

**Submission  
No 14**

**INQUIRY INTO RATIONALE FOR, AND IMPACTS OF,  
NEW DAMS AND OTHER WATER INFRASTRUCTURE IN  
NSW**

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I have been involved in raising public awareness of issues effecting native fish for 10 years, I am part of the MDB Engaged anglers Network, I am a proud Wiradjuri man who has played on the banks, swum in and fished the Macquarie River all my life.

I have read the Scoping Report and there is a lot of negative impacts on the environment. The RAMSAR listed Macquarie Marshes will recieve less water and the connection between the Macquarie and the Barwon will be reduced. The impact of this massive weir pool will not be offset by a fishway, the overall outcome will be negative for our native fish.

I have listened to many scientists on the impacts and they all say it's a bad idea, we cannot continue to modify this river anymore. Native fish populations are at about 10 percent of pre-colonisation, how much more can they take?

Water NSW have had a legal obligation regarding insallation of fishways on the Macquarie, we have been waiting for nearly 10 years , still nothing is done. A fishway on the new weir will not offset the negative impacts a 30km weir pool will have.

I was involved in 3 fish rescues last summer on the Macquarie river, we watched the fish and the river die. It was a very emotional time for all there. We need an end of system flow and better rules. In the next drought it will die again if we don't change the modelling, why are they not using the latest rainfall data? We have had 2 droughts since 2004 and they haven't include that data when working out allocations, no wonder the river is in such poor shape.

It is public money that will be used to construct this weir for the benefit of General security licence holders (primarily irrigation), but we can't find out how much it will cost, we need some transparency.

This weir will have a negative impact on the environment, indigenou culture and the social well being of the local community. I have been to Gin Gin when there are 200 people enjoying the camping area, this is a major draw card for tourism and the locals, it will be under nearly 10 metres of water. The 500 year old Red River Gums at the site will be dead, how many stories have been told and how many good times have been had in the shade of these trees. All this will be gone just because Government wants to regulate the river to death for the benifit of a few general security irrigators.

Let's go with the alternate plan of fixing or replacing the weir at its current level with a fishway. I have spoken to the LALC and every rec fisher I can about this new mega weir and nobody who isn't a friend of an irrigator is against it.