

**Submission
No 110**

**INQUIRY INTO ADEQUACY OF WATER STORAGES IN
NSW**

Name: Hon Daryl Maguire, MP
Member for Wagga Wagga

Date received: 1/11/2012



Daryl Maguire MP

Member for Wagga Wagga
Government Whip



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Parliament House Macquarie Street Sydney NSW 2000

Tel: 02 9230 2155 Fax: 02 9230 2068

Mr Stewart Smith
Acting Director – Committees
Standing Committee on State Development
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY 2000

Dear Stewart

I refer to the Inquiry into the Adequacy of Water Storages in New South Wales.

I would like to submit the attached information relating to the establishment of a Murrumbidgee Weir.

It will be appreciated if this submission could be considered by the Committee.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely

DARYL MAGUIRE MP
Member for Wagga Wagga

2 November 2012

MGP

Matt

Weir proposal should be considered

LIKE the prognosis for Lake Albert, the much talked about Riverside Precinct master plan will need water and a regular supply of it.

The last thing the Riverside Precinct needs – either in a drought or not – is an irregular river height. This irregularity spelt the end for the last attempt to run a floating river restaurant because the operator could not guarantee customers a trip.

That's why the plan by MP, Darryl Maguire, to have a weir built at the western end of the river is a good one and deserves to be seriously taken on board by those in charge

The Daily Advertiser

EDITORIAL

of preparing the master plan.

While a weir is unlikely to be the answer for Lake Albert's problems it could provide, a consistent height along the proposed Riverside Precinct area, and further upstream.

Council should back Mr Maguire's plan and with it his proposal that the Minister for Water,

Phillip Costa, be asked to provide funding for a detailed study of the lake's problems and the weir proposal.

Mr Maguire points out, correctly, that many regional towns and cities enjoy the advantages a weir can provide.

Besides, Mr Costa is also the Minister for Rural Affairs and Regional Development, and as Mr Maguire maintains there are economic and recreational advantages for a weir, which add weight for a detailed study that should incorporate fixing a serious number of problems in relation to stormwater run-off that

currently misses the lake.

Mr Costa so far has been lukewarm about the Government building a weir but has suggested a community-backed consortium through a private arrangement or a commercial agreement with the State Water Corporation as the builder could be prospects.

With advanced engineering techniques there are now low-flow turbines generating green energy that might off-set operational costs of a weir. The council should at least seriously consider the weir.

vox pop

What do you think about corporate naming rights being offered for Wagga facilities and programs?



Daymon Pickering, Wagga

I don't think that's a problem. I think they need the funding.



Lee Goddier, Wagga

I think anything to brighten up this town would be fabulous.



Taffy Cole, Wagga

If Emu (now McDonald's Park) is going to keep costing the ratepayer then they need the extra money. Everything is sponsored nowadays.



Muriel Scott, Wagga

Leave it as it is. It should just stay in our community.

Hockey has a short memory and is unaware of the egg on his face

LAST week a vote was taken in parliament on whether the \$42 billion stimulus package should go through.

The vote failed for the Government.

After the dust settled, Mr Hockey was on his feet talking of "... egg on Mr Rudd's face".

Mr Hockey must have a short memory.

Didn't he sleep on the job when in charge of regulating the insurance companies?

Didn't HIH go down \$6 billion?

There was enough egg on Mr Hockey's face to feed all the Opposition.

I have a very bad opinion of Mr Hockey and a worse opinion of the lot who voted him in.

R Widows
Rankins Springs

Restaurant idea is perfect for bridge

LOCATION, location, location! Renovator's dream! Superb, picturesque, historical structure, spanning the Murrumbidgee River located in the centre of Wagga Wagga.

Largest inland city in NSW and City of Good Sports right in the centre of the beautiful Riverina.

Deluxe views of the Murrumbidgee River from both sides.

Ideal for five star restaurant or similar. Looking for developer with vision, innovation and access to capital.

Apply Wagga Wagga City Council.

Obviously tongue-in-cheek but what a fabulous idea someone floated some time ago, turning the Hampden Bridge into a restaurant.

