



Healthy Rivers Dubbo

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Media Release

Foolish Dam Plan Rejected!

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Healthy Rivers Dubbo, a strong local voice for our rivers and wetlands, is celebrating the NSW government's rejection of a foolish plan to keep more floodwater held in Burrendong dam.

The plan to keep more water in the 'flood mitigation zone' of the dam so it could be pumped out later came from an alliance of mayors from the west of the catchment and the cotton industry.

Healthy Rivers Dubbo made the case that this disastrous plan would have:

- Increased the risk of dangerous uncontrolled flooding in Wellington, Dubbo and further downstream
- Had severe environmental impacts for Warren's creeks, floodplains and the Ramsar listed Macquarie Marshes - recently listed as an Endangered Ecological Community under federal law
- Would have mostly benefited the large cotton industry in the west of the catchment
- Was not going to provide Dubbo Region with the increased water security we deserve

The government will instead investigate a case for developing a new bore field to the south of Dubbo for use only in critical drought conditions. Groundwater in our area is under a lot of pressure, so we will watch with

care that any bore field development has strict conditions that safeguard the integrity of local aquifers.

While it is great news that the government recognised that denying even more floodwater to the stunning and fragile floodplains and wetlands in the Macquarie/Wambuul catchment, there is still very serious work to do to fix outdated dam management rules.

Healthy Rivers Dubbo is extremely concerned at the rate water is released from Burrendong dam, and that the government predicts that Burrendong dam will be empty by this time next year.

We are asking the government to stop allocating water to users accounts that isn't physically in the dam. Stay in touch to find out how to help.

[Get The Basics Right!](#)

About Healthy Rivers Dubbo:

Healthy Rivers Dubbo is a grassroots community group dedicated to providing a strong voice for the local rivers, aquifers, and wetlands of the Macquarie/Wambuul catchment. The group advocates for the protection of environmental water flows and the conservation of native species.

Media Contact

Speakers available for comment on request

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