

RE: Warragamba Dam Raising Project – SSI-8441

To the Warragamba Dam Raising project assessors,

The Hawkesbury Branch of the National Trust was established on 26 April 2000. Its establishment was in response to the lack of recognition and protection for the Hawkesbury's rich cultural heritage. One of the Branch roles is to advocate for the recognition and protection of our local and state items, some of which are still yet to be recognised and protected. One of the first advocacy issues of the newly established Branch involved advocating for the cessation of unauthorised fill in the Hawkesbury River floodplain within the historic and cultural landscape of c1806 "Mountain View", Inalls Lane.

The Hawkesbury River has been flooding for millions of years and will continue to flood.

We wish to record a strong opposition to the proposed Warragamba Dam Raising Project on the following four grounds:

1 The inadequate, misleading incomplete content in Chapter 17 Non- Aboriginal heritage.

One of the most revealing examples is outlined below:

The statements 17-49 that

*"there would be a reduction in the number of Commonwealth, State and LEP listed heritage items that will experience flooding with the Project for **all** events"..... and "that the largest decrease was for the 1:100 chance year flood event".*

P17-57 that:

"It is noted that there would be a reduced impacts from the reduction in peak flood levels, durations and velocities and that impacts will be managed in accordance with measured identified in Section 17.6"

No reduced impact measures for any of the heritage items downstream are included in Section 17.6 of the EIS

The EIS is inadequate and includes misinformation on the impact on heritage items in contrast to actual widely documented experience of the Hawkesbury Community over the past 200 years. The recent March 2021 revealed just how quickly and without initial overflow from the Dam our heritage items and their owners are impacted. Residents were isolated. Concerns were identified regarding the increase and change in flooding patterns and behaviour due to the recent extensive development occurring in the floodplain.

2 The World Heritage Committee concerns

The committee has expressed concern that the raising of the dam wall is expected *to increase the frequency and extent of temporary inundation of the property upstream of the dam* and further *that the inundation of areas within the property resulting from the raising of the dam wall are likely to have an impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, recalls Decision 40 COM 7, in which it considered that the construction of dams with large reservoirs within the boundaries of World Heritage properties is incompatible with their World Heritage status¹,*

¹Decisions adopted during the 43rd session WHC/19/43.COM/18, p. 83 of the World Heritage Committee (Baku, 2019)

3 The lack of transparency and accuracy of documentation available to the public

Statements have been made by the former Premier regarding the possibility of real intention of the dam wall raising, having little to do with flood immunity, and more to do with additional water supply and further development beyond what has already been allowed in the Hawkesbury Flood plain. Refer to the links below:

Below a video link where the former NSW Premier revealed that the raising of the dam wall included proposed additional water retention capabilities and further development of the floodplain.

<https://www.facebook.com/SkyNewsAustralia/videos/2035740039868344/?v=2035740039868344>

Also below a link to an article regarding the design to allow for a 17 meter wall at a later stage.

www.smh.com.au/environment/conservation/government-s-secret-plan-to-raise-warragamba-dam-wall-by-17m-20190315-p514lq.html

4 Impact on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

There is significant evidence that the raising of the wall will have an detrimental impact on the Aboriginal Cultural heritage as confirmed in the Interim report of the Select committee on the proposal to raise the Warragamba Wall October 2021.

In summary

The EIS Chapter 17 Non Aboriginal Heritage is inadequate and does not fully recognise or address the impacts on our heritage.

It threatens the World heritage Status of the Greater Blue Mountains Area (Australia) N917.

The NSW Government may not have been transparent as to the real outcome of this project.

The identified impact on Aboriginal Cultural heritage is totally inadequate resulting from incomplete assessment and consultation.



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Please respect the confidentiality of my address and phone number . Happy for the rest of this submission to be public