

# The Solution for Pollution!



## Hunter Local Land Services

Hunter Local Land Services works with land managers and the community to improve primary production within healthy landscapes. We help people make better decisions about the land they manage and assist communities and agricultural industries to be productive and sustainable into the future.

The Hunter Local Land Services region covers an area of approximately 33,000 square kilometres, extending from Mid Coast Council in the north to Lake Macquarie City Council in the south and Upper Hunter Shire Council in the west.

The landscape ranges from estuarine wetlands and mangroves, rainforests and freshwater wetlands to open grasslands, woodlands, eucalypt forests, lakes and foreshores.

The region has good soils, a subtropical climate and abundant rainfall which support a wide range of industries, including farming, forestry, fishing, oyster farming, tourism and nature-based recreation.

[www.lls.nsw.gov.au/hunter](http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/hunter)

## Hunter Water

Hunter Water provides drinking water, wastewater, recycled water and some stormwater services to a population of almost 600,000 people in homes and businesses across the Lower Hunter. We work with contractors, stakeholders and the community to build our water resilience capabilities and ensure a sustainable water future for our region. Now, more than ever, we need to Love Water. It's our most valuable resource, and like all the things we love in life, we want to protect and treasure it.

[www.hunterwater.com.au](http://www.hunterwater.com.au)

# The Solution for Pollution!

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This book has been published as part of the Every Bit Counts Enviro-Stories program and involves schools learning about the importance of sustainably managing our farmland and natural resources and protecting them from biosecurity threats.

The Every Bit Counts Enviro-Stories program forms part of a collaborative project between all four coastal Local Land Services regions, including Hunter, Greater Sydney, South East and North Coast. This project has been assisted by the New South Wales Government through its Environmental Trust.

Hunter Local Land Services has also partnered with Hunter Water Corporation since 2014 to provide education programs which engage school students and teachers in projects to improve water quality and catchment health.

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Enviro-Stories is a PeeKdesigns initiative, [www.peekdesigns.com.au](http://www.peekdesigns.com.au).

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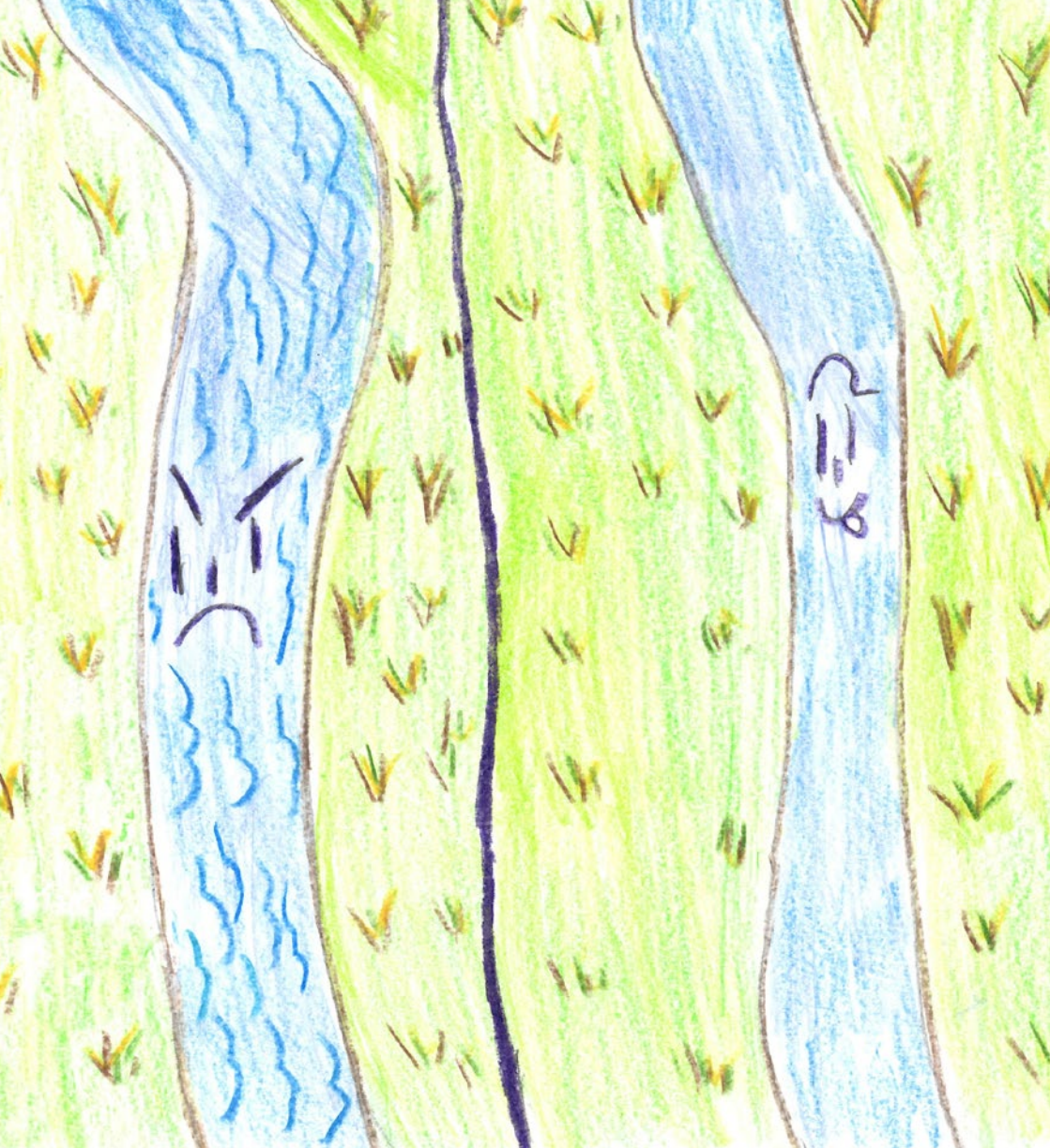




