Letter Writing Guide

Save the Macquarie Marshes

Please write to:

The Hon. Murray Watt

Minister for the Environment and Water

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

senator.watt@aph.gov.au

The Hon. Rose Jackson MLC

NSW Minister for Water

Parliament House

Macquarie Street

Sydney NSW 2000

rose.jackson@parliament.nsw.gov.au

The Hon. Penny Sharpe MLC

Minister for the Environment

Parliament House

Macquarie Street

Sydney NSW 2000

office@sharpe.minister.nsw.gov.au

Hints:

- Write in your own words
- Keep to one page
- Make the ask clear
- Include your full name and address
- Share a personal story
- Stay respectful and stick to facts
- Ask for a written reply

Points to make:

Start your letter strong:

Highlight your ask early in the letter -

- Ministers' Jackson and Sharpe - set enforceable flow targets in the NSW water sharing plans based on the Long Term Water Plan, adjustable for climate change, so the endangered listing can be reversed as soon as possible.
- Minister Watt - please recover more water from irrigation through the Murray-Darling Basin Plan in the Macquarie catchment based on accurate and current science.

The Macquarie Marshes are:

- Unique and stunning - if you have personal stories of the marshes, please include.
- One of the largest remaining inland semi-permanent wetlands in the Murray-Darling Basin.
- A unique mix of vegetation makes them highly valued habitat, including river red gum forests, reed beds, mixed marsh open wetlands.
- Homelands of the Wayilwan People who have maintained cultural connection and obtained Native Title rights.
- Support about 20,000 water birds most years.
- Large group breeding events in flood years up to 500,000 nests.
- Threatened and endangered species that rely on the marshes include Australasian Bittern, Australian Painted Snipe, Brolga, Magpie Gees, Glossy Ibis.

Obligation to Protect:

- In January 2026 the wetlands and inner floodplains of the MacquarieMarshes were listed as an endangered ecological community under the EPBC Act.
- There is a high chance they will be extinct in 20 years.
- The rapid decline in ecological condition is due to increased water extraction upstream, including the growth of floodplain harvesting.
- The Basin Plan's environmental objectives are to protect and restore the water-dependent ecosystems of the Murray–Darling Basin and their ecosystem functions.
- Australia is a signatory of the Ramsar Convention and other migratory bird agreements with obligations to maintain the ecological character of the marshes.
- The Macquarie-Castlereagh long-term watering plan uses the best available local, traditional and scientific knowledge to establish the flow regimes required to maintain the ecological condition of the marshes and reverse the endangered ecological community listing.