How lovely to partake in fine dining watching the Murrumbidgee flowing on either side, sitting right in the middle of history, imagining the life and times through the ages of all the people who have travelled over her-Hampden Bridge.

Failing this, to Bob Connolly's letter about the bridge. Hear hear!

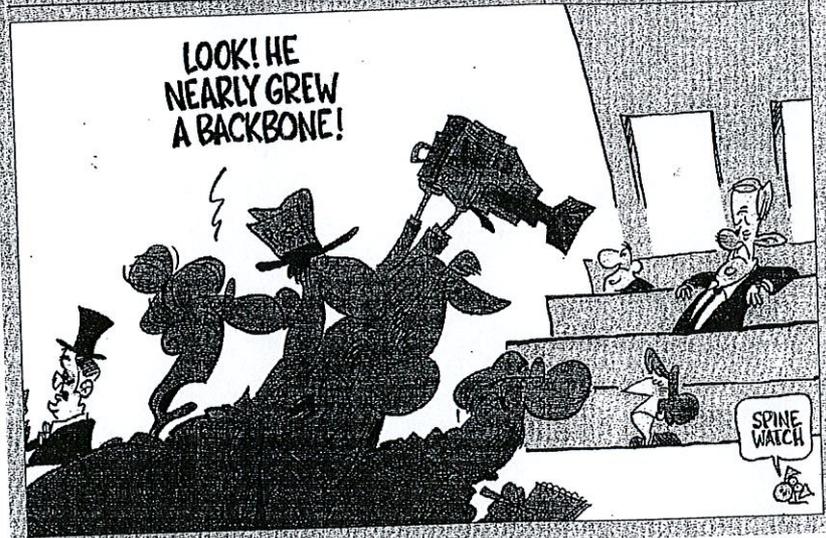
Allison Wooden
Wagga

Prostituting our common heritage

YOUR lead story on Wednesday (February 18) raises more than mere passing curiosity in this ratepayer.

If we are to accept the implica-

broelman's view



tions, Wagga City Council appears to be embarking on a course of selling naming rights for several of our civic assets.

These landmarks are the property of the people of Wagga.

To sell off their names to the highest commercial bidder is to prostitute our common heritage.

I can't recall there being a public debate on this sordid topic. I can't remember being consulted.

Local government derives its funds from rates, not from selling off or debasing our public infrastructure.

If there are revenue shortfalls, council should be cutting its cloth accordingly, not cheapening our public assets with the name of some business.

Businesses are in business to make profit. Councils are in business to provide services to their communities. The two objectives are not equivalent.

The first beneficiary of the move, Tony Aichinger gave the game away during the first change-of-name ceremony when he answered a journalist's question thus: "This will be a great opportunity for us to promote our business." (paraphrased)

I challenge your newspaper to continue to identify such public spaces with their non-commercial names, in the same way as the

ABC deftly avoided referring to the domestic first-class cricket competition by its debased commercial epithet. It can be done.

Greg Robinson
Wagga

Editor's note: The Daily Advertiser has and will maintain a policy of referring to local sporting and community venues by their traditional names. While we are happy to report and recognise the support of sponsors, we believe the renaming of facilities will only add confusion for readers in our reporting and will therefore be avoided.

Council is wasting community funds

CAN anyone tell me why the fence and gardens between the Sturt Mall and the Marketplace have been ripped up and replaced again?

This is at least the third time this has occurred, and at what cost to ratepayers?

I am reliably informed that more than \$400,000 a year is spent keeping our CBD looking pretty, and no wonder, Council's Parks and Gardens Department are forever tearing out healthy plants and replacing them, usually in the wee

hours of the day and one can only guess at the wages bill.

I for one can still remember the fence we had to have in Docke Street, council put it in and who happened? Council ripped it out again of course.

While we are on the subject of Council's stupidity, why does Council plant natives or plants that have a life of more than a couple months, how about geraniums?

But all this money wasted on plants and fencing might explain council's latest "brainbuster" cutting back on the street sweeper.

Yes that's right ratepayers, on central Wagga Wagga will have 1 gutters swept on a regular basis from now on. There goes our town tag, will they ever learn?

Gregory Jerri
Wag

Stamp club set to celebrate birthday

THE Wagga Stamp Club will celebrate its 30th birthday with evening dinner on April 1.

