

Submission from Don Cameron

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to comment. Below are 7 sequential statements followed by three recommendations:

1. The distribution map for the Kedumba population of *Eucalyptus benthamii* on the Help save the Camden White Gum page of the OE&H website illustrates that *E. benthamii* is a riparian species.
2. It is my understanding that there was a high quality survey of the the Kedumba population of *E. benthamii* conducted as part of the EIS in the early 1990s due to the initial proposal to raise the height of Warragamba Dam. Further, the author(s) of this document concluded that (at least) 50% of trees in the study area were threatened by the proposal. In simple terms, the proposed works would result in their periodically being too much water in the habitat of *E. benthamii* for many of them to survive.
3. I am unaware of any report that repudiates the finding of the above EIS. Therefore, the findings of the initial EIS continue to be valid until if and when such a report is (i) made publicly available; (ii) the discrepancies between the two documents are clearly, concisely and comprehensively presented to the public; and (iii) the findings of the initial EIS are authoritatively demonstrated to be incorrect.
4. I understand that community representatives nominated the proposed raising of the Warragamba Dam wall as a threat in a meeting about the Draft Priorities Action Statement for the Camden White Gum.
5. Given points 1 -4 above, the logical action would have been to have entered 'The proposed raising of Warragamba Dam' in the 'Threat name' column of 'Management activities to protect the Camden White Gum at the site' table (i.e. on the Help save the Camden White Gum page).
6. There seems to have been an arbitrary decision to reject the suggestion to document the proposal to raise Warragamba Dam as a threat, despite the fact that there was is a compelling rationale to do so. It is very unlikely that the failure to include this threat was a simple oversight.
7. Sydney is going to host the IUCN World Parks Congress in November 2014, which will mean that the conservation eyes of the world will be on us. Note that one of the themes of the congress is about the quality of governance pertaining to nature conservation. It will therefore be wise for NSW Government agencies and departments to ensure that the governance they deliver is of high quality.

Reccomendations:

1. That the OE&H acquiesces to the request of community representatives to include the the proposed raising of Warragamba Dam as a threat in the Action Statement for the Camden White Gum.
2. That the OE&H decisivley addresses all identified threats to *E. benthamii*, especially for its largest Kedumba population.
3. That the OE&H adds climate change to the list of identified threats for *E. benthamii*. Why was this omitted?

Yours faithfully

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