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The Hon Dominic Perrottet, Premier of NSW  
The Hon Rob Stokes, Minister for Planning  
The Hon Matt Kean, Minister for Energy and Environment  
The Hon Stuart Ayres, Minister for Western Sydney  
Via the Parliament submissions portal

1 November 2021.

Dear Premier and Ministers,

**RE: the Proposed Raising of the Warragamba Dam Wall**

In keeping with earlier letters of **objection** to this proposal, the 1250 members and friends of Birding NSW inc. continue to express our deep concerns about a project that will fail our environments on so many levels. In addition, we believe that this project has an agenda related to developing massive suburbs in areas listed as having a 100 year flood risk. As has been proven within the past decade this could have the effect of a monumental disaster.

In support of that statement, on 11 January 2011 the flooded level of Wivenhoe Dam in Queensland, reached 190 % of its capacity. Huge volumes of water were released causing damage and death down to Brisbane.

- Closer to our scientific interest is the fact that a greater water-holding will flood and kill thousands of hectares of the bushland of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area where critically endangered Regent Honeyeater and the endangered Rockwarbler are known to exist, with other species in decline.
- Indigenous artifacts and sites will be destroyed.
- At least one insurance company, known for its property insurance policies, have said they will withdraw from cover of houses in the flood plain areas of the Hawkesbury, should raising the wall go ahead.
- No matter how high a dam retaining wall is built, there will always be occasional inundation to fill it to overflowing, especially as proven in the recent decades with increasingly disastrous, climate change induced, weather events. As recently as February this year, the dam topped and massive flooding occurred downstream, submerging the new bridge at Windsor, destroying farms and recording a flooded area of close to 17 kilometres wide near Wilberforce. Surely the water storage needs to be better managed?
- By word of mouth, meaning we have no way of referencing this statement, it has been said that to raise the dam wall again is inviting disaster 'from an engineering and ecological perspective'. We ask, has the stability of the dam wall been examined and if so, what do the reports show?

We call for a re-assessment of the long-term security of water for the Sydney Basin which would include slowing the expansion of population growth and changing the design of heat-sink suburb construction so evident today.

Please, Premier and Ministers, consider the negative implications of enlarging an already oversized dam that will destroy more of our unique environment and heritage.

**At the very least, delay your decisions for five years to allow further scientific study of the climate.**

Sincerely,

Ian G Bailey

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