Former club members would like to attend are invited to contact the secretary ph. 6922 for details of the venue, cost etc

Peter Simpferdo
Secre

The Wagga Stamp Club

got something to say?

mail: PO Box 35, Wagga Wagga, NSW, 2650 fax: (02) 6921 6950 e-mail: letters@dailyadvertiser.com.au

Letters to the editor should be no more than 250 words. Writers must give full home addresses (not postal boxes) and day and night telephone numbers for verification. Where possible, letters be typed with double spacing. Letters must be signed. Letters with noms de plume or pseudonyms will not be published. The Daily Advertiser reserves the right to edit any letter and letters shortened for brevity. We do not necessarily endorse the opinion of our correspondents.



Daryl Maguire MP

Member for Wagga Wagga

PRESS RELEASE

MAGUIRE AND COSTA MEET

Member for Wagga Wagga Daryl Maguire has today met with the Minister for Water, Phillip Costa at Governor Macquarie Tower in Sydney.

Mr Maguire discussed with the Minister the local challenges faced by the City of Wagga Wagga regarding Lake Albert and the proposed Weir on the Murrumbidgee River.

During the meeting Mr Maguire explained the Lake Albert geography challenges and suggested engineering solutions.

Minister Costa after the briefing has indicated his wish to discuss solutions in more detail and Mr Maguire has sought to have Council's plan provided to the Minister for his consideration.

"What is needed from the State Government is an economic impact study to investigate and measure the benefit of a full Lake Albert and the environmental impact both negative and positive".

"I have asked the Minister to assist Council with the allocation of funds for an urgent study into the Lake and its economic and social impact on our community".

Mr Maguire also briefed the Minister on suggestions of a Weir to be located on the Murrumbidgee River, with Green generation capacity to pay for the structure.

"I told the Minister that most Cities and towns benefited from their River, some with the aid of a Weir, well why not Wagga? Understanding the construction of Weirs is not Government Policy I urged the Minister to question the policy.

"Currently the Wagga Wagga City Council and the Lands Department are co-operating to study the riverscape in Wagga. I've encouraged the Minister to get involved and suggested that the benefits of a Weir will far outweigh the negatives when you take into consideration that our community has very limited options when compared to other towns that have deep water and enjoyed the Rivers that flow through them.

"Having a reasonable depth of water for our community to enjoy in the River and a Weir that generates green energy to pay for it can only be a win win for our region." Mr Maguire said.

Contact: Daryl Maguire
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Mobile: 0409 039 594

Email: waggawagga@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Riverside Plan
Murrumbidgee Weir
Wagga

Voice of the people

Question: A 17-year-old girl has made headlines by posting nude photographs of AFL players on the internet through social networking sites. Has she done the right thing?



John Turner Albury
She's a lunatic. She's got no idea.



David Connolly Wagga
The players shouldn't have associated with a 17-year-old schoolgirl to begin with.



Erinn Dunbar Coleambally
I think she's a nutcase.



Ebony Clemson Gold Coast
I think she's done the wrong thing because you shouldn't post photos on the internet of another guy.



Scott Demamiel Wagga
There are males doing that and meeting trouble. What's the difference between a 17-year-old and a 24-year-old posting the photos?

have your say

YESTERDAY'S QUESTION:

Do Australia's privacy laws need strengthening to protect people from posting embarrassing photos online?

Yes 65.5%

No 34.5%

Total votes: 443

On this day



AFL coach Kevin Sheedy turns 63 today

- 1515 King Henry VIII appoints Thomas Wolsey as chancellor of England
- 1865 Several veterans of the US Confederate Army form a private social club in Pulaski, Tennessee, calling themselves the Ku Klux Klan
- 1953 Train crashes into river at Tangwai, New Zealand, killing 151 people
- 1994 Muslim militants seize a French jetliner in Algiers and take 239 people hostage
- 2001 The Serbian Democratic Party expels its founder, Radovan Karadzic, and other members indicted by the UN war crimes tribunal in The Hague

