

ORDINARY MEETING
SECTION 5 – Notices of Motion
Meeting Date: 10 April 2018

Item: 091 **NM1 - Warragamba Dam Raising - (79351)**

Submitted by: Councillor Zamprogno

NOTICE OF MOTION:

That:

1. Hawkesbury Council renews its support for the proposal of raising Warragamba Dam to provide flood mitigation as outlaid in the *Hawkesbury Nepean Floodplain Review Taskforce report, 'Resilient Valley, Resilient Communities'*, because it will mitigate the severity and duration of future floods, and because it will save life and property in the Hawkesbury.
2. Council write to the State Member, the relevant Minister, and Infrastructure NSW to convey this support.

BACKGROUND:

The raising of Warragamba Dam is a critical and long awaited piece of infrastructure that will mitigate against flooding that originates within the Warragamba catchment, which is over half of the total catchment that feeds into the Hawkesbury River.

There has been much activity and discussion on flood mitigation in previous terms of Council and from its Flood Risk Advisory Committee, chaired by the Mayor. Council resolved, for example as long ago as October 1996 to express support for raising the dam by 23 metres.

More recently, Council resolved, on 26 September last year to accept new objectives for our Floodplain Management Committee which included:

“To assist the Council in advocating, consideration of, and implementing the strategies contained within the Hawkesbury Nepean Floodplain Review Taskforce report, 'Resilient Valley, Resilient Communities' in partnership with relevant state agencies and stakeholders.” (my emphasis). Prior to that, the FMC already had a remit which included *“to recommend to Council measures to reduce flood risk to Council's infrastructure and buildings”*

The *Resilient Valley, Resilient Communities* plan's signature initiative proposes to raise the dam wall by 14 meters, and there is an agreement between NSW and the Commonwealth to fully fund the project for completion by the early 2020s.

The commitment to raise the dam wall was made in June 2016, and the *Resilient Valley* document has been in-hand since early 2017. The committee, and Council as a whole have neglected its objectives by not resolving a position in relation to this revamped plan.

This is despite an abundance of detailed work stretching back decades to show that this proposal remains the best of the alternatives available and should be supported now. An EIS will follow later this year, but is not a document that will add any information likely to tip the balance between ecological risks upstream, and life and property downstream. The 1995 EIS took seven years to complete and was ratified by a panel of three independent and international experts, and it was modelling a dam even higher than the current proposal.

A generation of residents since the last flood in 1992 have grown up with no first-hand knowledge of flooding. The present proposal models an average reduction in damage by 75%, fully \$5 billion less (by 2040) than if no measure proceeds, along with proportionate saving of life along with property.

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This Notice of Motion is spurred by a recognition of rising and organised opposition to the dam-raising proposal, bringing a danger that misinformation will prevail, and that the bipartisanship necessary between State and Federal governments to complete the project may not endure, unless support is shown publicly.

It is therefore timely that Hawkesbury Council, representing the community most at risk, makes its stand now.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

There are no financial implications applicable to this report.

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no supporting documents for this report.

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