

30 Hume Road  
Lapstone NSW 2773  
m: 0417 679 964  
e: [alix.goodwin@bigpond.com](mailto:alix.goodwin@bigpond.com)

Ms Kiersten Fischer  
Secretary  
Department Planning, Industry and Environment  
Locked Bag 5022  
Parramatta NSW 2124

16 December 2021

Dear Ms Fischer

On 3 January 2020 Penrith was the hottest place on earth recording a temperature of 48.9 degrees at 3pm. Those who live in this area rely on air-conditioning and shopping malls to stay cool when temperatures become unbearable. There is minimal tree cover to cool the environment. Tree loss is continuing at an unabated rate to make way for more homes to deal with NSW's population pressures and to expand roads to deal with traffic congestion. This is not hyperbole but reality. One needs to look no further than the Oran Park development and the planned expansion of Mulgoa Road near the M4 intersection to find the necessary proof.

The NSW Government's proposal to raise the Warragamba Dam wall in direct response to these pressures is unforgivable. It is wilfully disregarding its international responsibility to protect the unique culturally and ecologically rich Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area from the significant threat urban expansion poses.

A decision to proceed with the raising of the dam wall will put at risk over 1,500 identified First Nations' cultural heritage sites and wilderness areas valued by all Australians and international visitors. It will result in the inundation of 65 kilometres of declared wilderness rivers and 1,300 hectares of National Parks within the WHA and another 4,400 hectares in National Parks outside the WHA. The richly diverse eucalypt forests that give the Greater Blue Mountains WHA its Outstanding Universal Value will be threatened including the already endangered Grassy Box woodlands and the Camden White Gum. The critically endangered Regent Honey Eater and Sydney's last Emu population may be driven to local extinction.

The EIS is fundamentally flawed. It fails to consider the impact of the devastating 2019/20 summer fires. Threatened species surveys do not meet guideline requirements. Alternative flood risk mitigation strategies are not comprehensively assessed and there is no modelling of the stated flood and economic benefits of the dam wall raising contained in the EIS.

The proposal to raise the dam wall is being progressed without the free, prior and informed consent of the Gundungurra Traditional Owners. The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Report (part of the EIS) is subject of serious criticism by the Commonwealth Department of the Environment and International Council on Monuments and Sites. Only 27% of the impact area was assessed for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage.

With on average 45% of floodwaters being sourced from areas outside upstream of the Warragamba Dam catchment, no matter how high the dam wall is constructed it will not prevent flooding in the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley. Further housing development downstream of the dam wall will exacerbate flooding due to increased storm water run-off from paving and roads.

Rather than raising the dam wall, the NSW Government should end development on the Cumberland flood plain while also returning existing housing and commercial areas to farmland. This approach, supported by the Insurance Council of Australia, has been adopted successfully in the Netherlands and there is no reason it couldn't and shouldn't happen in the case of Western Sydney.

I oppose the raising of the Warragamba Dam wall.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alix Goodwin', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Alix Goodwin