



Healthy Rivers Dubbo

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Media Release

11th June 2021

Professor Richard Kingsford to speak in Dubbo

Professor Richard Kingsford will join an impressive line-up of speakers at a public meeting about the proposed Gin Gin re-regulating dam on the Macquarie River.

The public meeting is to be held on Wednesday the 23rd June from 6.30pm at the Pastoral Hotel in Talbragar Street Dubbo.

Professor Kingsford's expertise covers river ecology, water use in Australia, wetland ecology, waterbirds, river policy, and dam building effect.

Also speaking at the event will be:

- Tony Lees from the Trangie Aboriginal Land Council
- Garry Hall, a private Ramsar Wetland Manager
- and Beverley Smiles, President of the Inland Rivers Network

The controversial Gin Gin dam proposal drew sharp criticism from the NSW Government last year when the Deputy Secretary of Water said the plans "do not currently demonstrate value for money and an efficient, effective and prudent use of public funds."¹

The proposal is expected to reduce water downstream for unregulated irrigation, and have a serious impact on populations of native fish.

"The Gin Gin dam would be a massive \$84 million subsidy to the irrigated cotton industry. Downstream irrigators, graziers and businesses that cater to recreational fishing in the valley would all take a huge financial hit.

"There have been increasing calls for Dugald Saunders MP and the NSW Nationals to release the business case to the public once it is complete. What are they trying to hide?" Asks Mel Gray, Convenor of Healthy Rivers Dubbo.

The public are encouraged to come along to the Pastoral Hotel with their questions about the impacts the proposal would have on the river, the marshes and all of the people and wildlife that rely on them.

For details about the event contact Mel Gray 0431 471 310, or email healthyriverdubbo@gmail.com

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¹ https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GIRQI2C38xRXyPMJfzPgAN5Z_Y9OGZJ/view?usp=sharing