



Blue Mountains People for Reconciliation and ANTaR
PO Box 580 Hazelbrook NSW 2779

Submission in response to EIS – Proposal to Raise Waragamba Dam Wall

The NSW Government must demonstrate that it has learnt from the desecration of Juunkan Gorge about the importance of protecting Aboriginal cultural heritage.

Aboriginal cultural heritage, National Parks, World Heritage and threatened species need protection, not destruction.

No consent has been obtained from the Gundungurra Traditional Owners for the work that will significantly impact their cultural heritage.

Raising the Warragamba Dam wall will inflict terrible damage on the environmental and cultural values of the catchment. It 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.

Only 27% of the impact area was assessed for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage.

The Commonwealth Government has told the NSW Government that the mapping of indigenous heritage undertaken for the EIS is flawed, inaccurate and needs to be re-done.

Over 860 indigenous sites and archaeological deposits affected by the plan to raise the Warragamba Dam Wall have not been surveyed in the EIS.

The Gundungurra people, the traditional owners of this land, have not been properly consulted as part of the heritage assessment.

The Gundungurra people have not given Free, Prior and Informed Consent for the Dam proposal to proceed.

Over 1541 identified cultural 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.

Helen Boyton

Blue Mountains ANTAR / People for Reconciliation

21 November 2021

We acknowledge the Darug and Gundungurra people as the Traditional Custodians of the land we live and work on. We seek to support and work with all Aboriginal people living in the Blue Mountains.