

**PARTICIPANT INFORMATION STATEMENT AND CONSENT FORM**  
*Changes to the Darling River and Menindee Lakes – past, present and future*  
Professor Richard Kingsford

**1. What is the research study about?**

You are invited to take part in this research study. The research study aims to learn about the impacts of changes to the Darling river and Menindee Lakes on local communities.

**2. Who is conducting this research?**

The study is being carried out by the following researchers: Professor Richard Kingsford (University of New South Wales), Professor Sue Jackson (Griffith University) and Zoe Ford (University of New South Wales). This research is being funded by the Centre for Ecosystem Science at the University of New South Wales

**3. Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria**

Before you decide to participate in this research study, we need to ensure that it is ok for you to take part. The research study is looking recruit people who meet the following criteria:

- You live in Broken Hil or Menindee
- You are at least 18 years of age.
- Interested in water management practices in the local area from the following identified major stakeholder groups for the Menindee Lakes (Traditional Owners, Graziers/Irrigators, Local Residents/Tourism Industry)

**4. Do I have to take part in this research study?**

Participation in this research study is voluntary. If you do not want to take part, you do not have to. If you decide to take part and later change your mind, you are free to withdraw from the study at any stage.

If you decide you want to take part in the research study, you will be asked to:

- Read the information carefully (ask questions if necessary);
- Sign and return the consent form if you decide to participate in the study;
- Take a copy of this form with you to keep.

**5. What does participation in this research require, and are there any risks involved?**

If you agree to participate you will be asked to complete the following research procedures.

A face to face interview, and you will be asked questions about:

- your experience living in Menindee/the Lower-Darling River;
- government changes to management of the Darling River and Menindee Lakes in your lifetime;
- proposed future changes to the management of Menindee Lakes;
- the environmental condition of Menindee Lakes and the Darling River and;
- government efforts to engage with communities about Menindee Lakes and the Darling River.

The interview will take place either at your home, a private room in a community space or online (e.g. Teams, Zoom). and will take about 1 hour. With your permission the research team would like to audio record the interview. If you do not wish to be recorded but you would like to participate you advise the research team and written notes will be taken. You will be given the opportunity to review any notes or transcriptions of interview audio to ensure they represent your views accurately.

**Additional Costs and Reimbursement:** There are no costs associated with participating in this research project, nor will you be paid. However, if you are a member of the Indigenous/Traditional Owners stakeholder group you will receive a \$50 cash reimbursement for your time.

**Psychological Distress:** You may feel that some of the questions we ask are stressful or upsetting. If you do not wish to answer a question, you may skip it and go to the next question, or you may stop immediately. If you become upset or distressed as a result of your participation in the research project, the research team will be able to arrange for counselling or other appropriate support. Alternatively, a number of free contactable support services

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are included at section 9. Any counselling or support will be provided by qualified staff who are not members of the research team. This counselling will be provided free of charge.

**6. What will happen to information about me?**

By signing the consent form, you consent to the research team collecting and using information about you for the research study.

The research team will store the data collected from you for this research project for a minimum of 5 years after the publication of the research results.

The information about you will be stored in a non-identifiable format where your identify will be unknown.

You will be asked to provide your consent for the research team the share or use the information collected from you in future research that will be specific to the aims of this research and your information will only be shared in a format that will not identify you.

- Information collected from you in an electronic format stored on a UNSW password protected OneDrive only accessible to the approved research investigators.
- Information collected from you using paper-based measures will be stored within a locked location only accessible by the research investigators at the University of New South Wales, Sydney Kensington campus and only the approved research investigators will have access to this information.
- Audio recordings will be stored on a UNSW password protected OneDrive only accessible to the approved research investigators

You can withdraw your consent for your data to be used at any time using the withdrawal form at the end of this document and returning it to the research team.

The information you provide is personal information for the purposes of the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (NSW). You have the right of access to personal information held about you by the University, the right to request correction and amendment of it, and the right to make a complaint about a breach of the Information Protection Principles as contained in the PPIP Act. Further information on how the University protects personal information is available in the [UNSW Privacy Management Plan](#).

**7. How and when will I find out what the results of the research study are?**

The research team intend to publish and/ report the results of the research. All Information will be published in a way that will not identify you.

If you would like to receive a copy of the results you can let the research team know by inserting your email or mailing address in the consent form. We will only use these details to send you the results of the research.

