

2 December

Warragamba Dam Assessment Team
Planning and Assessment
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
Locked Bag 5022
Parramatta NSW 2124

Dear Sir / Madam

Re: Submission to the Warragamba Dam Raising Project (SSI - 8441)

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on the Warragamba Dam Raising Project.

Parts of Wingecarribee Shire will be affected by upstream impacts of the proposed project. While the scale of impact may be small in comparison to the overall scale of the project area, Council still wishes to raise some concerns about this project.

The level of impact on land specifically in this Shire has been hard to gauge from the EIS. From what can be seen on low resolution maps in the EIS it appears to impact on predominantly on 6 private properties and the Nattai National Park. Under different flooding scenarios, this level of impact appears to be either an increase in the area affected by temporary inundation, and/or an increase in the frequency in temporary inundation, and/or in increase in the length of time that the land is inundated.

Of concern to Council is the assessment of impacts in largely based on flood models for a 1 in 20 chance in a year event. The impacts from events less than 1 in 20 chance in a year, are less obvious. While the frequency of these flooding events will be less frequent, the impact can still be long term or permanent. When the event will occur, it could still have a long lasting or permanent effect on significant cultural items, biodiversity integrity and the use and condition of land. The full impact of all flooding scenarios needs to be considered for the project.

The Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area starts to the south in the Wingecarribee Shire with the Nattai National Park. Council is concerned about the likely impacts on the World Heritage Area.

The heritage impact on Gundungurra land is of great concern to our community. Council understands that a number of submissions are being made which reflect on this issue in detail. Council asks that these submissions be thoroughly considered. As mentioned above, concern is raised that the full impact of the project may be missed in the EIS due to the methodology of assessment. All impacts under all flooding scenarios should be fully assessed. Any amount of inundation (no matter how infrequent) could have permanent consequences on significant cultural items.

There appear to be 6 private properties in our Shire affected by the project. Some of the affected residents have indicated that the information they have obtained about the project has been insufficient for them to be fully informed on the full impact on their properties from all flooding scenarios. It is also unclear what restrictions may apply to the use of the land.

With respect to justification for the project, are there additional alternatives that should have been considered in the EIS. Other upstream alternatives could include flood forecasting, flow management, maximising all upstream reservoir and pumping infrastructure (in our catchments, these may include Wingecarribee, Fitzroy Falls, Shoalhaven, Goulburn pipeline), harvesting / retention (private/public), and maximising catchment management programs (eg. regenerative farming). A number of these alternatives may add significant regional resilience advantages as well.

If you require any further information on this matter please contact Council's Manager Environment and Sustainability, Mr Barry Arthur, on Phone: 4868 0852 during normal business hours. Please note, Council may make further submission on this project to raise any additional concerns raised by our community or should any further impact to the Shire be identified.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Barry Arthur', with a stylized, cursive script.

Barry Arthur
Manager Environment and Sustainability