

Save Our Macleay River Inc.

Committee and members represent a broad range of people and businesses concerned with water quality of our catchment.

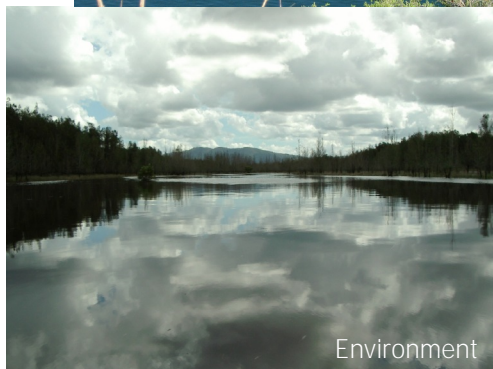
We endeavour to achieve clean and safe water quality to protect and enhance our economic & recreational activities, health and environment of the Macleay.



Oyster Farming



Canoeing & swimming



Environment

Images: 1 & 3 R Milne Home, 2 J Cruickshanks

Ongoing Activities & Events

- ▶ Researching exploration activities by current licence holder, Sovereign Gold, at Halls Peak. They have recently received significant Government funding for drilling.
- ▶ Coordinating with Hillgrove Mine for further meetings, site visits and support for funds for remediation of historic sources of pollution there.
- ▶ Pursuing the publication of heavy metal test results for the Macleay at Bellbrook by Council.
- ▶ Cooperating with the reactivation of the Macleay Contamination Working Group.
- ▶ Supporting University of New England funding applications for further research and solutions to contamination.
- ▶ Planning 2015's Paddle on the Macleay, to be held in the lower estuary.
- ▶ Liaising with Dunghutti Elders over mutual concerns over the health of the River.

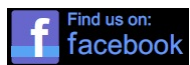


Paddle on the Macleay 2014, R Milne Home

We invite you to become a member by contacting the Secretary of

Save Our Macleay River Inc.

Post. C/- Bellbrook General Store,
29 Main Street, Bellbrook, NSW 2440
Website: www.saveourmacleayriver.com
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Save Our Macleay River Inc.

SAVE OUR MACLEAY RIVER



If you drink the water,
fish, canoe, swim or water
your stock from our River
and streams...

... we invite you to be
informed and involved.

Who are SOMR? and what do we do?

Save Our Macleay River Inc. is a Community-based organisation, established to raise awareness of and endeavour to...

Ensure Clean water throughout the Macleay River Catchment.

Many of our community rely on the Macleay River as a water supply or for recreation - including you?

SOMR was established in 2013 out of community concern about a proposal to transfer extremely toxic pollutants (antimony, arsenic and other heavy metals) from Urunga to Hillgrove, in the upper Macleay catchment.

This proposal was thankfully shelved, in part through SOMR and community lobbying. The group has since focused on broader issues of contamination from mining, past and present, and its impacts on the economic, health and recreational lives of communities down-stream.

In pursuing this focus SOMR has forged links with various Government, research, legislative and industry bodies and become a voice of the community to achieve clean water in our Macleay River.



Cover Image: R Milne Home



Save Our Macleay River Inc. committee and members represent a broad mix of people concerned about the water quality of our Macleay River catchment.

The Macleay River catchment is: 450 square kilometres, an area between north of Guyra, south of Walcha and South West Rocks and covered by four Local Government Areas. The River is one of the fastest flowing in NSW, over 300 km length from the source near Armidale to the mouth at South West Rocks.

The upper catchment on the tablelands is mainly sheep grazing, mid-catchment are deep gorges with forest and some grazing further down. The lower catchment is mostly agricultural and flood plain.

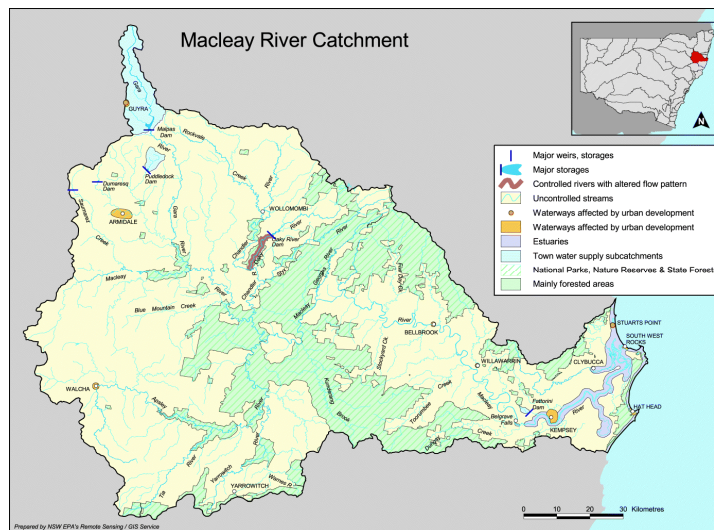


Image: NSW EPA's Remote Sensing / GIS Service.

What has SOMR done?

In the last 18 months, SOMR has:

- ▶ Drawn attention to the Macleay River and some tributaries being contaminated by old and abandoned mines and one current mine.
- ▶ Cooperating with scientists and government bodies such as UNE and the multi-departmental 'Water Contamination Working Group' to help find long term solutions for the health of our river and community.
- ▶ Established open communication with the newly re-opened Hillgrove Mine and inspected much improved equipment and operations processes. We believe very extreme rainfall could still pollute the Macleay River and needs regular monitoring. SOMR is being kept informed about planned extensions to the Hillgrove Mine.
- ▶ Organised six public meetings: in Bellbrook, Gladstone and Kempsey regarding contamination of the catchment. Also two workshops with the Environmental Defenders Office (EDO) in Kempsey and Bellbrook.
- ▶ Liaised with Ocean-Watch and Oyster farmers to identify and relay concerns from their Estuary Management Systems document and are assisting with solutions for the health of our river.
- ▶ Drawn attention to authorities, breaches of exploration licence conditions and poor remediation in the 'Halls Peak' area.
- ▶ Held a successful 'Paddle on The Macleay' last year in the mid Macleay and this year's, where the Paddle finished in Kempsey joining September's 'River Festival'.
- ▶ Started research into heavy metal health issues in Deep Creek from abandoned mines at Mungay Creek.