



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

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ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21

The Inland Rivers Network (“IRN”) is a coalition of environment groups and individuals concerned about the degradation of the rivers, wetlands and ground waters of the Murray-Darling Basin. It has been advocating for the conservation of rivers, wetlands and groundwater in the Murray-Darling Basin since 1991.

Throughout the year IRN continued to work on its mission:

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

It has been another incredibly busy year; including regular comment on policy, planning and review through the drafting of detailed submissions to Government water authorities, many meetings with Water authorities, participation in numerous webinars and Government Inquiries.

IRN has also participated in community based campaigns highlighting the environmental, cultural and social impact of new dams announced in 2019.



Healthy Rivers Dubbo Public Meeting 23 June 2021
No New Dam on the Macquarie/Wambuul River

Meetings with Water Authorities and Government Inquiries

Participation in Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) Peak Bodies meetings

9.07.2020, 11.12.2020 and 15.4.2021

Meeting with MDBA, CEWH and DAWE at Gin Gin Weir	18.02.2021
Hearing of the Senate Inquiry into Murray-Darling Basin Plan	20.4.2021
Hearing of NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into New Dams	3.10.2020
Meeting with Derek Rutherford and staff, NSW Environment Minister's office	21.6.2021
Meeting with Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder in Dubbo	24.6.2021



Mole River Protection Alliance
Love Our River Day 24 January 2021

Participation in Public Meetings and Protests

Mole River love our river day	24.01.2021
Healthy Rivers Dubbo protest at Gin Gin weir	21.02.2021
Healthy Rivers Public Meeting in Dubbo	23.06.2021
Presentation to Cowra CWA on Wyngala Dam impacts	12.05.2021



Wangala Counterpoint Group Cowra meeting 5 December 2020

Dams Campaign

IRN members have figured prominently in campaigns against the National Party's knee-jerk destructive proposals for:

A Mole River dam

A Dungowan dam

Rebuilding a much higher Gin Gin "re-regulating weir" i.e. dam

Raising the height of the Wyangala dam

Submissions

Independent assessment of the management of the Northern Basin First Flush event in NSW	
Draft Report	9.8.2020
Narrabri Gas Project Independent Planning Commission Assessment	9.8.2020
Productivity Commission National Water Reform 2020	3.9.2020
Upper House Inquiry into the rationale for, and impacts of, new dams and other water infrastructure in NSW	22.9.2020
Statutory Review - WaterNSW Act 2014	30.9.2020
Draft Regional Water Strategies Gwydir, Macquarie and Lachlan	11.11.2020
Draft Regional Water Strategy Border Rivers	30.11.2020
Floodplain Harvesting licence rules in the water sharing plans for NSW Border Rivers	30.11.2020
Proposed legislative amendments for Floodplain Harvesting	31.12.2020
Review of the Water Sharing Plan for the Intersecting Streams Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2011	31.12.2020
Review of the Water Sharing Plan for the Lower Murray-Darling Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2011	31.12.2020
Review of the Water Sharing Plan for the Murray Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2011	31.12.2020
Water Trading and Water Ownership in NSW	30.1.2021
Draft Report 'National Water Reform 2020'	24.3.2021
NSW Water Strategy	27.3.2021
IPART WaterNSW rural bulk water prices from 1 July 2021	15.4.2021
Inquiry into Water Amendment (Purchase Limit Repeal) Bill 2019	
Floodplain Harvesting licence rules in the water sharing plans for Gwydir Regulated and Unregulated Rivers	12.3.2020
Floodplain harvesting licence rules in the water sharing plans for the Macquarie Valley	15.4.2021
Namoi Regional Water Strategy	12.5.2021
Gwydir Floodplain Management Plan 5 year review	18.5.2021

Bev Smiles, President

November 2021