Friday on my mind

Weir is solution for Riverside precinct



Graham Gorrel
Columnist
Wagga Wagga

A THOUGHTFUL and positive approach about an improved outcome for the Murrumbidgee River through Wagga has come by way of a reader's email. Unconvinced about the prospect of the Riverside precinct for a multitude of reasons including cost, interference with the levee or the need to build anything extravagant outside the levees, she advocates, nevertheless, that the river is there to be used. "Used" is the operative word. She endorsed the suggestion, also made through this column some years back now, by Daryl Maguire, MP, for the construction of a weir across the river at the western end of the CBD limits. The idea is to provide a constant river level the year round, but essentially in summer and in times of drought to encourage multiple use of the river for recreation. Rather than planning retail outlets along the riverbank, especially outside the levee or cutting access paths and roads into the levee, why not embrace the suggestion already offered

to use the Hampden Bridge for such retail purposes, she asks? If council - or an entrepreneur - was inclined to do this, then rentals would eventually cover the cost rather than ratepayers. Canvassing the reader's idea, especially at the current time, there are concerns about a weir's effect on high rivers. This, the column is reliably informed, is not an issue. The Murrumbidgee, as do many inland rivers, already has a number of weirs. Engineers inform me that many more recently constructed weirs are designed to enhance waterways, not obstruct them. Besides, on the figures being bandied about to fulfil the lavish ideas of the Riverside Precinct, a weir will be considerably cheaper and, ultimately, more effective in maintaining constant water level the year round. In addition, more boat ramps are required for the prodigious increase in marine sports equipment like canoes, kayaks, ski boats and jet skis. Lack of constant water level was one of the reasons the riverboat business some years ago was forced to cease. The reader's thoughts that the river needs to be used, not

looked at, are pragmatic. Another aspect of river use which many readers over the years have expressed approval about is the proposed river trail, designed to include historic sites, but which has never been fulfilled. It should be promptly resurrected and constructed. **Forgotten aspect** IN A recent column the neglected aspects of our health system were canvassed. One aspect overlooked in the analysis was the effect on families of a child with a terminal illness. Many people may not be aware of the financial impact a sudden diagnosis of this kind can have on a family, particularly on one of lower socio-economic earnings. So much of the financial shortfall in these situations is currently the lot of organisations like Country Hope, and others, which while they will always be needed to provide assistance for a child by way of help, holidays and other relief, find their funds increasingly drained to meet a family's immediate financial crisis which, it can be argued, ought to be the sole responsibility of a national health and social system.

Looking back

In the Advertiser
December 24

- 1910 Mr J J Brynes, who recently purchased the Pastoral Hotel property, has during the last two months made considerable alterations to the premises.
- 1960 In the past fortnight, the Wagga Fire Brigade has attended 14 grass fires.
- 1985 Wagga abattoir reopened today with 175 people on the payroll.

Last year



Star signs

- ARIES (March 21 to April 19)**: You are wonderfully resourceful today! In addition, you might dream up great ideas about how to improve your health. (You want to remove or reduce something harmful to your body.)
- TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)**: Romance is extremely intense, powerful and passionate today! (Look out!) Relationships that begin now definitely will be memorable. (Parents must be patient with children today.)
- GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)**: Look for ways to make improvements at home, especially to plumbing areas or anything connected with bathrooms. You also might come up with a better system for getting rid of garbage.
- CANCER (June 21 to July 22)**: You're convincing today! This is a strong day for those of you who sell, market, teach, act or even drive for a living.
- LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22)**: You're obsessed with buying something today. You simply have to have it! Or this same intensity could apply to wanting to earn money as well. (Lighten up.)
- VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)**: Take a realistic look in the mirror. What can you do to improve your appearance or the image you create in the world? (You never get a second chance to make a first impression.)

- LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)**: Your research skills are amazing today! Now is the time to search for solutions to old problems. Dig deep, because you might be surprised at what you'll find.
- SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)**: A powerful female acquaintance might make a strong impression on you today. In fact, someone might even convince you to change your future goals. (That's something.)
- SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)**: Authority figures notice that you are acting confidently today. Because of this, some personal details of your private life might emerge. (You probably won't mind.)
- CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)**: Conversations about politics, religion and racial issues might be pretty intense today. However, these same conversations might change your point of view about something or your beliefs. (Like, wow.)
- AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)**: You might see new uses for shared property, or how to better use the resources of others today. You also might offer advice to others about what they can do with what they own.
- PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20)**: Talk to partners and close friends. An open discussion today could arrive at ways of improving the relationship. (This could happen easily.)

