

# AUSTRALIAN<sup>®</sup> WATER

ASSOCIATION

MEDIA RELEASE

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## **Australian Water Association welcomes funding to augment Warragamba Dam**

Australian Water Association CEO Jonathan McKeown has today welcomed the Baird government's announcement to raise the wall of the Warragamba Dam to prevent a potential flood disaster in western Sydney.

"The Bureau of Meteorology has predicted that another east coast low is imminent which means there is a possibility that the dam could spill and cause serious flooding," Mr McKeown said.

"We are pleased the government has committed \$58 million towards raising the wall by 14 metres to avoid a catastrophe that could put thousands of Sydney residents at risk."

The NSW Government has said raising Warragamba Dam's wall by 14 metres is expected to reduce the potential economic impacts from flood risk by about 75 per cent on average.

"This investment is critical to reduce the risk to the communities, animals and the environment that surround the dam and into western Sydney."

"It is important to act now to protect and support Australia's water infrastructure, not only in the Sydney area but across Australia to ensure water security for all Australian's is supported into the future.

"Warragamba Dam was originally built and operated with the primary purpose of supplying drinking water, and more recently it has been used to release environment flows.

"Using it for flood mitigation is a change that brings new challenges and we support the Government's efforts to optimise all three in an integrated manner."

The \$58 million to be included in Tuesday's NSW budget will go towards phase one of the \$690 million construction project to be completed within four years.

### **ENDS**

To arrange an interview with Jonathan McKeown contact Australian Water Association Communications Manager Ashleigh James 0488 160 277.

*The Australian Water Association is an independent, not-for-profit association for water professionals and organisations, providing leadership in the water sector through collaboration, advocacy and professional development. As Australia's peak water industry body, the Australian Water Association has the largest broadly based membership, with approximately 700 corporate members and 5,000 individual members representing the diversity and breadth of the Australian water industry.*