

David Gray
56 Hillborough Rd, South Hobart
Tasmania, Australia, 7004
Tel +61 418 119 257
David.gray@ROctimisation.com.au

Submission: Warragamba Dam Raising

Attn:

Date: 19-December-2021

Ref: ADG2021WDR14

Major Projects

NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

GPO Box 39, Sydney NSW 2001

320 Pitt St, Sydney 2000

Phone: 1300 305 695

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Warragamba Dam Raising (Application Number SSI-8441)

Submission by David Gray, having a long-standing connection with the Blue Mountains and the Lake Burragorang catchments - valuing its World Heritage status, its unique physiography, indigenous heritage, mountains, and waterways.

I **oppose** the project, based on:

- Damage to the World Heritage Area, upstream of the dam: its values, environmental and indigenous heritage
 - The cultural and environmental impact appears to have been valued at less than \$0.50-\$0.75 Billion (potential valuation difference between Option: “WD +14m” and “Option Lower FSL by 12m”). Like the Juukan Gorge, this damage is unconscionable
 - Indigenous and environmental impacts are likely to be under-stated, while the relative costs of alternatives may be over-estimated
- There is insufficient consideration of alternatives, given a rapidly changing and uncertain climate change driven future. This particularly relates to options that support flood mitigation by lowering the FSL of Lake Burragorang
 - In an economy that is rapidly de-carbonising, the cost of energy and particularly the cost of excess intermittent renewable energy, will lower desalination costs, providing water security at a lower cost than is likely considered in the options analysis
 - Alternative water security options such as utilising large mine final voids, in the adjacent Hunter Valley, should be considered. The progressive reduction in coal mining activity over the next several decades will see many final voids, some in excess of 200m depth become available storage options (with off-catchment flood fill potential)
 - There appears to be no consideration of pumped hydro, which will become increasingly important in firming renewable based electricity supplies. How pumped hydro option could be integrated into a Nepean flood mitigation solution that does not involve destruction of World Heritage values should be investigated

In summary, I oppose the proposed option to raise Warragamba dam due to its associated environmental and indigenous cultural heritage impacts (irreversible damage, flooding areas that have never been submerged, for extended periods).

The mitigation of flood impacts on Greater Western Sydney should be undertaken by means other than destruction of parts of the World Heritage area. There are options available that appear to have not been considered in the EIS Options Analysis and there are questions to be considered, relating to the costing of alternatives, given more recent recognition of Climate Change and the associated rapidly decarbonising economy.

Regards

David Gray