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FRIENDS OF  
KU-RING-GAI  
ENVIRONMENT INC.

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

22 September, 2019

### **FOKE says NO to Raising Warragamba Dam Wall**

Friends of Ku-ring-gai Environment (FOKE) recently made a submission to the NSW Legislative Council Select Committee on the proposal to raise the Warragamba Dam wall. FOKE, as a member of the 'Give a Dam' Alliance, opposes the raising of the Warragamba Dam wall.

FOKE is very concerned that raising the Warragamba Dam wall will destroy the World Heritage values of Sydney's Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area that is connected, via the Hawkesbury bioregion, to Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park.

The most responsible and effective strategy to mitigate flood risk on the Hawkesbury-Nepean floodplain is to prohibit future housing to be built on the flood plain. The NSW Government's announcement to raise the Warragamba Dam wall will only send a 'green light' to embolden developers pressures for more rezoning of flood prone areas, leading to enormous profits.

FOKE believes that the cultural heritage of the Gundungurra Traditional Owners are too important to lose. If the Warragamba Dam wall is raised it will flood the Gundungurra People's rock art sites, burial sites, ochre sites and sacred waterholes that tell their sacred creation stories.

Raising the dam wall would also flood the Southern Blue Mountains valleys and rivers that are associated with many Ku-ring-gai pioneer bushwalkers such as Alex Colley, Paddy Pallin, Tom Moppitt, and David Darwin Stead.

If the Warragamba Dam is raised by 14 metres it will flood, bury, pristine valleys with sediment, weeds and water. Majestic old growth trees will become stark, dead wood. It will wipe out the habitat of one of NSW's most beautiful and rarest of birds — the Regent Honeyeater. It will flood the Camden white gum (*Eucalyptus benthamii*), which is nationally listed as vulnerable, and Kowmung hakea (*Hakea Dohertyi*) which is listed as endangered. No biodiversity 'offsets' can ever compensate for their loss.

FOKE believes that the NSW Government must honour its national and international responsibilities to protect the World Heritage values of the Greater Blue Mountains and abandon its proposal to raise the Warragamba Dam wall.

**For media comment, please call Kathy Cowley on 0431 158 880 or 9416 9007**