Hi! You may not exactly realise this, but I'm actually a river. Sounds crazy right?



Thousands of years ago I was a tiny stream running down the mountain tops. I trickled through a small country area with lots of animals and plants.



Sometimes I had a strong current, but that's just me when I'm angry. Sometimes I could be nice and calm.

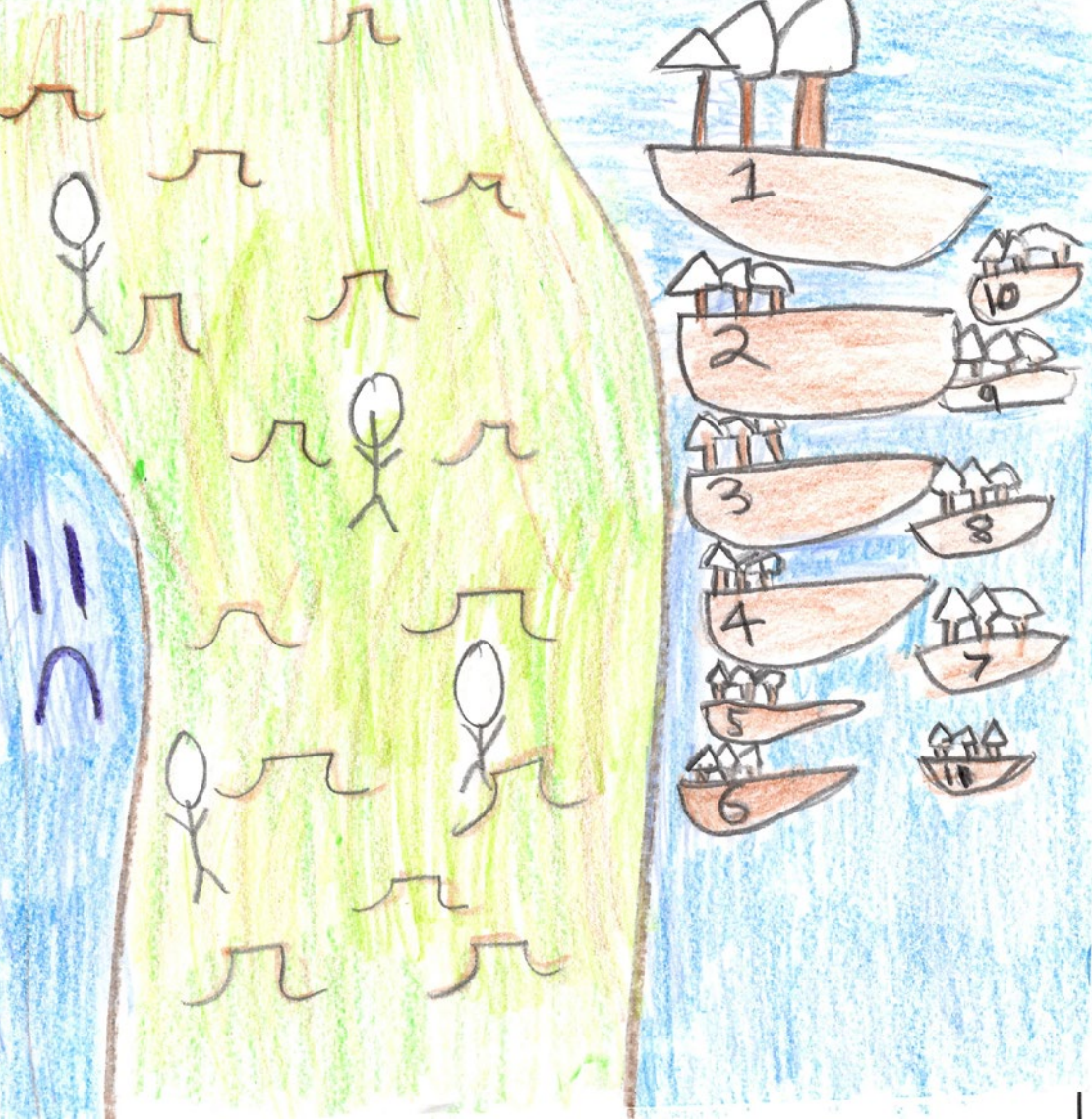
I am still that way today, but I'm just a bit bigger.

