



EIS Response

I'm Sharyn Halls Gundungurra Elder and I'm writing to address the concerns that GAHAI as signatory to the ILUA 2014, has with the Warragamba Dam Raising EIS.

We at GAHAI don't accept the Aboriginal section of the EIS as it wasn't a true survey of the area that will be impacted if the Dam wall is increased It is an incomplete document.

They still haven't changed the scientific significance ratings. There are still 272 sites with low significance assessed by one person with no checks and no fieldwork.

They also say that there would only be an estimated 174 sites within the projected upstream impact area. This is in the executive summary.

Elsewhere they say potentially over 1,000 sites. It seems sneaky to have 174 as the number up front, whereas the real number is hidden at over 1,000.

Then executive summary says the only impacts will be to 43 known sites and a predicted further 131, sites which makes up their 174. So, the real number of sites to be definitely impacted by raising The Dam Wall height is 174, not 43 and that doesn't take into account the thousand or so other sites in the area.

During the survey only 27% of the area was walked over with Aboriginal stake holders occurred old site cards were also so used.

To our knowledge no one has bothered to talk to Helen Brayshaw about the report done in March 1989 which was called *Sample investigation of areas upstream to be affected by increasing water retention for: flood mitigation.*

*400 sites are likely to be affected by inundation.
This report has concerns around Cultural heritage
sites and has recommendations.*

It appears none of the recommendations regarding further investigation were done. There are very specific recommendations in the report that should be recognized. I recommend this Committee get a copy of the report from the Water NSW library and consider reading it or talking to Helen about her report. That is an easier read than the document we now have. We need a lot more time to read and understand EIS so that a informed responses can be made an on the EIS.

GAHAI does not support the raising of the Dam wall today or into the future. We believe all Aboriginal sites and our Cultural lands are part of who we are and are HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT, if this goes ahead the Government is destroying our birthright as an Australian Aboriginal history. We should have the right to take our future generations to

sites and tell them the story of place at the place and not say once we had a site here before the Dam wall was increased, we now have to say in since 1960's once we lived there and we have Rock shelters with art and artefacts under water so that Sydney people can drink water, we have lost them forever in 1960's so that people could have Water to drink.

Gundungurra people have paid the price for Sydney's people to have drinking water, its time for all to use recycled water when needed like the rest of the World does.

The Dam wall will not stop all the floods but will destroy our sites Better Water management is needed when rain events are coming, A review of how water is released, as well as where people are living on flood zones is needed.

In 2019/20 the Gundungurra Cultural and Spiritual Lands were impacted as a result of 8

years of drought, then 81% of Country burnt, then 2 rain events. The EIS hasn't address the impact to the sites as there has been no field surveys done to address this and after all this, we still have low significance on our sites this should be Very high significance rating for all the sites.

In closing the EIS has failed to address the importance of Burraborang to the Gundungurra people and all that is in its our Cultural Lands, Artefact, Rock Art sites, Native medicine plants and Water holes as well as everything that lives within Burraborang we will never agree to destroying even one of our sites Now or in the Future.

Regards Sharyn Halls Gundungurra Elder