilderness are voicing opposition to the raising of the dam wall with an incorrect EIS.
- The Australian Department of Energy and Environment have said they believe ***“the impact of increased flood water levels within the dam is likely to have extensive and significant impacts on listed threatened species and communities and world and national heritage values of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area (GBMWhA).”***
- “The EIS consultants for the Warragamba Dam concluded that there are significant impacts that can’t be mitigated against, and we agree with their assessment,” said Samantha Vine, BirdLife Australia’s Head of Conservation. “These findings potentially understate the impact, given that the threatened species surveys were conducted before the devastating 2020 bushfires.” So current data being used in the EIS is incorrect as it has not been updated to factor in the loss of habitat and species due to these fires. And the *impacts ‘can’t be mitigated against’- meaning that any ‘biodiversity offset’ will not be successful and will not replace the irreplaceable habitats that are lost in the Greater Blue Mountains, if this proposal proceeds.*
- NSW Government’s own leaks on crucial information has revealed that raising the dam walls would be largely *ineffective at mitigating severe floods* anyway in the Hawkesbury Nepean Valley. The leaked graphs show the anticipated billion-dollar dam project only offers a ***very small reduction for the probable maximum flood.*** Billions of dollars of taxpayer money for minimal results but massive destruction to the ecological communities.
- The International World Heritage Committee have raised significant questions about the damage to this World Heritage listed area. **The UNESCO committee have said the proposal to raise the dam wall is incompatible with Blue Mountains world heritage listing.** UNESCO has stated that ***“such inundation of any areas within the [Blue Mountains] property is likely to impact on its outstanding universal value (OUV).”***

If the dam enlargement were to go ahead, the volume of water held behind the wall during future flood events would inundate a vast area of bushland in the Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. In the process, the habitats of many unique and threatened plants and animals — including the Critically Endangered Regent Honeyeater and Swift Parrot — would be flooded. This would have significant impact on 16 threatened species of birds alone. Crucially, the area in question is one of the **few sites** where Critically Endangered Regent Honeyeaters are known to have bred successfully in recent years, and hundreds of hectares of this critical breeding habitat would be flooded.

Despite the NSW Government receiving severe criticisms they have stubbornly refused to redo this work and have carried out no further field studies.

This is the most significant threat to Australia’s World Heritage in decades. There are few times in Australian history when Governments have undertaken such callous attacks on protected areas.

4. We oppose this proposal on the following **Systematic Failings of the EIS** process:

- The engineering firm (SMEC Engineering) who undertook the environmental and cultural assessments for the project have an established history abusing Indigenous rights, recently being *barred from the world bank*. There is obviously underlying bias that could and does hamper this process. **On this basis alone a revised EIS should be commissioned by another company without bias.**
- Threatened species surveys are **substantially less than guideline requirements**. Where field surveys were not adequately completed, expert reports were not obtained. Therefore, the data is incomplete to make a full correct assessment of threatened species.

- Severe fires during the summer of 2019/20 devastated 81% of Blue Mountains Heritage Area. **No post-bushfire field surveys have been undertaken.** This is appalling in light of this natural disaster on world heritage listed lands. The NSW state government act as custodians to protect this area for Australia and indeed the world. At the very least this should have been carried out. Recovery of this environment and our wildlife will take decades due to the severe damage of vital habitats and ecosystems. This is no time to further compromise this area with more destruction, with a development that already has dire warnings from multiple organisations.
- Only 27% of the impact area was assessed for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage.
- No modelling of the stated flood and economic benefits of the dam wall raising are outlined in the EIS. The supposed benefits must be outlined to justify the enormous financial and environmental costs of this proposal. This crucial information was omitted, to support this development proceeding, which is simply a developer wanting land for urban residential housing.

