



I N L A N D  
R I V E R S  
N E T W O R K

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## OBJECTIVES OF THE INLAND RIVERS NETWORK

The Inland Rivers Network (“IRN”) is a coalition of environment groups and individuals that has been advocating for healthy rivers, wetlands and groundwater in the Murray-Darling Basin since 1991.

### (1) Mission

To ensure the ecological sustainability of riverine ecosystems in the Murray-Darling Basin, particularly within New South Wales.

### (2) Goals

*Advocate* for the conservation of biological diversity, maintenance of essential ecosystem functions and restoration of degraded habitats in the rivers, wetlands and ground-waters of the Murray Darling Basin.

*Educate* and build capacity of regional individuals and organisations within the Murray Darling Basin in order to share knowledge of and generate appreciation for riverine ecosystems.

*Facilitate* policy development and greater public appreciation of Murray-Darling inland riverine ecosystems to ensure that future generations inherit healthy ecosystems for the benefit of all.

### (3) Objectives

The biological diversity and life support systems of inland rivers depends on near natural flows of both quality and quantity reaching the whole system, including wetlands, billabongs, floodplains, swamps, ground-water recharge areas, ephemeral lakes and the sea. Recognising this, the Inland Rivers Network aims to:

- Restore, maintain and protect the biological diversity, life support systems and natural characteristics of inland rivers, wetlands and ground-waters.
- Protect and enhance natural regimes in unregulated rivers and simulate the natural regime in regulated and semi-regulated rivers.
- Protect and recover threatened aquatic and floodplain species.
- Recognise and support traditional Aboriginal knowledge and custodianship of inland river systems.
- Advocate sustainable land and water management practices for water resources and freshwater ecosystems throughout inland river catchments, and ensure that surface and ground waters are not over-exploited or degraded.