



## MEDIA RELEASE

Monday 3rd February 2025

### Locals tour Lost Wetlands of Dubbo

Healthy Rivers Dubbo, a leading local community group providing a strong voice for our local rivers, organised tours of some of Dubbo's lost wetlands to mark World Wetlands Day on Sunday.

The crowd, including Mayor Josh Black, heard about the amazing birds, plants and fish of our area and the impact significant wetland loss has had on nature from local groups:

- Dubbo Field Naturalists and Conservation Society
- Dubbo Rivercare Inc
- Dubbo Environment Group
- NSW Fisheries
- Ozfish Ltd.
- Healthy Rivers Dubbo

#### Comments attributable to Mel Gray, Convenor of Healthy Rivers Dubbo:

"There were wetlands all over the floodplains of the Macquarie/Wambuul river, sadly they have been drained, cleared and denied water over the last 150 years.

"Wetlands are super concentrated biodiversity hotspots - 40% of the world's biodiversity is found in wetlands. Yet the world has lost 70% of its wetlands since 1900.

The Macquarie/Wambuul Valley is home to the spectacular Ramsar listed Macquarie Marshes, a rich tapestry of wetlands that support hundreds of thousands of nesting water birds in flood times.

"The Macquarie Marshes are under a lot of pressure from the over allocation of water to cotton irrigation, having shrunk from one million hectares to about 200,000 hectares since the construction of Burrendong Dam.

"Now, a Canadian gold company seems determined to mine for gold right in the heart of the wetland. A mine in the Macquarie Marshes would be a disaster.

"Healthy Rivers Dubbo is calling on the NSW Government to ban mining in the Macquarie Marshes.

Photos for sharing: Credit Bronwyn Powell

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1p2Z1RxErYW0Dn2K6UKvUiF-JFRjlmK5O>

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