5. We oppose this proposal on the following **community safety** concerns:

- \$2 billion in costs of offsetting is the likely damage caused by inundating as much as 6,000 hectares in the Blue Mountains world heritage region in Sydney's west. Biodiversity offsetting presents its own challenges as it is often not a fair exchange of the same environmental quality that is 'like for like'. The raised wall itself may cost as much as \$1.6 billion. Warragamba Dam was **never intended to be a flood mitigation dam**. Its purpose is to provide 80 per cent of Sydney's drinking supply. When not full, it can mitigate floods by *catching only **some** of the rainwater* that would otherwise flow into parts of western Sydney. The government's plan is expensive and will not solve entirely the flooding of these low-lying areas. Hence community concerns that flooding of residential areas will still occur.
- If the dam wall is raised it will encourage massive over- development on flood-prone areas in Penrith, Londonderry, Riverstone, and Windsor – further residential development sustaining flood damage, could cost the government more into the future. The NSW Government plans to house an additional 134,000 people on western Sydney floodplains which more than likely has a 'high water table' anyway.
- The negative impacts for the community will result in high-density housing, traffic congestion, or overcrowded schools and hospitals. The infra- structure cannot accommodate these population increases.
- Floodplain property developers are set to benefit financially from the raising of Warragamba dam wall. Developers believe if the Warragamba Dam wall is raised, flood waters would be held behind a raised dam wall and therefore not flood their (currently) flood-prone land that they wish to develop. Is the state government actively satisfying therefore these developer's aspirations of financial gain at a cost to the environmental damage caused to this Greater Blue Mountains region? And potential future property owners will not be protected from future floods in these low lying areas anyway.
- The State Emergency Services (SES) have warned that new developments around Penrith and the Hawkesbury should **not** go ahead as it will risk the lives of thousands of people, regardless of the dam wall raising.
- Scientific investigations have also revealed that raising Warragamba Dam wall would have little impact on floods, with major flooding still occurring downstream, due to the creeks and rivers that flow into the Hawkesbury-Nepean River. The community would not be protected. Alternatives to raising the dam wall must be considered instead. Otherwise, this simply becomes a smokescreen excuse for the real intent of this proposal, being solely for a developer to capitalise on massive residential developments in a flood prone area.
- Raising the dam wall will put thousands more lives at risk on the Hawkesbury-Nepean floodplain and cause massive over-development in western Sydney that is not supported by the local community.

There are alternatives to raising the dam wall

- On average, 45% of floodwaters are derived from areas outside of the upstream Warragamba Dam catchment. This means that no matter how high the dam wall is constructed, it will not be able to prevent flooding in the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley downstream. Houses in the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley will not be protected by raising the Warragamba Dam wall, the main reason the government gives to justify this proposal in the first place. Almost half of the flooding in the valley comes from waters that are not controlled by Warragamba Dam.

- The NSW Government should not allow further development on the Hawkesbury-Nepean floodplain and should implement international best-practice flood management practices, as put forward by the Australian National University, to ensure the safety of existing communities.
- **There are many alternative options to raising the Warragamba Dam wall that would protect existing floodplain communities. A combined approach of multiple options has been recommended as the most cost-effective means of flood risk mitigation and these initiatives are encouraged rather than destroying a world heritage site that will not achieve the desired result to reduce flooding anyway.**

-Evacuation routes for people living in the Penrith and Hawkesbury areas

-Stop allowing further development in the floodplain

-Construct spillways

-Develop a program of *compulsory acquisition* of existing downstream flood affected properties over time to *create floodplain open space corridors*

- Increasing the use of recycled water uptake

- These alternative options above were **not even** comprehensively assessed in the EIS. Any assessment of alternatives does not take into account the economic benefits that would offset the initial cost of implementation.