I became friends with the Wonnarua people as I slowly got larger and developed into a river. The Wonnarua people loved to paddle up and down me in their bark canoes as they fished or just travelled to different areas. They were good times because I provided things for them and they took care of me.



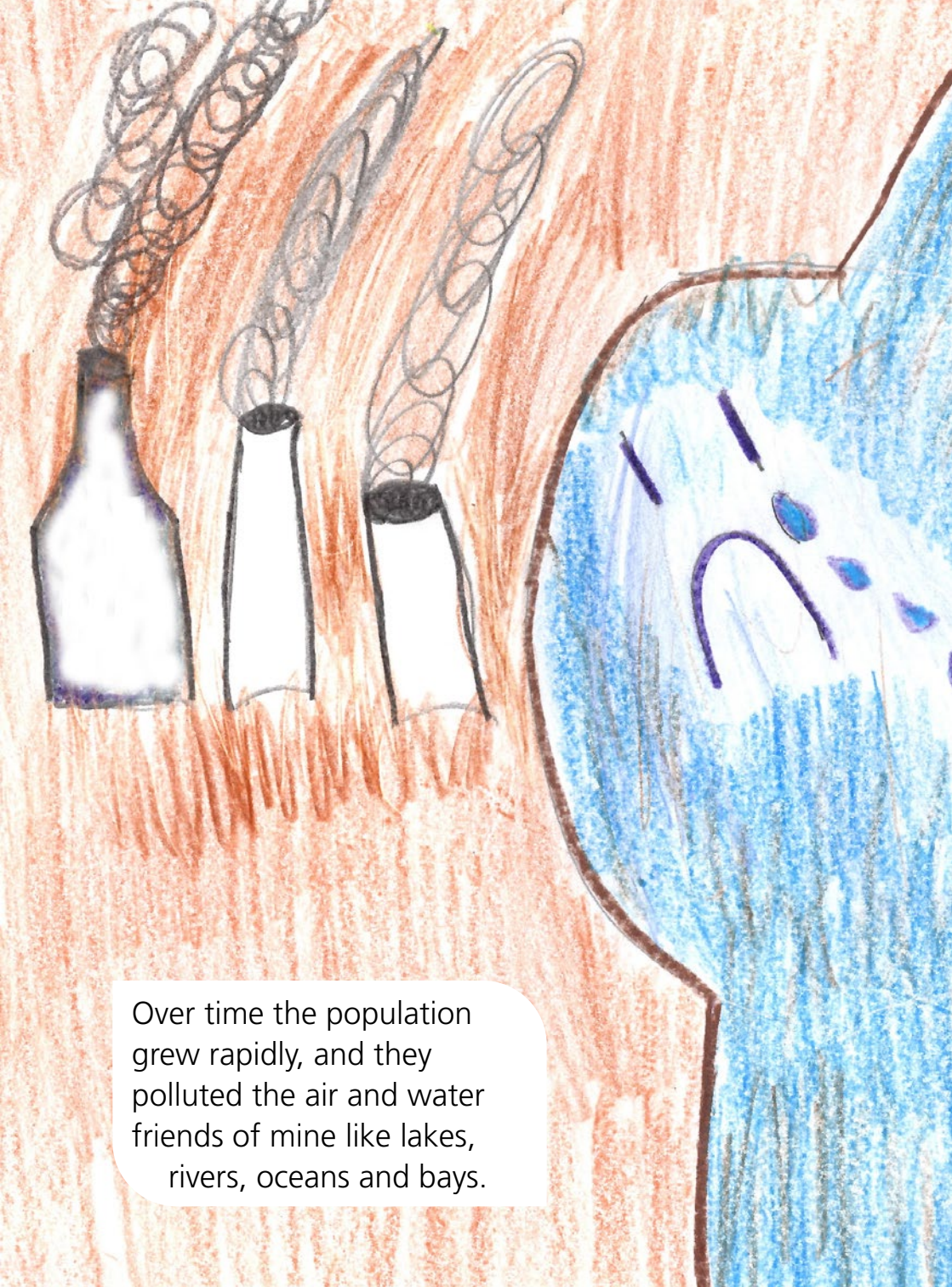
Over the years I grew and grew and moved downhill until I met my best water friend the Allyn River. We ran into each other near Vacy and decided that it would be easier to travel together towards the sea.

