



AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE
for Disaster Resilience
& Safer Communities

29 July 2016

The Hon. Mike Baird, MP
Premier of NSW
GPO Box 5341
Sydney NSW 2000

cc:

The Hon. Gladys Berejiklian MP
Treasurer, and Minister for Industrial Relations
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Premier

I write on behalf of the Australian Business Roundtable for Disaster Resilience & Safer Communities to acknowledge and welcome the decision to reduce flood risk in the Hawkesbury-Nepean by raising the wall of Sydney's Warragamba Dam.

The Roundtable, comprising CEOs of the Australian Red Cross, Insurance Australia Group, Investa Property Group, Munich Re, Optus and Westpac, was set up in 2012 to support a coordinated national approach to making communities more resilient. Roundtable members are aware that the Hawkesbury-Nepean has been one of Australia's greatest flood risk regions since records began, and recognize that raising the wall level will go a long way towards preventing further natural disasters in this area.

This announcement sits particularly well with the Roundtable's first report "Building our Nation's Resilience to Natural Disasters", released in 2013, which estimated that average annual flood costs in the Hawkesbury-Nepean could increase from around \$102 million in 2013 to approximately \$317 million in 2050 if pre-disaster mitigation measures were not introduced.

We also note that the announcement included a reference to environmental assessments being undertaken as part of the process of raising the dam wall. Roundtable members consider this a critically important consideration in any mitigation process. We also look forward to further initiatives to reduce disaster risk and impact in the future and would be pleased to discuss how members might provide further advice or input to your Government.



Yours sincerely



Peter Harmer

Managing Director & CEO
Insurance Australia Group



on behalf of Australian Business Roundtable Member CEOs

Judy Slatyer

Chief Executive Officer
Australian Red Cross



Jonathan Callaghan

Managing Director
Investa Office



Ralph Ronnenberg

Managing Director
Munich Re



Paul O'Sullivan

Chairman
Optus



Brian Hartzler

Managing Director & CEO
Westpac Group

