

### Submission on Warragamba Dam Wall - EIS

I would like to make a submission in response to the Environment Impact Statement (EIS) regarding the raising of the wall of Warragamba Dam, and I thank you for the opportunity, as a local, to express my deep concerns about the major detrimental impact this action would have, particularly on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in the area, as well as on the environment.

I understand that raising the dam wall would result in the destruction of nearly 5,000 hectares of World Heritage listed National Park, severe damage to local flora and fauna, and the complete destruction of local Aboriginal Cultural Heritage sites.

However, only 27% of the impact area was assessed for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage. Over 860 indigenous sites and archaeological deposits affected by the plan to raise the Warragamba Dam Wall were not surveyed for the EIS. Over 1,541 identified Cultural Heritage Sites would be inundated by the Dam proposal.

The necessity of protecting our Aboriginal Cultural Heritage was made abundantly clear by the worldwide condemnation of the destruction of the Juukan Gorge, and yet still no consent was obtained by the local Traditional Owners for this work which will significantly impact their Cultural Heritage. The Gundungurra people, the traditional owners of this land, have not been properly consulted as part of the heritage assessment and have not given Free, Prior and Informed Consent for the Dam proposal to proceed.

This should indicate how vital it is that the NSW Government listen to the local Indigenous Australians - Aboriginal cultural sites play a significant role in local knowledge and storytelling of our ancient past by local Elders, are some of the rarest evidentiary examples of ancient civilisations worldwide, and are already protected under the World Heritage listing.

Environmentally, re-directed flooding which would be caused by the raising of the Warragamba Dam wall significantly threatens the potential extinction of local flora and fauna species in the area and will create significant flooding issues in the Blue Mountains National Park. Endangerment of already established flora and fauna, including the destruction of Sydney's last wild river, the mighty Kowmung, can actually risk the Blue Mountains World Heritage listing itself.

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) precisely because it did not consult with Gundungurra community members as part of its assessment of the Cultural Heritage issues and 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.

Organisations such as the Insurance Council of Australia, the National Parks and Wildlife Association, the Gundungurra Land Council, the Australian Government's Department of the Environment and Energy, the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), the Give A Dam campaign, and local Blue Mountains MP's, publicly note sentiments *against* the raising of the dam wall.

Again, my thanks for the opportunity to express my deep concerns, and I hope they will be given their due consideration.

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