Strangely enough, we found out that our journeys before then were basically side-by-side, separated by just a few hills.



The humans were friends with the environment until the European people came and started destroying my place.

They cut down and harvested too many trees near my riverbank, which had consequences in the future. It loosened the soil, making it unstable and easily eroded.



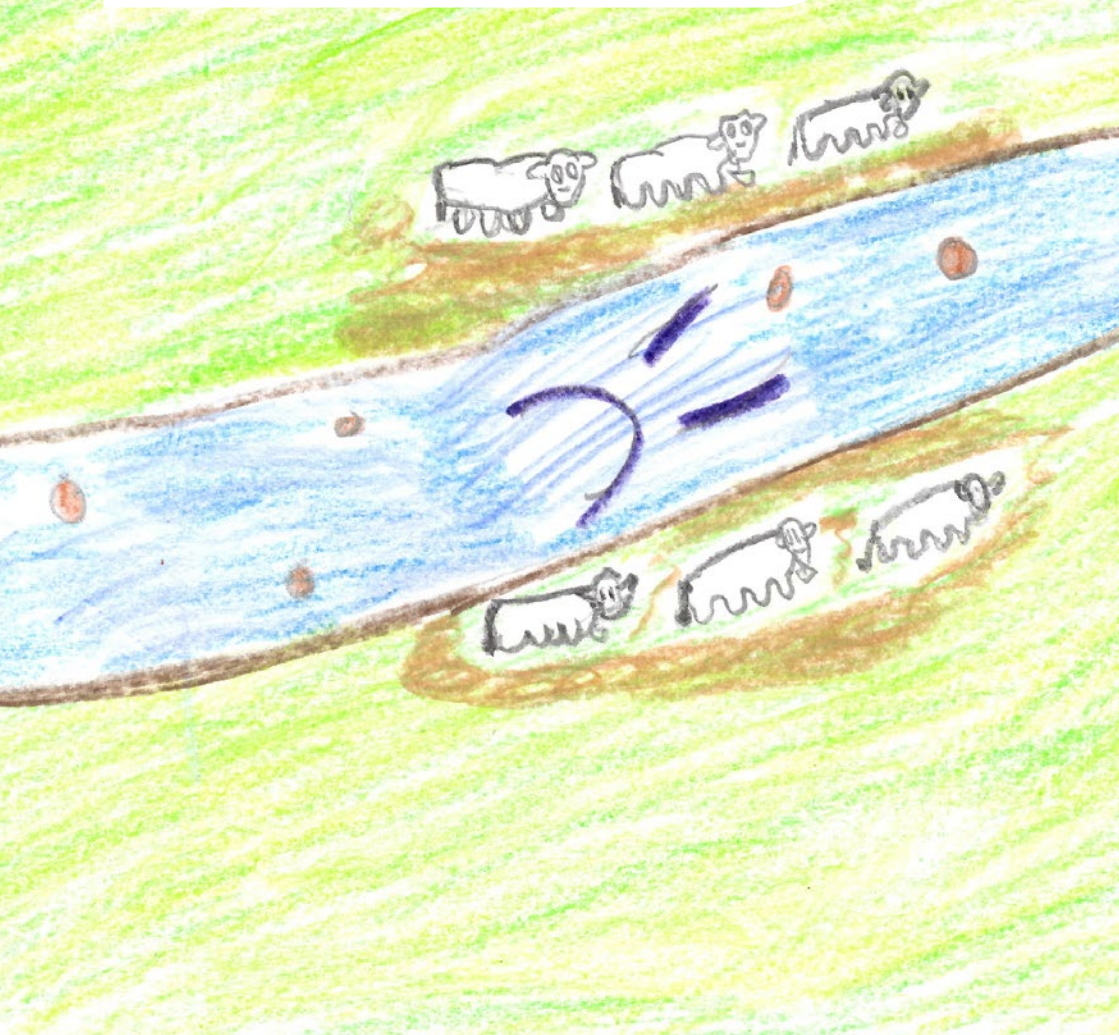
Over time the population grew rapidly, and they polluted the air and water friends of mine like lakes, rivers, oceans and bays.