**8. What if I want to withdraw from the research study?**

If you do consent to participate, you may withdraw at any time. You can do so by completing the 'Withdrawal of Consent Form' which is provided at the end of this document or you can ring the research team and tell them you no longer want to participate. Your decision not to participate or to withdraw from the study will not affect your relationship with UNSW Sydney or any of the reseach team. If you decide to leave the research study, the researchers will not collect additional information from you. You can request that any identifiable information about you be withdrawn from the research project.

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**9. What if I have a complaint or any concerns about the research study?**

If you have a complaint regarding any aspect of the study or the way it is being conducted, please contact the UNSW Human Ethics Coordinator:

**Complaints Contact**

<b>Position</b>	UNSW Human Research Ethics Coordinator
<b>Telephone</b>	+ 61 2 9385 6222
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:humanethics@unsw.edu.au">humanethics@unsw.edu.au</a>
<b>HC Reference Number</b>	HC200429

**10. What should I do if I have further questions about my involvement in the research study?**

The person you may need to contact will depend on the nature of your query. If you require further information regarding this study or if you have any problems which may be related to your involvement in the study, you can contact the following member/s of the research team:

**Research Team Contact**

**Chief Investigator**

<b>Name</b>	Professor Richard Kingsford
<b>Position</b>	Chief Investigator
<b>Telephone</b>	+61293853442
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:richard.kingsford@unsw.edu.au">richard.kingsford@unsw.edu.au</a>

**Support Services Contact Details**

If at any stage during the study, you become distressed or require additional support from someone not involved in the research please call either of the below services. If you become distressed at any stage during or after the interview the researcher conducting the interview will stop the interview and offer for them to contact either of these organisations or a support person(s) you feel comfortable talking to, on your behalf.

<b>Name/Organisation</b>	Menindee Health Service
<b>Position</b>	Health Service Manager/Generalist nurse practitioner (Barbara Turner)
<b>Telephone</b>	(08)80832700
<b>Name/Organisation</b>	Maari Ma Aboriginal health centre
<b>Telephone</b>	08 8082 9777
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.maarima.com.au">http://www.maarima.com.au</a>



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**Consent Form – Participant providing own consent**

**Declaration by the participant**

- I understand I am being asked to provide consent to participate in this research study;
- I have read the Participant Information Sheet, or someone has read it to me in a language that I understand;
- I understand the purposes, study tasks and risks of the research described in the study;
- Recordings: I understand that the research team will audio record the interviews. I agree to be recorded for this purpose.
- I provide my consent for the information collected about me to be used for the purpose of this research study only.
- I have had an opportunity to ask questions and I am satisfied with the answers I have received;
- I freely agree to participate in this research study as described and understand that I am free to withdraw at any time during the study and withdrawal will not affect my relationship with any of the named organisations and/or research team members;
- I would like to receive a copy of the study results via email or post, I have provided my details below and ask that they be used for this purpose only;
- I understand that I will be given a signed copy of this document to keep.
- I understand that the results of the research will be made available on the Centre for Ecosystem Science UNSW website.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Participant Signature**

Name of Participant (please print)	
Signature of Research Participant	
Date	

**Declaration by Researcher\***

- I have given a verbal explanation of the research study; its study activities and risks and I believe that the participant has understood that explanation.

**Researcher Signature\***

Name of Researcher (please print)	
Signature of Researcher	
Date	

**+An appropriately qualified member of the research team must provide the explanation of, and information concerning the research study.**

**Note: All parties signing the consent section must date their own signature.**



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## Form for Withdrawal of Participation

I wish to **WITHDRAW** my consent to participate in this research study described above and understand that such withdrawal **WILL NOT** affect my relationship with The University of New South Wales or any of the research team.

- I am withdrawing my consent and I would like any identifiable information collected about me which I have provided for the purpose of this research study withdrawn.
- I am withdrawing my consent to participate in further components of this research and provide my permission for the research team to retain and/or use information collected about me which I have provided for the purpose of this research.
- I am withdrawing my consent and I understand that any information already published and/or not linked to my identity cannot be withdrawn from the research.

### Participant Name

Name of Participant (please type)	
Date	

### The section for Withdrawal of Participation should be forwarded to:

CI Name:	Prof. Richard Kingsford
Email:	richard.kingsford@unsw.edu.au
Phone:	+61293853442
Postal Address:	School of BEES, The University of New South Wales, SYDNEY 2052 NSW AUSTRALIA