

**DAVID HARRIS MP
SHADOW MINISTER FOR
ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS AND TREATY**

**KATE WASHINGTON
SHADOW MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT & HERITAGE**

**TRISH DOYLE MP
MEMBER FOR BLUE MOUNTAINS**

**GOVERNMENT MUST ANSWER SERIOUS QUESTIONS ABOUT
ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL CONSULTANTS CONDUCTING DAM
SURVEY**

NSW Labor has [outlined serious concerns](#) regarding allegations outlined in a joint submission to the Legislative Council Inquiry into the Proposal to Raise the Warragamba Dam Wall.

In the joint submission, twenty Indigenous and environmental NGO's from six countries have expressed serious concerns about the international record of SMEC Engineering. Their submission claims that SMEC has a history of unethical behaviour and serious misconduct, including significant abuses of Indigenous rights across the globe, notably in Asia, Mongolia and Africa.

NSW Labor is aware of criticism of the current assessment process by local Indigenous groups who have claimed that the process has not given them enough time or resources to properly report on Aboriginal heritage issues.

“This whole process has denied meaningful input from local Aboriginal groups and the wider community and these claims in the joint submission raise serious concerns about the suitability of the current consultants to do a meaningful assessment of heritage issues.” Shadow Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty David Harris said.

“These claims paint a very dark picture of this entire process. It's vital that decision makers can rely on the integrity of these assessments and reports before making their

decision. These are serious allegations, and its incumbent on the Government to do the appropriate due diligence.” Shadow Environment Minister Kate Washington said.

“The local Aboriginal community deserves more than a rubber-stamp process that pays mere lip service to their concerns about the proposed flooding of the Burragorang Valley. We need a proper consultation process that takes the time and the effort to investigate all that is at stake here instead of just doing the absolute bare minimum to satisfy the legal requirements” Member for Blue Mountains Trish Doyle said.

Ends

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