

# HEALTHY RIVERS DUBBO



Dr Simon Banks  
Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder  
[Simon.Banks@dcceew.gov.au](mailto:Simon.Banks@dcceew.gov.au)

5 September 2025

Dear Dr Banks,

Healthy Rivers Dubbo is a grassroots community group that advocates for healthy rivers and wetlands in the Murray-Darling Basin for the benefit of wildlife, plants and people. We have 40 members and a broad network. We've been visiting the Marshes for years and appreciate its diverse ecology and important role in our river system.

Withholding the Commonwealth-owned environmental water this spring will impede efforts to restore an increased area of the Marshes. This is a rare opportunity, following the recent (2022) floods, to keep up progress in restoring the Marshes. If the Marshes don't get environmental water this year, it will be wasting all efforts of the environmental water use since the floods.

The health of vegetation beyond the core parts of the Marshes will degrade quickly if it isn't inundated this spring. Waterbirds also won't find the food and habitat they need - particularly as this pause on environmental water means that a lot of rivers and wetlands across the Murray Darling Basin will be affected, reducing options for waterbirds, including migratory birds. As we are sure you're aware, waterbird populations have declined 70% in the last 40 years.

Please release the water now, in time for spring vegetation-growing season, and waterbird breeding.

Sincerely,

Healthy Rivers Dubbo Committee - Peter Duggan, Lou Norton, Ian McAdam, Mel Gray, Di Clifford, Bron Powell.

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