

BCCAN Macquarie Floodplain Harvesting

Bathurst Community Climate Action Network (BCCAN) has always advocated for the retention of as much water as possible in the Macquarie River for the benefit of the river ecology and downstream communities.

It must be remembered that up until the last 200 years the Macquarie River environment – aquatic ecology, riparian zone and floodplain had the exclusive use of any surface water. Any diversion of water for other purposes impacts on the sustainability and health of the Macquarie River environment.

BCCAN was pleased by Bathurst Regional Council's 2016 deferral of a decision on selling its treated effluent to Regis, which was effectively a decision to retain its effluent water for discharge to the Macquarie River rather than have it diverted to a gold mine. This was a positive move to protect the base flows for the Macquarie River.

BCCAN is keen to emphasise the importance of environmental flows that would be very much hindered by the licenced increase of floodplain harvesting (FPH) in the Macquarie Valley.

As Australia has experienced a series of crises (Climate, fires and COVID-19), it is timely to think about the effects of the reduction of water via FPH, which would result in the loss of critically-endangered native fish species and further damage to the Macquarie Marshes.

BCCAN does not support licenced floodplain harvesting in the Macquarie Valley.