

**Submission
No 150**

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

Organisation: Dubbo Environment Group

Date Received: 23 September 2020

Dubbo Environment Group Inc. has 27 members from the immediate region. We have long been aware that our Murray Darling Rivers are in a precarious position and in need of urgent reparation. Our information is gleaned from academics such as Prof. Richard Kingsford, UNSW, scientists from the Australian Conservation Foundation, from the South Australian Royal Commission into the MDB and from Murray Darling Basin authority and ecologist, Bill Johnson. We believe that the rivers have had too much water extracted for irrigation business and insufficient has been rationed for communities and the environment. We are ashamed and heartbroken that our wetlands and all the native flora and fauna reliant upon them have been dismally neglected. We are ashamed that our NSW government has not honoured the RAMSAR agreement with International countries and has not honoured the State alliance coordinated by the Murray Darling Basin Authority.

In 1995 the NSW Weir Policy cited river health as being negatively effected by dams and weirs. Many scientific and current research was listed. The policy, because of this, was to NOT build new dams or weirs in the future, to repair them only if needed, not to increase their height or hold up the natural flow of the rivers. The needs of native fish and vegetation was also cited as relevant to this policy. We need only reread this 1995 NSW policy to confine the 2020 Water NSW decision to construct 5 new dams or weirs to the rubbish bin. Why do we need to go so desperately backwards when the citizens of NSW wish to go 25 years forwards?