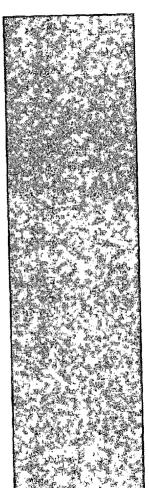
resource for agriculture. These diverse characteristics now come-into potential conflict. Debates about how best to manage the Condamine basin, however, have been an integral part of its European history. Government policy makers of the late nineteenth century wrestled with the optimum size and use of land holdings to meet the goal of economically sustainable farms. In the twenty-first century political debates look likely to revolve around the optimum size and use of water entitlements to guarantee ecologically and financially sustainable agriculture.

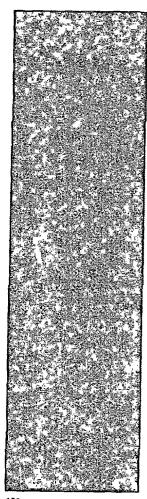
Like the generations who lived along its banks and streams pre- and post-European arrival, we need a way forward that will preserve the resource while guaranteeing social and economic security. Such a goal may seem idealistic but the Condamine River has been a place of dreaming and romantic visions throughout its human history. For the sake of the river and the communities who live within its catchment, we need a new vision for the twenty-first century that melds economic and ecological criteria with much older values of community and aesthetic enjoyment.

notes

Introducing the Condamine and its oral history

- WAMP is the abbreviation for Water Allocation Management Plans; E.coli are bacteria
 from human and animal faecal matter. The amount of sediment in the water, which
 affects the river's muddy appearance or turbidity, and E.coli are regularly measured.
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- 12. Archibald Meston cited in Dansie, Gowrie Creek, p.2.
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- 17. Steele, Aboriginal Pathways, p. 43.
- 18. Hall, A Short History, pp.39-41.
- Steele, Aboriginal Pathways, pp. 43-44; Hazel McKellar, Matya-Mundu: A History of the Aboriginal People of South West Queensland, Cunnamulla, Cunnamulla Australian Native Welfare Association, 1984; Pamela Lukin Watson, Frontier Lands and Pioneer Legends: How Pastoralism gained Kanuwali Land, St Leonards NSW, Allen & Unwin, 1998, pp. 49-51.
- 20. Wilson & Hall, Lake Broadwater, p. 319; Cribb, Lake Broadwater, pp. 329-39.

1 The Head

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- Joseph McKey, Dawn over the Darling Downs, Warwick, Warwick Newspapers, 1977, p. 126.
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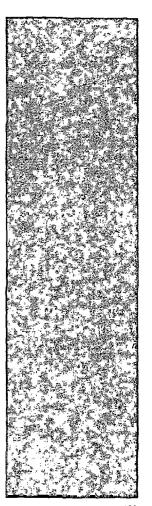
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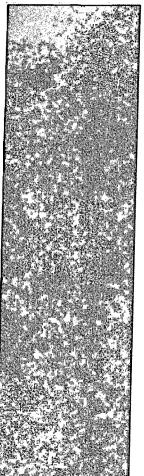
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