

**Submission**

**Total Cessation of water flow of George's River on the Woronora Plateau in 2010**

**The systematic destruction of sacred sites, artefacts and culture of the Wadi Wadi people aboriginal tribes of the Northern Illawarra by BHP Billiton Illawarra Coal and the mining industry.**

**Mr Frank Sartor  
Minister for Climate Change and Environment**

**Monday, 7 June 2010**

**From:  
Kenneth Hall - President  
Ben Nash – Vice President  
Suzanne Hall – Events Organiser  
Rachael Blandin De Chalain - Secretary**

**Mr Allan Carriage – Advisor Wadi Wadi People**

**Macarthur Bushwalkers / Macarthur Bicycle Users Group**

**<http://www.bushwalking-cycling.com>  
<http://www.georges-river-macarthur.com>**

**15 May 2010 - O'Hares Creek - Photograph Gallery 1**

The Woolwash is now the focal point for the Macarthur Bushwalkers activities. At this location the bulk of the water flowing from the Georges River Catchment should be seen.

The 15<sup>th</sup> May 2010 is a typical day in the recent life of Georges River. The four photographs show O'Hares Creek looking downstream and as 180 degrees looking upstream from the centre of the Woolwash.

O'Hares Creek looking upstream to O'Hares Creek, water has ceased to flow, a common occurrence on Georges River in 2010

### **The Woolwash looking upstream to O'Hares Creek**

Two tiny figures can be seen slightly off centre to the right on a sand bar above the tree lying across the river. This is Georges River Upper Catchment entering the Woolwash. We visited Appin 25 km upstream and found the water flow was emerging from the BHP Billiton Illawarra Coal mine dam. This was the only source of water entering the Woolwash on this day.



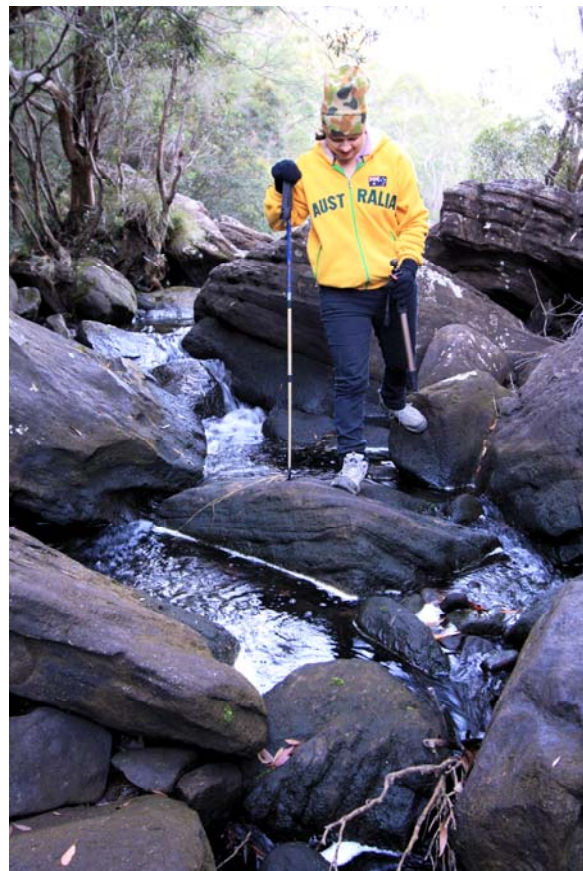
This photograph of the Woolwash is taken from the same location as above but in the opposite direction. Please note the backpack offset to the right of the centre of the photograph to give perspective.

The Woolwash had become a series of large pools with fish jumping out of them. They were trapped by low water levels. This catchment contains Macquarie Perch and Australian Bass.



## O'Hares Creek white water area

Rachel, a Macarthur Bushwalkers member descending the boulder strewn gradient which forms white water rapids as O'Hares Creek descends to merge with the Georges River Upper Catchment at the Woolwash.



We have now accessed this area several times in 2010, a place we have not been able to before. This situation only changes after rain. The new water swells the rivers and creeks then rapidly disappears with water levels rapidly dropping.

We have recorded a water level reduction of over 300 mm in a two week period on O'Hares Creek, a tributary which supplies 75% of water to the Georges River