5 years ago





MSO09/0111
09/193

Mr Daryl Maguire MP
Member for Wagga Wagga
PO Box 2184
WAGGA WAGGA NSW 2650


Dear Mr Maguire,

I refer to your letter of 16 January 2009 concerning the construction a weir on the Murrumbidgee River in conjunction with the Wagga Wagga Riverside Precinct Project, and our subsequent meeting to discuss this issue.

The Government does not support the construction of any new weirs on the State's rivers, unless of course there were clear and demonstrable environmental benefits, including improved water flow and quality. The State Water Corporation informs me that there would be no water delivery efficiency improvements to be gained from a weir being constructed on the Murrumbidgee River, as suggested. The very nature of these structures impedes the natural movement of native fish, creates conditions where alien fish species can flourish, such as European Carp, and causes water to stagnate, which markedly increases the chances for Blue-Green algal blooms.

The current drought has significantly reduced flows throughout our rivers systems in NSW and it is essential to have free flowing water, rather than creating conditions which cause additional degradation of our waterways.

As I indicated to you at our meeting, I would be pleased to meet with the Mayor and his advisors to discuss alternatives to the construction of a weir, a process which I have begun.

Thank you for raising this issue with me and I trust this advice clarifies the Government's position.

Yours sincerely



The Hon. Phillip Costa MP
Minister for Water
Minister for Regional Development
18 MAR 2009

Hon Ian Macdonald, MLC
Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy
Minister for Mineral Resources, Minister for
State Development
Level 33 Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place
SYDNEY 2000

Dear Minister

I wrote to your Director Murray/Murrumbidgee Region in March 2005 seeking information regarding the establishment of a Weir in the Murrumbidgee River as a potential on-river storage and possible green generation of power for the area.

Since that time the situation regarding water has deteriorated as you know including the level of Lake Albert, Wagga's only aqua venue capable of hosting boating and sailing pursuits.

The level has dropped to a point where the environment is suffering and the forecasts offer only brief hope in the winter of adding substantial water to the Lake. The Wagga Wagga City Council is progressing with plans to restore the banks, desilt etc with community support.

Is it possible that with engineering solutions Lake Albert could be used as an en-route storage for the water management of the Murrumbidgee River in conjunction with a Weir? Is it also a possibility that water could be obtained or allocated for the environment of the Lake? Consideration should be given to the fact that Wagga returns an average of 4 ml per day to the River and does not receive credit. That water would and should be allocated to the eventual well being of the Lake.

With modern engineering I am sure the problems of conveying the water could be overcome.

Yours sincerely

DARYL MAGUIRE, MP
Member for Wagga Wagga

24 April 2008
MGP

MNI 041

08/2408

Mr Daryl Maguire MP
Member for Wagga Wagga
PO Box 2184
WAGGA WAGGA NSW 2650



Dear Mr Maguire

I refer to your letter of 18 September 2008 concerning the possibility of constructing a weir on the Murrumbidgee River in conjunction with the Wagga Wagga Riverside Precinct Project.

I am advised that there are no water delivery efficiency improvements to be gained if a weir was constructed on the Murrumbidgee River, as you have suggested.

If the local community wishes to see this project progressed, it may have to secure funding through private arrangements or enter into a commercial agreement with the State Water Corporation to act as the constructing authority. Due to the current budget constraints there is no NSW Government funding available for this project and such a project would require environmental assessment under State planning legislation.

If you require further information on this issue, please contact Ms Louise Whiting, Departmental Liaison Officer, in my Office on (02) 9228 5055.

Yours sincerely



The Hon. Phillip Costa MP
Minister for Water
Minister for Rural Affairs
Minister for Regional Development

06 JAN 2009

View
M

COUNCIL PROPOSAL

Move to raise local art profile

By MICHAEL INMAN
minman@dailyadvertiser.com.au

A WAGGA City Council plan to increase public art will boost civic pride, attract tourism and give local artists the chance to exhibit their work.

