

Warragamba Dam Raising Proposal

Why raise Warragamba Dam?

Around 134,000 people live in and work in the Hawkesbury-Nepean River floodplain – an area with the highest flood exposure in NSW, if not Australia.

The dam raising proposal would **significantly reduce the risk to life** downstream, and **reduce flood damages by around 75 percent on average**.

The proposal is a key part of *Resilient Valley, Resilient Communities* - the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley Flood Risk Management Strategy.

The strategy includes a range of infrastructure and other actions, including raising community awareness of flood risk. Find out more at [insw.com/flood-strategy](https://www.insw.com/flood-strategy)

What alternatives were considered?

Other options investigated include:

- operating Warragamba Dam differently
- lowering the dam's full supply level
- raising the dam by up to 30 metres
- dredging the Hawkesbury-Nepean River
- creating river diversion channels
- building local levees
- buying back flood prone properties
- major upgrades to the local road network.

When assessed against these other options, raising Warragamba Dam by around 14 metres emerged as the best way to reduce risk to people's lives and property.

How will the dam raising proposal be assessed?

The proposal will be assessed at two levels.

As a State significant infrastructure project, a detailed Environmental Impact Statement is being prepared, supported by broad stakeholder and community consultation. The NSW Minister for Planning will assess the proposal under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

The Australian Government will assess the proposal under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

Will the dam storage level change?

No. The Warragamba Dam Raising proposal is not designed to increase the amount of water stored for Sydney's water supply.

Raising the dam would reduce flood risk by allowing the **temporary hold and then controlled release** of floodwaters coming from the large Warragamba Catchment.

Project Timeline



How can I find out more?

WaterNSW is committed to providing the community with clear, concise and timely information about the proposal.

We encourage anyone with an interest in the project to provide feedback to the Warragamba Dam Raising project team on 1800 932 066 or via the project website at waternsw.com.au/wdr.

Register your interest to receive updates at wdr@waternsw.com.au

Find out about engagement activities at waternsw.com.au/wdr

There will be further opportunity for comment on the proposal when the Environmental Impact Statement is put on public exhibition.