

## ENVIRONMENT TO GAIN FROM WEIR REMOVAL

27 March 2009

Native fish in the Richmond River will have improved access to more than 1,000km of waterway following the removal of Manyweathers Weir in Casino, scheduled for June 2009.

Extensive numbers and a diverse range of fish species live and migrate in the lower reaches of the river and require unimpeded access to different habitats to survive and reproduce.

State Water Project Manager Stephen Moore said the weir is considered redundant as it no longer serves its intended purpose of providing town water to Casino.

"Casino's town water supply is now sourced from Jabour Weir which is located upstream of Manyweathers," Mr Moore said.

"Removing Manyweathers Weir will return the river bed back to its original appearance, while improving the health of the river by reinstating natural water flow and sediment transport."

Alternative options to retain the weir have been considered by State Water as the owner of the weir, but the costs involved in upgrading and maintaining it would be prohibitive, Mr Moore said.

"Repair and ongoing maintenance would cost more than \$100,000 and may require installation of fish passage at an estimated cost of \$360,000."

Casino water goers will continue to enjoy recreational activities following removal of the Weir, Mr Moore said.

"Surveys of the river bed indicate multiple pools of water up to four metres deep will remain upstream after the weir has been removed, meaning use of the river for swimming, fishing, bird watching and canoeing can continue."

State Water acknowledged the weir has local heritage significance and will consult with local community groups to determine how to best preserve its memory.

A number of timeslots have been allowed for anyone with a concern about the project to speak with Project Manager Stephen Moore on Thursday April 2, Friday April 3 and Monday April 6 2009 in Casino.

Project information sheets are available from [www.statewater.com.au/dams\\_weirs](http://www.statewater.com.au/dams_weirs). To arrange a meeting with Mr Moore please phone State Water on 02 9354 1091.

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