At Monday's policy and strategy meeting, councillors will vote on a recommendation to place the draft public art plan on public exhibition.

Council papers show that under the proposal, one per cent of the money budgeted to be spent on capital works projects, excluding sewerage, will be spent on public art.

"Basically, if there's major infrastructure being built, then one per cent of the total cost of those projects will be put aside for artworks for that project," council manager community services, Janice Summerhayes said.

"The artworks will vary, public art can be all sorts of mediums ... and it could be part of the building or landscaping for instance.

"We see it as a bit of a tourism pull, as well as providing local pride in the city."

Ms Summerhayes said the proposal would also benefit the local arts community.



ARTHOUSE: A Wagga City Council proposal to increase public art will boost civic pride, attract tourism and give local artists the chance to exhibit their work, according to council manager community services, Janice Summerhayes. Picture: Brett Koschel

Coolamon power cut scheduled

COOLAMON residents will experience a black out of power tomorrow for routine maintenance to power lines.

Power will be out between 8am and 2pm on Sunday, June 15, weather permitting, while Country Energy upgrades more than 40 kilometres of the main power line between Junee and Coolamon.

The Coolamon township and rural surrounds will be affected.

In the event of bad weather, the work will take place on Sunday, June 22, 2008.

Appointments available this week

Optometrist
Zac Zacharia
Optom (Mons) UMSW

ZACHARIA OPTOMETRISTS NAUMANN
210 Baylis St Wagga Wagga
Phone 6971 0044

IPART REVIEW

More taxes on the cards

Ratepayers may face \$200 tax hike

By KREE NASH
knash@dailyadvertiser.com.au

NSW ratepayers could be hit with an extra \$200 a year through new hidden state taxes, according to president of the Local Government Association Councillor Genia McCaffery.

In a new draft Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) State Tax Review released yesterday, recommendations were made to see the running costs of the NSW Fire Brigade and Rural Fire Service covered almost entirely by ratepayers.

In a country mayor's meeting yesterday with Minister for Emergency Services Nathan Rees, Cr McCaffery said the minister told the meeting he would not support the move.

"He responded to say he wouldn't support the move," Cr

McCaffery said.

"It is a state responsibility with a state minister ... the costs should not be shifted to us."

Regional representative of the National Insurance Brokers Association (NIBA) Peter Brown said it has been a long-held view of the NIBA that it would be a more equitable system for ratepayers to fund fire brigades, rather than insurance policy holders.

"The big issue is that the fire service responds to everyone's fire if they are insured or not," Mr Brown said.

"Those who don't insure or underinsure still get the same benefits as those who do."

Ratepayers currently contribute 12 to 13 per cent of the fire brigade costs through their annual rate notices.

Mr Brown said the bulk of the

remainder costs, around 60 to 70 per cent, come from insurance policy holders.

"It is totally inequitable to put the bulk of tax on those prudent enough to fully insure," he said.

Mr Brown also said it was unfair to have rural ratepayers pay the same amount of tax to help fund the fire service as they have less access to the expertise and assistance of firefighters found in larger cities such as Wagga.

In response to the comments, Cr McCaffery said while insurance brokers could be right about the fact that insurance policy holders end up covering those without insurance, it didn't mean that local councils should be forced to pass on the levy to ratepayers.

Fire levies exist only in NSW, Victoria and Tasmania; all other states have abolished the levy.

Maguire says weir may help water woes

AS THE Murrumbidgee River barely trickles through Wagga, state MP Daryl Maguire has again called on the government to consider building a weir to raise water levels.

Three years ago, the then Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources listened to Mr Maguire's weir idea but never took up the suggestion.

In Parliament this week, Mr Maguire pointed out the worst drought in 100 years had reduced the Murrumbidgee's water level to an alarming low and said a weir could lift the level.

According to Mr Maguire, a weir built to an environmentally-friendly design could generate "green" electricity that could be fed back into the grid to pay for itself.

It could be designed so as not to impede fish migration, he said.

With Lake Albert also in water distress, a weir on the river could be an alternative area for recreational water users.

"Currently, boating and recreational uses are extremely limited because of the fact that the water level rises and lowers with the dam releases and water cannot be stored without a weir," Mr Maguire said.

