

Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc



MEDIA RELEASE

20th October 2022

TRADING WORLD HERITAGE FOR DEVELOPMENT

"The Premier's decision to declare the Warragamba Dam wall raising as Critical State Significant Infrastructure is a desperate move to push through a proposal that will not solve flooding problems in Western Sydney but will open up more floodplain for housing development, said Ms Madi Maclean, President, Blue Mountains Conservation Society.

"The Society condemns the Premier's announcement, which is in stark contrast to a decision by former Minister for Planning, Rob Stokes, to resist this move.

The Premier's move to declare the Dam project Critical State Significant Infrastructure means that under the NSW Planning and Environment law, the planning approval can't be scrutinised by the community.

"This decision minimises any third party right of appeal, preventing community and environmental groups from challenging the project," Ms Maclean said.

The Blue Mountains Conservation Society has long advocated against raising the Dam wall as it would inundate 4,700 hectares of the World Heritage-listed Blue Mountains National Park and 65 kilometres of wilderness streams, threatening numerous plants, animals as well as significant Aboriginal heritage. It's an incredibly destructive proposal which would not solve the problem of flooding in Western Sydney."

"it's crucial that politicians offer the community alternative solutions that work, rather than something that's obviously dubious in the eyes of experts - otherwise, it's just false hope."

- Ends -

**To arrange an interview or for further information please contact Bridget Jackson
on 0411 160 293.**