



7 June 2006

SUPPORT FOR THE INCLUSION OF THE PAROO CATCHMENT ON THE NATIONAL HERITAGE LIST

The Paroo River Catchment area is of outstanding natural heritage value to Australia, due to both its national and international ecological and environmental significance, as well as its natural free flowing condition – the only river that has not been seriously altered by water extraction or regulation in the Murray Darling Basin.

The Inland Rivers Network would like to express its strong support for the listing of the Paroo River Catchment on the National Heritage List.

Within its boundaries the Paroo River Catchment has areas of environmental significance (including its importance for drought refuge, waterbirds, and its unique biodiversity) and social, cultural and heritage value, the sustainability of much of which depends upon the continued health of the Paroo River system.

The Paroo and Warrego Rivers join to flood arguably the most significant wetland area in the Murray-Darling Basin (NPWS, 1997). The Currawinya Lakes and Nocolche wetlands on the Paroo River are in the National Reserve Network and listed on the register of the National Estate (Kingsford *et al*, 1998). Yantabulla Swamp is known to support at least 40,000 waterbirds, and other highly diverse wetlands also regularly support highly significant numbers of waterbirds (NPWS, 1997). For this reason the Paroo wetlands are nationally significant waterbird habitat in arid Australia, supporting a number of endangered, vulnerable and CAMBA and JAMBA species (Richardson, 1997). The vegetation in the Paroo region is relatively undisturbed, and so provides high quality habitat (Richardson, 1997).

Accordingly IRN urges recognition of the values of the Paroo catchment through inclusion on National Heritage List as nominated.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amy Hankinson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Amy Hankinson
Coordinator
Inland Rivers Network

Kingsford, R.T. *et al* (1998) "Challenges in managing dryland rivers crossing political boundaries: lessons from Cooper Creek and the Paroo River, central Australia", *Aquatic Conservation: Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems*, **8**, 361-378

NPWS (1997) "Summary of Proceedings", *Paroo River Scientific Workshop*, Hungerford, Queensland July 7-9 1997

Richardson, K. (1997) "Environmental Issues and Values of the Paroo River Wetlands" Border Rivers Commission, DLWC