They burned coal in places called factories. The smoke from burning the coal flew up into a tube and then released chemicals into the air. This not only polluted the air, but my lands and waters where it settled.

They dumped their rubbish everywhere, which is really bad for my environment. Rubbish washes over the land into my waters and then to the ocean and is harmful to all my animal friends.

They let their cattle down to my riverbank where the cows stomp on the vegetation making everything turn to mud. The muddy riverbanks wash away into me and are bad for the environment because they make me dirty and cloud me up.





*Four years ago...*

I was surprised when I woke up to a strange buzzing noise on my riverbank, so I called over my river friends, including my spirit-friend Pat the platypus.

They looked sad as they told me that there were humans demolishing the last trees along the riverbank.

When I heard the thud of multiple trees falling over, I felt pain! I began to get mad, madder than I've ever been before.

If the trees weren't on my banks, then their roots wouldn't hold my soil together and any vigorous current would wash it away.

Things fell silent as the day finished and the moon rose. While my friends were sleeping, I cooled myself down so I could think straight and come up with a plan to stop humans destroying me.





When the Sun came up and the day returned, I told my friends to forcefully bring the humans to my riverbank.

When they came, my spirit-friend explained how they had been destroying the river and that I might die because of it.

Pat the Platypus, my spirit-friend, warned them that Australia had slowly been becoming a bad place ever since the European settlers arrived here.