"I think it will be a wonderful thing and I suggest the minister investigate this possibility."

Yesterday, Mr Maguire told the *Advertiser* that if the state government was contributing \$150,000 towards a riverside masterplan, then far more water was needed in the river at Wagga to benefit the plan's ideas.

ROSELEIGH MANOR

ROBIN HOOD

OF THE BOND OF MARRIAGE

MARION

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ADVERTISMENT

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www.commcarelink.health.gov.au

* Calls from mobile phones are charged at applicable rates

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Parents should bring the child's Personal Health Record Book and their Medicare Card to the Clinic. Written consent from the parent/legal guardian of the child is mandatory if another person is presenting the child/children for immunisation.

Advice on vaccinations should be referred to the Centre for Public Health on (02) 6021 4739.

THIS WED. JUNE 18

SENIOR CITIZENS CENTRE, Tarcuita St., Wagga Wagga

from 9.30 am to 10.45 am

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Ref. No:

21 February 2005

Daryl Maguire MP
Member for Wagga Wagga
P O Box 2184
WAGGA WAGGA NSW 2650

Dear Mr ^{Daryl} Maguire

SUGGESTED WEIR IN THE MURRUMBIDGEE RIVER

Your Reference:

I write in response to your letter of 23 December, 2004 wherein you requested Council support and a meeting with Mr Harris Regional Director DIPNR, to discuss the construction of a weir in the Murrumbidgee River. I apologise for the delay in responding.

You would be aware that water for recreational purposes is a topical issue in Wagga Wagga at the moment. Council recently discussed the Northern Lake with government agencies, and following indicative costings, resolved to concentrate its efforts on maintaining Lake Albert. Your suggestion of a weir on the Murrumbidgee River is an interesting proposal but at this stage I think Council resources are stretched covering the Lake Albert issues.

If and when Council decides that it does need a second aquatic recreation facility, I think this proposal should be thoroughly investigated. At this point in time to undertake to do so, I think it would be building expectations that it would be difficult to meet.

Yours faithfully,

Bryan Short
Director
Asset Management



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Parliament House Macquarie Street Sydney NSW 2000
Tel: 02 9230 2155 **Fax:** 02 9230 2068

Mr Bryan Short,
Director – Asset Management,
The Council of the City of Wagga Wagga,
P.O. Box 20,
WAGGA WAGGA 2650

Dear Bryan,

You may recall a recent article featured in the Daily Advertiser regarding the suggestion that the construction of a weir in the Murrumbidgee River would be of great benefit to our community.

The river has long been regarded as our best resource and we have done little to capture its potential. I have spoken to Mr David Harris Regional Director DIPNR who has indicated his willingness to meet with Council and me to discuss the proposal. Mr Harris has stated he would, after the meeting, be prepared to invite a focus group to discuss further proposals, impacts and objectives of such a concept.

I write today seeking your support and subsequent attendance at a meeting in Wagga Wagga with Mr Harris for further discussions. I envisage the meeting will take place early February. Your prompt response and correspondence to Mr Harris indicating your willingness to participate would be appreciated.

Yours sincerely,


DARYL MAGUIRE, MP
Member for Wagga Wagga

23 December, 2004
BT

FAXED
23.12.04

Ladders of opportunity for our fish

By KATE MURRAY

DEVICES that let native fish swim upstream while blocking pest fish will be installed in the Parramatta River.

Four "fish ladders" will allow native mullet and Australian bass to swim past heritage weirs.

The high-tech ladders will also contain a trap to prevent introduced carp making their way upriver.

More than three years after the ladders were proposed, construction on the first fishway will begin over the next few months.

Parramatta Lord Mayor David Borger said federal funding for the project had fallen through, but recent grants by the Upper Parramatta River Catchment Trust and NSW Fisheries had allowed it to go ahead. Species such as Australian bass live downstream in salty water but move upstream to breed.

The Parramatta River weirs have prevented them moving upstream, leading to rapidly dwindling numbers of native fish in the river. But the weirs, built more than 200

years ago, are important heritage items that cannot be removed. The fish ladders present a series of obstacles that the fish swim around until they reach the top.