6. We oppose this proposal as it is an attack on a **World Heritage and Cultural site**

- The **integrity of the environmental assessment is fundamentally flawed** and cannot and must not be accepted as a basis for further decision-making by the Minister for Planning. Of all areas in the Greater Sydney region the Greater Blue Mountains for the reasons stated above **MUST** be protected. It is irreplaceable and was inscribed on the World Heritage listing recognised by UNESCO because of its Outstanding Universal Value for the whole of mankind on 29 November 2000 and is one of Australia's 19 World Heritage properties.
- This area has unique plants and animals and shows the evolution of Australia's unique eucalypt vegetation. It is an integrated system of protected areas in New South Wales. The aim of this listing is to provide international protections and preserve significant landmarks and natural areas for future generations to appreciate. The main reason for the Blue Mountains listing as World Heritage is for its biological diversity. By the government proceeding with this proposal, they are contradicting and working against this world listing to protect this unique area.
- Raising the Warragamba Dam wall will cause consequent damage to natural and cultural values and would be a clear breach of these undertakings and Australia's obligations under the World Heritage Convention.
- Raising the Warragamba Dam wall by 17 metres would **drown and scar 5,700 hectares of world heritage** listed Blue Mountains National Park and **65 kilometres of wilderness rivers** upstream from the raised dam wall. The raising of the dam wall is simply a developer-driven move that will make it easier to build on flood-prone areas in Western Sydney for financial gain – against the wishes of local communities. It will destroy hundreds of ancient cultural and natural heritage sites, threatened fauna and flora and ecological communities. It also includes:

-The **Kowmung River** - declared a 'Wild River', protected for its pristine condition under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974

-Unique **eucalyptus species** diversity recognised as having Outstanding Universal Value under the area's World Heritage listing such as the Camden White Gum

- **Threatened Ecological Communities**, notably Grassy Box Woodland

-Habitat for endangered and critically endangered species including the **Regent Honeyeater and Sydney's last Emu population**. Woodland birds like the Regent Honeyeater rely on native mistletoes which is susceptible to drought and fire and as the climate changes these threats are exacerbated. These birds are

already fighting to survive due to habitat destruction and fragmentation. Whilst this species has a federal recovery plan the NSW government must work with the Federal Threatened Species Committee to ensure this bird has a future. Destroying its habitat will mean extinction!

The Blue Mountains of Australia are over a million hectares of exceptional biodiversity, abundant wilderness, and stunning topography, recognised globally for their outstanding natural and cultural heritage values. The ecosystems of the Blue Mountains serve clean air and water to Greater Sydney while providing a healthy escape into nature for over 8 million visitors a year. This area acts as a carbon capturer to assist in decreasing the effects of climate change. Like most protected areas, the ecosystems of the Blue Mountains are threatened by the global issues of climate change, bushfires, habitat loss and species extinction. Responding to these threats is a government and community responsibility. For this reason alone, it is incumbent upon the NSW government to not proceed with this proposal of raising the dam wall. This area is under sustained ongoing pressure to survive. Man-made interference in this natural environment will further damage these ecological communities and Indigenous sites. Our Indigenous history of Country and our unique wildlife and environment should and must be treasured above the insatiable need by this government and developers to destroy what can never be replaced. This area already has complex challenges of conservation. Don't add to these challenges.

The Federal Environment Department last year said that the EIS failed to consider how raising the dam wall would impact on iconic species like the platypus. The EIS is flawed and misleading and is intentionally hiding the real facts. The entire EIS Plan is unacceptable and dangerous, and the state government was told to redo the environmental assessment.

We urge the NSW government to re-consider this proposal in the context of all the other recent proposals that have been approved or waiting for approval in NSW that is causing destruction on a mass scale of the environment and the places we love and our wildlife. We therefore **strongly oppose the proposal to raise Warragamba Dam wall due to the project's unacceptable potential impacts on the environment** including to the Blue Mountains World Heritage Area, threatened species and the community who need proper flooding protection measures implemented.

This is simply an economic based wrong proposal with an incorrect EIS. Multiple warnings have been provided with enough evidence to scrap this idea in its entirety.

This proposal will cause **irreversible damage** to this complicated ecosystem, and the devastation to threatened native species. The variety of fauna and flora is deserving of our continued protection. This area is on the surrounds of a World Heritage status area and the Indigenous heritage is deserving of our protection. Our environment cannot take these ongoing assaults of destruction.

Yours sincerely

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