

The Hon. Ken Wyatt AM MP
Minister for Indigenous Australians
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

28 August 2020

The Hon. Sussan Ley MP
Minister for the Environment
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

The Hon. Gladys Berejiklian MP
NSW Premier
52 Martin Place
Sydney NSW 2000

The Hon. Robert Stokes
NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces
52 Martin Place
Sydney NSW 2000

The Hon. (Matt) Matthew John Kean
NSW Minister for Energy and Environment
52 Martin Place
Sydney NSW 2000

David Harper
WaterNSW Project Director
PO Box 398
Parramatta NSW 2124

Maree Abood
Infrastructure NSW Director
PO Box R220
Royal Exchange NSW 1225

No free, prior and informed consent to raise Warragamba Dam wall from Traditional Owners

Dear Sirs/Madams,

We write to in your capacity as the NSW and Commonwealth Government consent authorities for the proposal to raise the Warragamba Dam wall. We do so after witnessing the gross procedural unfairness afforded to the Puutu Kunti Kurrama and Pinikura peoples in the destruction of the Juukan Gorge Cave in Western Australia.

Gundungarra people and their neighboring peoples across western Sydney have experienced cultural destruction on a landscape scale due to the original construction of Warragamba Dam wall in 1960, which permanently destroyed the vast proportion of Aboriginal cultural heritage in the southern Blue Mountains. We now face the possibility of near obliteration of our cultural heritage from the proposed raising of the Warragamba Dam wall by 17 metres which would flood several hundred remaining burial, cultural and rock art sites.

The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment completed to date for the dam project has not considered the significant impacts of recent bushfires upon our cultural heritage sites to be flooded, nor have our people been properly engaged in assessing the significance of the cultural heritage areas to be impacted by the dam raising proposal. We have indeed raised serious concerns about the reputation of the NSW Government's chosen consultants to oversee the assessment of the

Warragamba Dam proposal, SMEC Engineering, who have long disregarded Indigenous rights on dam assessments across Asia¹.

Gundungurra people and their neighboring peoples across western Sydney have not, do not, and will not, provide free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) for the Warragamba Dam wall raising proposal to proceed.

As such, we ask that you do not approve the raising of Warragamba Dam wall. The Commonwealth Government must abide by the World Heritage Convention to protect the Greater Blue Mountains and its rich cultural heritage.

The undersigned,

Aunty Sharyn Halls

Wayne Riley and family

Aunty Shirley Riley

Kirean Duncan and family

Uncle David King

Casey Grimston and family

Burra Burra Aboriginal Corporation

Vanene Riley and family

Darug Custodian Aboriginal Corporation

Michelle van Tweet and family

Kazan Brown

Tony Duncan and family

Taylor Clarke

Micheal van Tweet and family

Dale Chalker

Jordan Duncan and family

Jaye Bauman

Daniel van Tweet and family

Daniel Chalker and family

Marieann Duncan and family

Haylee Kidd

Leslie Riley

Bruce Grimston

Michelle Halliday and family

Laykin Kidd

Matt Riley and family

Karen Jones and family

Damien Duncan and family

Craig Duncan

Teena Riley and family

¹ <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-10-11/warragamba-dam-company-smec-accused-of-abusing-indigenous-rights/11589222>