



# Love Our River

## *The Mole River Protection Alliance*

wishes to invite you and your friends  
to join us for an

### **INFORMATION FUN DAY**

on Sunday 24 January 2021.

Please bring your canoes, walking shoes and a picnic.

The day will begin at 9 am (NSW) at the Upper Mole River bridge. Those with canoes can start paddling downstream while others may walk. There will be access for cars to drive to the lunch site for those not wishing to canoe or bushwalk. Upon arrival at the surveyed site for the dam wall there will be information regarding the proposed dam.

Further downstream will be the picnic location. Please bring your own picnic and chairs. Swimming of course!

Organised by the

### ***Mole River Protection Alliance***

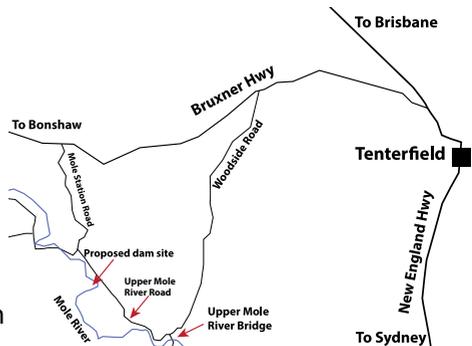
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# Proposed Mole River Dam

## ***Damming the Mole? Where, what and why worry?***

The Mole River Dam has been proposed to improve security of supply to irrigators along the river system below the dam. The Mole River 25 km west of Tenterfield conveys runoff from the NSW Northern Tablelands to the Dumaresq River, a major tributary of the Macintyre, Barwon then Darling Rivers. No dams regulate the Mole's flows – normally gentle, raging after prolonged rain, stopping in droughts so the pools shrink. Its habitats are still home to fish species endangered by regulation of other rivers. People use the Mole for stock water, crop irrigation, recreation and tourism.

A dam wall at least 50 m high is proposed by the NSW Government to trap inflows, store 100 to 200 GL (billion litres), and regulate releases making most flows unnatural. Who is intended to benefit is unclear as the brief Government statements differ. The Murray Darling Basin Plan limits diversion of streamflows to agricultural and other uses, so the dam isn't supposed to increase use, but it could change timing of use and maintain irrigation during times of drought - leaving less for the environment. The 2017 Feasibility Study found the dam would be uneconomic, yet a further \$24m is being spent preparing a business case, due late 2021.

Mole River Protection Alliance was formed by local and broader community interests who are concerned that the dam proposal seems likely to

- Make the Mole River much less suitable for many common and endangered species now living there, eg Platypus, Water Rats, Catfish, Cod, and Purple-spotted Gudgeon
- Further reduce high flows reaching the Barwon and Darling affecting fish, Redgums, wetlands and people
- Destroy productive land, Aboriginal sites, homes and livelihoods, trees and wildlife habitats in the dam site
- Make irrigation by small producers (e.g. fodder production) uneconomic as water users pay extra costs for managing the dam. Mole valley irrigators may be most at risk
- Reduce groundwater recharge which will affect trees and farmers who rely on groundwater in droughts

***Do you like the Mole River as it is? Will you help protect it?***