

MEDIA RELEASE

27 October 2006

COMMUNITIES GATHER TO DISCUSS OUR INLAND WATER WOES

The plight of our parched NSW rivers will be the focus for concerned community members meeting with the Inland Rivers Network and Environmental Defender's Office NSW in Narrabri on Saturday.

It is clear that people are fed up with watching our rivers and wetlands die and hearing nothing but empty promises from the Government" Amy Hankinson, Coordinator of the Inland Rivers Network stated.

We need to remind the Government of its promises and commitments to stop our rivers dying and to make sure water is shared in a fair way. No more words, no more paper – people want Government action."

"A recent workshop in Broken Hill was highly successful – people in the regions are tired of the delays in fixing our rivers and are keen to remind the Government that we want this problem fixed".

"A number of our internationally important wetlands are literally dying for a drink, and trees hundreds of years old have turned up their toes."

"It is not just the drought – too much water has been taken from the system. Our rivers and wetlands have survived our 'droughts and flooding rains' for a long time, but now that most of their 'bread and butter' flows are being taken, trees are dying."

"Illegal draining of rivers and wetlands is also a big issue up this way. People have been crying foul about this for years, but it is still just a barrage of paper and words from the Government. They are failing to tackle this problem." Amy concluded.

This **free** workshop, being held in Narrabri Bowling Club on **Saturday, 28 October** from 10 - 5pm, will inform participants about current water management law and policy, as well as provide training in practical skills for community advocacy to protect our State's precious water resources. Pressing environmental and legal issues currently facing regional NSW, including ways forward on management of the Darling River, will be discussed in detail.

For more information contact Amy Hankinson, Coordinator of the Inland Rivers Network, on (02) 8270 9904, or 0407 279 088.