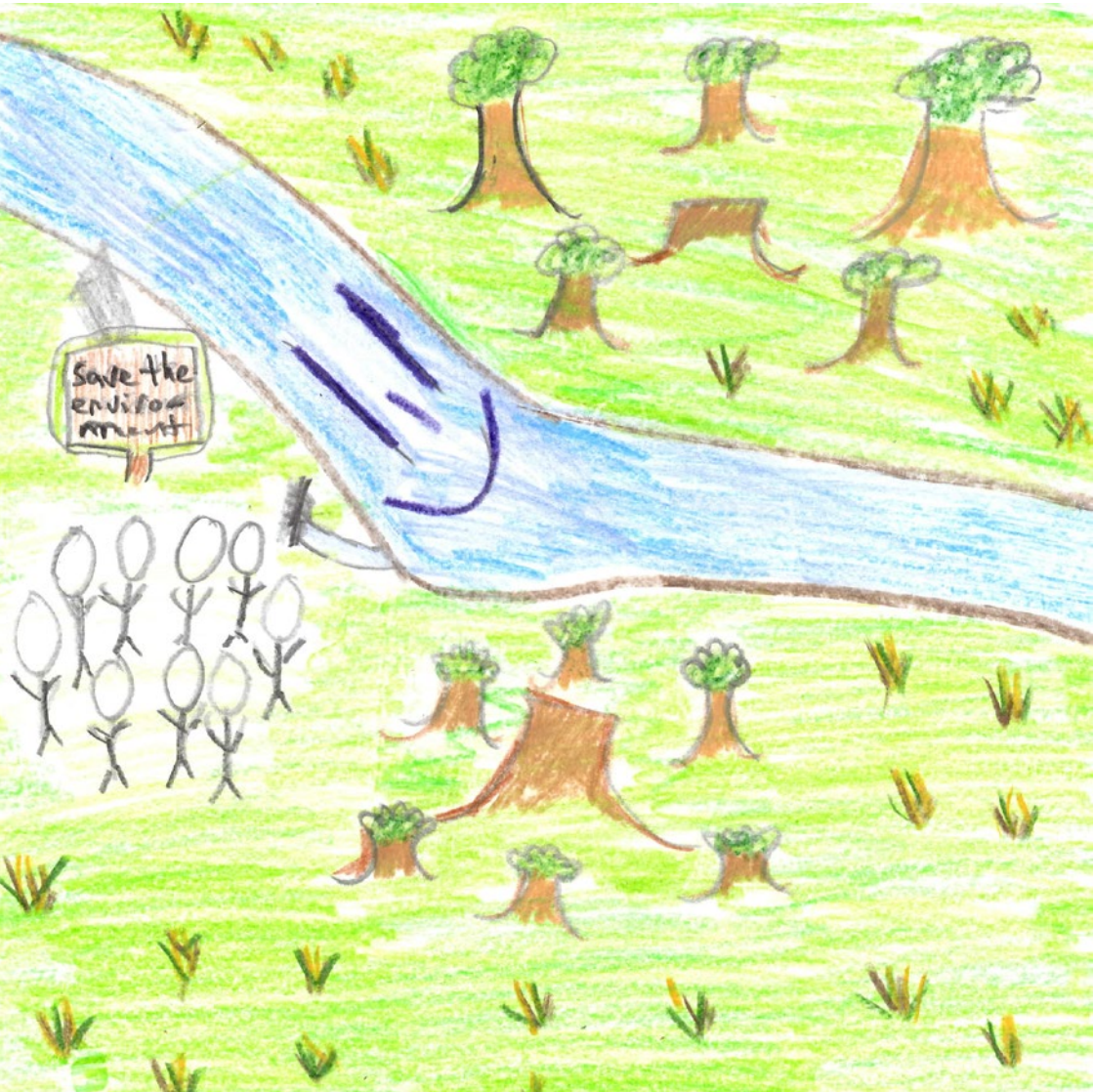
He told them that they must change their ways because if I stopped flowing there would be no water for anyone, and it would destroy our world.

So, we made a deal... They agreed that the river was important and that we should all learn to live in peace and harmony with the environment.



Nowadays the waters are safer and healthier.  
The humans only cut down trees if necessary  
or in managed areas away from my banks.

So, I share my water equally and help to teach  
people to care for the environment.





Farmers put up fences that stop their cows getting near the riverbank and muddying my waters.

So, I share my water equally and let people camp and have barbeques near the riverbank and enjoy my company.



The humans try harder to put their rubbish in things called bins and if it falls into the river, they even help at times to fish it out. So, I share my waters equally and do my best to provide for them so we can all live in harmony.

The world is a beautiful, majestic, gorgeous, fantastic, amazing and astonishing place to live, so please don't do things that hurt us rivers!

By the way, I forgot to tell you, my name is Paterson.

## **Enviro-Stories**

Enviro-Stories is a literacy education program that inspires learning about natural resource and catchment management issues. Developed by PeeKdesigns, this program provides students with an opportunity to publish their own stories that have been written for other kids to support learning about their local area.

[www.envirostories.com.au](http://www.envirostories.com.au)

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