

From: [REDACTED]
To: [NRC](#)
Subject: NSW Plan for Nature independent review submission
Date: Sunday, 27 April 2025 11:19:18 AM

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

[CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.]

Dear Natural Resources Commission,

As the President of Dubbo Environment Group Inc. I believe the experiences of our advocacy organisation deserve your attention.

1. Our members have been active for 5 years in campaigning for better protection of our rivers, which continue to be managed unsustainably by prioritising the requirements of agriculture and irrigators. This year, we attended a NSW Water Consultation meeting called, "Drought-Proofing our region". This was actually a propaganda information session to justify the expansion of Burrendong Dam's holding capacity for irrigators. Environmental groups, to the contrary, are aware that townships take very little of the dam's water, and that drought -proofing our region would only require better management of the water held such as not allowing it to reach dangerously low levels as occurred in 2022. Cotton farmers' water licenses must be refused when their industry renders the rivers unsustainable for river-villages, flora and fauna, and for the Murray- Darling Basin flows.
2. DEG has also campaigned against the continued use of fossil fuels due to Climate Change consequences to our planet. In particular, we have asked that the major parties refrain from donating to Santos in Narrabri. Already, the World's temperatures have exceeded 1.5°C . In Dubbo, our average temperature has risen by 3°C since 1970. We urgently request that we transfer to renewable energy and stop the opening of new coal and gas mines.
3. Locally, DEG has campaigned to increase the tree-canopy in The Dubbo Regional Council LGA. Over 8 years, tree- activists have asked our local council to introduce a tree-preservation policy on private land in line with other large NSW towns and cities. They continually refuse because, "they do not believe there should be government interference on people's own trees". This attitude highlights the problem with local councillors who want to represent their own voters who are mostly governed by self-interest and ignorance. CW NSW is a strong National party heartland, still denying the science of Climate Change. Meanwhile, Dubbo's urban tree canopy has gone backwards from 10.7% in 2017 to 9% today. We suggest that all local councils be mandated consistent NSW tree management policies and supported to comply.
4. DEG administers the very successful Dubbo Indian Myna Control Program. We have eradicated more than 5000 of these feral pests in the CW Local Land Services region in 3 years of operation. On our Facebook page of 3.4K followers, our members state

that there is practically no government support for any programs in any eastern states. Our group requires funding to build and distribute traps, yet the government organisation whose role it is to support biodiversity, Local Land Services Invasive Species, which funded us in 2022-3 has refused in 2024-5 under Labor. The Indian Myna has spread exponentially throughout NSW, is threatening the existence of our native birds and fouling our cities and farm holdings. Sydney has become complacent with their lack of birdlife as if it is a normal thing. We do not accept it, and wish to keep our birds. We request that all local councils be mandated Indian Myna control policies, be supported to implement them, and that Local Land Services be funded to provide the support required in the eradication of feral pests.

Yours Faithfully,

Margaret McDonald (DEG President)

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]