

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

Organisation: Cr Craig Davies, Mayor Narromine Shire Council and Chair of
the Orana Joint Organisation of councils

Date Received: 1 September 2020

Dear Committee,

My sincere thanks for the opportunity to deliver a submission regarding the Gin Gin Weir on the Macquarie River below Narromine.

My role is that of Mayor of Narromine Shire and Chairman of the Orana Joint Organisation of Councils . As an extended area over a number of shires we rely heavily on the Macquarie River as our source of water for the Environment, for Ecological sustainability and for productive agriculture . It is also vital for the supply of urban water to most towns across our region and even some hundreds of kilometres from the river such as Cobar and Nyngan.

The Orana Region is a beacon of light during these dark Covid days with many of our councils running unemployment levels below 3.5 % . My own Narromine Shire is currently operating with approx 2.8% unemployment and looking at the prospect of up to 700 jobs being created in the next 3-5 years. The most precious and important resource needed to facilitate this growth , investment and job creation is water.

Being a part of the Macquarie Infrastructure Priority Committee has given me the insight into the benefits that will accrue with the installation of this modern infrastructure to replace the dilapidated and ancient current weir. Whereas the current weir has been an impediment to the movement of fish through the river almost since its building back in the early 1900's, the new weir will have an inbuilt fish ladder improving ecological outcomes for a 140km stretch of the river.

Designed to store water that has been ordered and then cancelled for irrigation due to major rain events, Gin Gin Weir will save water for all those who rely upon it for their sustainability. It is simply a high tech management tool that has associated benefits to all users. Currently under the Water Sharing Plan, Irrigation allocations total 17% of the flow of the Macquarie, urban water usage totals 3.0% and the balance finds it's way into the environment. Hardly a situation that should be cause for alarm unless you are an irrigator .

This replacement of the dilapidated infrastructure that is inoperable is way overdue but very welcome to save water for the Valley. It will aid and abet in the delivery of water in a more efficient and effective manner. The weir site will become a very popular recreational area and provide access to the river for thousands of visitors. The ecological outcomes are improved significantly .Allocations to all users will not change but reliability of delivery will be enhanced for all users. I find it hard to find any issue that is not favourable to all river users.

What I am most disappointed with is the misinformation that has been distributed within the community that is mischievous and unhelpful . It is sad that we have people prepared to bring falsehoods to the media to support an ideological outcome that would be detrimental to the river and all water users. I have no problem with these who might oppose this update but the truth needs to be at the forefront of any debate. That has not been the case in this instance. That organisations with seemingly endless money can bombard the airwaves with untruths and blatant lies does nothing for the harmonious relationships that , diverse as they maybe, exist and flourish in these regional areas. To quote from government sources and completely twist the facts to their own ends highlights the ideological approach being taken by those at polar opposites to the vast majority of our communities . Absolutely shameful.

Further to this is my perception of bias in the media release from the Committee Chair that

shows a lack of both understanding and empathy towards the communities that are totally reliant upon this precious resource for which we all have the greatest respect and wish to conserve .

Finally I would ask that this committee take on board the many benefits that will bring better outcomes across the valley for all users and recommend the immediate commencement of this visionary project without further delay and cost to the taxpayer

Yours sincerely

Craig Davies

Kind Regards

Craig Davies

Mayor

Narromine Shire Council

Chairman Orana Joint Organisation of Councils

P.O. Box 115 Narromine NSW 2821



EMAIL DISCLAIMER: This e-mail and any attachment to it are intended only to be read or used by the named addressee. It is confidential and may contain legally privileged information. No confidentiality or privilege is waived or lost by any mistaken transmission to you. If you receive this e-mail in error, please immediately delete it from your system and notify the sender. You must not disclose copy or use any part of this e-mail if you are not the intended recipient. Narromine Shire Council (NSC) is not responsible for any unauthorised alterations to this e-mail or attachment to it. Views expressed in this message are those of the individual sender and are not necessarily the views of Narromine Shire Council.

If correspondence includes personal information, please refer to [Council's Privacy Management Plan](#)

This email may be made available to third parties in accordance with the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009.