At least one of the ladders will also contain a carp trap, designed around the fact that carp jump, whereas native fish do not.

All fish swim into a "cage" somewhere along the ladder. Native fish can slip through the bars, but the carp jump on to a small shelf and suffocate. Fishway engineer Klaus Smit said three types of fish ladders had been designed for the Parramatta River.

Those on the Charles St weir and in Parramatta Park will consist of a series of boxes with a 90mm hole cut in each. Fish squeeze through these holes, then rest in the boxes before attempting the next one.

Because the Marsden St weir is more than 3m tall, a lock will have to be built for the fish.

It will operate like a boat lock — the fish swim in, the water level rises and the fish swim out the other side.

Sydney's new fish ladders

■ **Charles St weir:** The first ladder to be built, this will be a "vertical slot" ladder. It is a series of concrete chambers with a 90mm hole cut in each, so the fish squeeze through the hole and rest behind the wall before attempting the next hole



Bass

■ **Marsden St weir:** This weir is more than 3m high, making it too tall for a fish ladder. A lock will be built instead, where the fish swim into the

box, the water level rises and the fish swim back out on the other side



Mullet

■ **Kiosk weir:** Parramatta Park: Another vertical slot ladder. Cumberland Hospital grounds. A "rock ramp", where rocks are placed to form a series of pools up the weir. The fish can rest behind the rock before negotiating the next pool. The final location of this ladder is still under discussion

'I din't know,' says Abbott

FEDERAL Health Minister Tony Abbott says he would not have gone to the election on his Medicare safety net promise if he had any inkling it was going to be changed.

Mr Abbott gave an "iron-clad" guarantee during the election campaign last year the safety net threshold would not rise.

But last month Prime Minister John Howard lifted the threshold by hundreds of dollars because of a cost blowout.

"I had not the slightest inkling the safety net was going to be changed and if I had the slightest inkling, I certainly wouldn't have said what I said," Mr Abbott said yesterday.

Car clash led to lock swipe

A MAN hit a thief over the head with a club lock after he caught him breaking into his car at a railway station yesterday.

The men got into a fight after the owner returned and found the man stealing from cars parked at Leumeah station shortly after 1am. Police were called.

One man suffered cuts to the head and was taken by ambulance to Campbelltown hospital.

Campbelltown Chief Inspector Bryan Doyle said the second man had been arrested and charged with malicious wounding.

Police were questioning him yesterday.



Department of
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 Member for Wagga Wagga
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File:

22 May 2005

Dear Mr Maguire

Subject: Proposed Weir on the Murrumbidgee River at Wagga Wagga

Thank you for your letter regarding the potential benefits of a weir on the Murrumbidgee River near Wagga Wagga. The Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources has not received any formal application or notice of such a proposal and I can only provide advice on the general requirements that may need to be met if such a proposal were to be received.

Any proposal would be assessed in accordance with the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. Depending on the a number of factors, the determining authority for such a development could be the Wagga Wagga Council, DIPNR or the Minister for Infrastructure and Planning if the proposal was considered a matter of State significance.

To enable assessment of a proposal, the proponent would be required to submit appropriate studies. In the case of a weir, it is almost certain that a full Environmental Impact Statement would be required along with extensive consultation with stakeholders.

As you acknowledge in your letter there are significant environmental, social and economic issues that would need to be considered, and I would advise any proponent of a weir that the consultation and assessment process would take a considerable amount of time, with no certainty of the project being approved.

I have discussed the river study you referred to with Professor Kath Bowmer. Professor Bowmer has advised that she is unaware of any relevant river study currently being undertaken that would consider the weir issue.

DIPNR is currently undertaking an investigation of the potential for an en-route storage. The purpose of an en-route storage would be to enable flows to be transferred from Blowering Dam during winter so that it is not necessary to maintain high flows in the Tumut River during the irrigation season. Such an en-route storage, if constructed, would be drained during the summer months which would not be suitable as a recreation amenity.

I trust this answers your inquiries. If you would like to discuss this issue further, please call me on 60416777.

Yours sincerely,

David Harriss
 REGIONAL DIRECTOR
 Murray / Murrumbidgee Region

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