Preferred Infrastructure Report and Submissions Report Warragamba Dam Raising

Comments on Documents

# Introduction

Bushwalking NSW Incorporated is the peak body for bushwalkers in NSW and the ACT. It represents the interests of over 11,000 bushwalkers from 70 bushwalking clubs throughout NSW and the ACT, and provides a united voice to local, state and federal government agencies and other bodies on issues affecting bushwalkers.

We have previously reviewed the Environmental Impact Statement and had indicated our objection to the proposal. Having reviewed both of the above documents, there is no new information or analysis that would dissuade us from the view that the proposal is deeply flawed and Water NSW has failed to present a compelling argument to proceed with the raising of the dam wall.

Rather than comment on all of the issues that reflect poorly on the proposal, Bushwalking NSW focuses of the issue of public recreation and the impact of the proposal on bushwalking and related activities.

# Social Impact on Public Recreation

On page 392 of the Submissions Report, it is stated that access to designated wilderness areas will be maintained and the Project will not restrict opportunities for solitude and appropriate self-reliant recreation.

BNSW Response

We flatly reject this conclusion. There will be impacts on rivers such as the Kowmung and Nattai and this will affect opportunities for remote area bushwalking and related activities.

On page 403 of the Submissions Report, it is stated that social impacts can be highly subjective and perceived impacts may differ……………compared to the reality.

BNSW Response

This seems a remarkably dismissive attitude to those who have raised objections in relation to social issues. We simply request that Water NSW adopts a more respectful attitude and takes the time to better understand why some like us would have a different perception on this proposal than Water NSW.

On page 404 of the Submissions Report, it is stated that Water NSW acknowledges the importance of the natural values of the upstream area but considers that these cannot be considered in isolation from the substantial societal benefits that the Project would provide.

BNSW Response

We can only disagree. We consider that the impacts on the environment of the upstream are simply too substantial to be dismissed and Water NSW abandons this flawed proposal and considers other measures for flood management in the Nepean-Hawkesbury catchment.

Yours sincerely,



David Bell

President

Bushwalking NSW Inc.

5 December, 2022