

## IMPROVING WATER QUALITY IN THE MACQUARIE RIVER

The health of the Macquarie River throughout the Dubbo Regional Council area is a matter of on-going interest for the community. Mayor of Dubbo Councillor Ben Shields is supporting actions to enhance overall water quality in the river through a Mayoral Minute included in the agenda for Council's Ordinary Meeting on Monday night.

"It's long been said that one of this region's greatest assets is the Macquarie River," Councillor Shields said.

"However, there is community concern about the amount of litter and rubbish in the river. Various community organisations such as the Inland Waterways Rejuvenation Association and the volunteers who support Clean Up Australia Day each year share a passion for a clean healthy river system," he said.

"Council also has an important role to play through the effective management of stormwater flows including the installation and maintenance of Gross Pollutant Traps to help protect river health," Councillor Shields said.

Dubbo Regional Council has 58 Gross Pollutant Traps installed within Wellington and Dubbo to help gather rubbish from storm water drains before it hits the river.

A recent clean out of Council's GPTs collected 88 cubic metres of material from traps within the Dubbo City area and a further 30 cubic metres from traps in Wellington.

"The results of this clean-out also highlight the need for people to be conscious of the part they play in helping to reduce litter," Councillor Shields said.

"Litter is a major problem and each and every one of us can play a part in reducing litter," Councillor Shields said.

"The recommendations being put to Council focus on the effective management of Gross Pollutant Traps, identifying optimum locations to install additional GPTs over the next three to four years as well as engaging community groups to develop education programs and action plans which improve the health of the Macquarie River," Councillor said.

Improving water quality in the Macquarie River will be the subject of a Mayoral Minute at Council's Ordinary Council meeting to be held on Monday 27 November 2017.

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