



**FACT SHEET 4**

**Don't raise the Dam  
Environmental Impact**

**SERIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL damage will be caused by an increase in the height of Warragamba Dam. The quality of life for everyone in western Sydney will be seriously affected. Upstream, important wilderness areas will inundated and permanently scarred.**

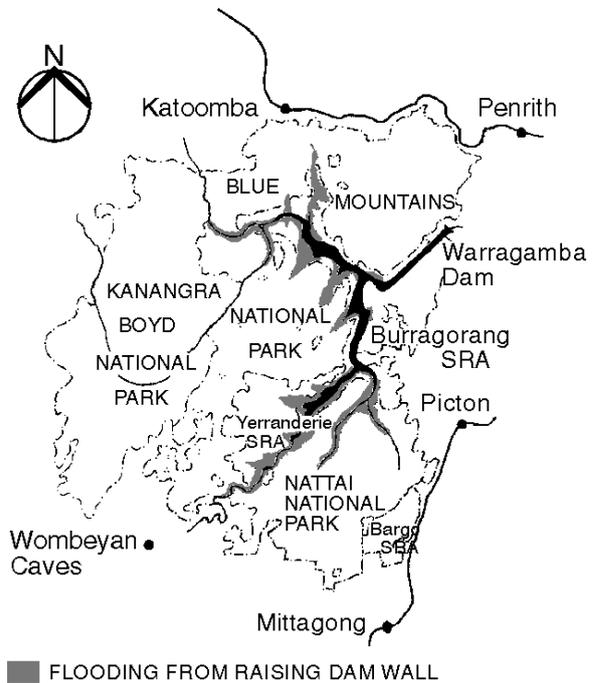
**UPSTREAM IMPACTS**

Eight rivers, including the Kowmung, Coxs and Nattai, will be flooded periodically. Their stilled floodwaters will deposit large layers of unsightly sediment within the flooded area, killing vegetation and creating unsightly scars through the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage wilderness.

Vegetation along these rivers, such as the endangered Camden White Gum and the Kowmung Hakea, will be killed by this lengthy inundation. Bank erosion and slumping is likely to be widespread. Core areas of the Nattai and Kanangra-Boyd wilderness areas will be damaged.

**Access and recreation restricted**

Access to parts of major national parks will be restricted, limiting use of the parks by walkers and anglers. Many popular campsites, walking routes and river crossings will be submerged and ruined. A preliminary survey along Blue Mountains wild rivers revealed 300 Aboriginal sites will suffer from accelerated erosion. All local Aboriginal Land Councils in the area have previously opposed the dam raising in principle.



**CONSTRUCTION SITE IMPACTS**

**Noise and pollution**

The noise from construction work in Warragamba township is likely to exceed Environment Protection Authority permitted levels.

During peak periods of construction, work will be virtually continuous for four years. Heavy trucks will constantly roar along local roads from dawn to dusk.

## **DOWNSTREAM IMPACTS**

### **Longer flooding affects wildlife and fisheries**

Flood mitigation will result in flood flows of much longer duration as the excess water banked up behind the dam is slowly released. This will cause serious river bank erosion, resulting in a wider, shallower river. Riverside trees will fall as the banks collapse, creating navigation hazards and expose the banks to even greater damage.

Wetlands, such as Bakers Lagoon, which depend on natural flood inundation for replenishment, will deteriorate. Wildlife which requires a wetland environment for survival will be endangered. Prolonged fresh water flows will decrease salinity in the estuary endangering many kinds of aquatic life. For example, oysters die in fresh water and Australian Bass will not spawn when salinity levels fall below a certain level.

### **Urban development will expand unchecked**

While denying that the larger dam will be used to increase water storage, Infrastructure NSW accepts

the inevitability of population growth. This is because the prospect of lower floods will allow for the release of land on which development has so far been prohibited. **Urban expansion could result in 100,000 more houses on the flood plain.** This would create an impossible strain on existing infrastructure. The additional stormwater run-off and sewage discharge would cause even worse pollution of the Hawkesbury-Nepean River.

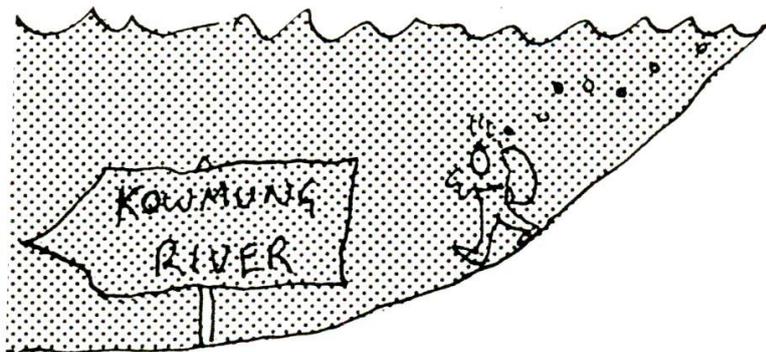
### **More motor traffic will create major air pollution**

Up to a million additional motor vehicle movements a day would be generated by 100,000 more houses. As most of these vehicles will use existing roads, traffic congestion and air pollution will be substantially worse. The already seriously polluted air in the Hawkesbury-Nepean valley will deteriorate even further, creating a serious health hazard for the whole of western Sydney.

The EPA estimates that cars contribute about fifty per cent of Sydney air pollution, including an array of toxic and carcinogenic chemicals.

**An enlarged Warragamba Dam will destroy your quality of life. That's why you should be saying, loud and clear: don't raise the dam!**

**For more information, phone Don't Raise the Dam on (02) 9261 2400 or write to the Colong Foundation, Level 2, 322 Pitt St, Sydney, NSW, 2000**



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