Warragamba Dam Plan Applauded

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Australia’s network of flood professionals, Floodplain Management Australia (FMA), has applauded the announcement by NSW Premier Mike Baird that his government plans to reduce the flood risk to the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley by raising Sydney’s Warragamba Dam.

FMA President Ian Dinham said that the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley has a flood prone population of 73,000 people for whom appropriate emergency management and recovery arrangements must be developed.

“The parts of Windsor, Richmond and Penrith have long been recognised as being at serious risk in the event of major floods, and FMA has been pleased to contribute its expertise to the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley Flood Risk Management Review” said Mr Dinham.

“An enormous amount of work has gone into the review process over the last four years, and we congratulate all who have been involved in completing this very complex and thorough review.

“The strategy represents an important milestone for flood risk management in Australia. It is satisfying that the NSW Government understands the seriousness of the flood risk, and is committing funding not just to further planning and studies for the dam, but also to immediate improvements in emergency response and evacuation arrangements.

“Climate change forecasts indicate that the likelihood of flooding will increase with rising global temperatures. The threat of flood is not dissipating - flood risk management projects like this must be supported.”

Flooding is the most costly, yet manageable of natural disasters with recent estimates costing Australia over $560 million a year.

Floodplain Management Australia brings together experts from across Australia and overseas to help build a more flood resilient nation. Members include over 120 councils, catchment management authorities, businesses, and professionals involved in urban and rural flood risk management.

About
For more information on Floodplain Management Australia, visit floods.org.au.

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