



Healthy Rivers Dubbo
PO Box 216
Dubbo NSW 2830
heathyriversdubbo@gmail.com
ABN 11 988 241 202

Media Release

Wednesday 28th July 2021

Government Inquiry highlights worry over Gin Gin dam impacts

A parliamentary committee report looking at the controversial proposal to build a large 're-regulating' dam in the Macquarie Rivers at Gin Gin was released today. The committee says they have 'significant concerns about the potential negative ecological impacts' of the proposal.

Community concern that WaterNSW won't keep their hands off tributary inflows from below Burrendong dam is shared by the committee. The report says the lack of clarity regarding the use of tributary flows for water orders and how this will change as a result of the project is concerning.

"When this project was looked at as part of the Macquarie Priority Catchment Study, the plan was to take water from all sources. Now they say they won't catch tributary inflows, but the economics of that doesn't stack up." says Mel Gray, Convenor of Healthy Rivers Dubbo.

The committee heard that the best way to secure water for people and the environment is to improve the way water is managed in NSW.

The project poses a significant threat to remaining native fish populations in the Macquarie River. "The weir pool created by this dam proposal would destroy 32 km of habitat in and along the river. Population of threatened Murray Cod can't bounce back after drought without habitat." Said Ms Gray.

The report featured a warning from Professor Richard Kingsford that Australia is failing to meet its international obligations to protect Ramsar listed wetlands. Many waterbird communities are long-term decline as a result of historic water allocations and decreased river flows into major wetlands.

"There is certainly no environmental benefit of building that [Gin Gin] weir and there is a lot of risk in terms of downstream impacts, not just to the environment – the river – but also to the rural communities downstream." Professor Kingsford was quoted as saying in the report.

Media Contact

Mel Gray

Convenor Healthy Rivers Dubbo

0431471310

[Report No 8 PC7 Rationale for, and impacts of, new dams and other water infrastructure in NSW - Part 2](#)