

Section 1

#1: Opening Paragraph

Strengths:

- Your opening directly addresses the letter recipient and clearly states your main argument about protecting the Hawkesbury River
- You've included multiple reasons why the river is important (indigenous significance, historical value, tourism)

Vague Reasoning → Whilst you mention that the Hawkesbury has "deep spiritual and cultural significance for indigenous people" and "displays the historical power," you haven't explained what these actually mean. What specific spiritual significance does it hold? What historical power are you referring to? Your reader needs concrete examples to understand why these points matter. Without these details, your reasons feel incomplete and less convincing.

Exemplar: *"The Hawkesbury holds deep spiritual significance for the Darug people, who have lived along its banks for over 40,000 years and consider it a sacred waterway that connects them to their ancestors."*

#2: Problems Facing the River (Paragraphs 2-3)

Strengths:

- You've identified real environmental issues affecting the Hawkesbury River
- Your explanation of algal blooms helps readers understand what they are and why they're harmful

Disconnected Ideas → Your third paragraph about littering feels separate from your second paragraph about environmental problems. You jump from discussing algal blooms directly to littering without showing how these problems relate to each other. Additionally, the phrase "an innocent species will get harmed some day" is quite vague—which species? How does litter harm them? Your argument would be stronger if you connected these environmental threats together and provided specific examples of the damage.

Exemplar: *"Like algal blooms, plastic rubbish in the river also threatens wildlife. For example, turtles and fish can become tangled in plastic bags or mistake small pieces for food, which can cause injury or death."*

#3: Economic Benefits Paragraph

Strengths:

- You've tried to show how environmental action connects to economic benefits
- You're thinking about the bigger picture beyond just environmental reasons

Unsupported Claims → Your paragraph makes very large claims that aren't backed up with any evidence or logical steps. You state that tourists will boost GDP rates and make them "sky rocket," and that this could make Australia the best economic country in the world. However, you haven't explained how river clean-ups would actually increase tourism significantly, or how this specific action could have such a massive national economic impact. The connection between a monthly clean-up day and Australia moving from 13th to 1st economically is extremely unclear. These claims need to be either removed or significantly scaled back to realistic outcomes, such as "local businesses near the river might see more customers."

Exemplar: *"A cleaner river would attract more visitors to the Hawkesbury region, which would benefit local cafés, tour operators and accommodation providers."*

■ Your letter shows that you care deeply about the Hawkesbury River and you've thought about different angles to convince Clover Moore to support your idea. However, your writing would be much more persuasive if you developed your ideas more fully. Many of your points are mentioned briefly but not explained properly—for instance, you tell us the river has cultural significance, but you don't explain what that significance actually is. This leaves your reader wondering why they should be convinced by your argument.

Your structure also needs attention. Some paragraphs feel like they belong together but are separated (like your two paragraphs about environmental problems), whilst others jump to new topics without clear connections. Think about grouping similar ideas together and using linking words to show how one point leads to another. Additionally, your economic benefits paragraph makes claims that are far

too large for a monthly clean-up day to achieve. It's better to focus on smaller, believable benefits that your reader will actually find convincing.

Your solution of a monthly clean-up day is practical and clear, which is excellent. However, you could strengthen this section by explaining exactly how it would work—who would organise it? Where would the rubbish go? How would you encourage people to participate? These details would make your proposal feel more realistic and well-thought-out. Your conclusion restates your main point nicely, but it could be even stronger if you included a specific call to action telling Clover Moore exactly what you want her to do. Overall, your passion for this topic comes through clearly—now you need to support that passion with deeper explanations and more realistic claims.

Overall Score: 41/50

Section 2

Dear Clover Moore,

#1 As we all know about the importance of the Hawkesbury River, we need to protect it. The Hawkesbury holds deep spiritual and cultural significance for ~~the indigenous~~ [Indigenous] people, it displays the historical power, and it is a leading contributor to ~~tourism industries~~ [the tourism industry] because of all these reasons and its natural beauty. Don't you agree with me that we must protect this river?

#2 The Hawkesbury ~~already is~~ [is already] facing many problems such as climate change, mass pollution and dangerous algal blooms. Algal blooms are something that ~~disturbs~~ [disrupt] the ecosystem and water. They are typically a greenish colour which affects the natural pristine water. ~~It releases~~ [They release] poisonous toxins into the water which ~~kills~~ [kill] a lot of fish species and marine life.

Additionally, many people litter items into the river thinking that there will be no effect. However, an innocent species will get harmed some day. Wherever you litter, the pieces fly away somewhere and potentially land in rivers like the Hawkesbury. ~~And, when~~ [When] people do visit, they still place rubbish in the water.

But what can we do to make sure that these problems don't have further unwanted effects? A simple solution would be to host a river clean-up day every month. On this day, locals and people in the Hornsby Shire will come to the river and collect all trash that has been found ~~in stewardship~~, [along the riverbanks,] and participate in community events that will raise awareness ~~about this for them to act on it themselves~~ [and encourage ongoing environmental action]. I believe that this clean-up day can make a big impact on securing a beautiful thriving river with flourishing biodiversity.

#3 If we do maintain a clean river, more tourists would ~~many to~~ [want to] visit the Hawkesbury River. When tourists arrive, flight tickets, bus fares and other expenses go towards small start-ups or national companies and that will boost the economy rate, and [.] GDP rates will ~~sky rocket~~ [increase]. Some tourists ~~maybe~~ [may be] persuaded to live in this country which leads to more money in hand to boost the economy rate even further. This goes to show that one action could potentially lead to making Australia (currently 13th) the best '~~economical~~' [economic] ~~countries~~ [country] in the world.

In summary, we must hold a river clean-up day, desirably every month in order to keep the Hawkesbury River pristine and clean for the ecosystem to thrive. Whether you are ~~taking~~ [considering] environmental factors or economical traits, it all comes to a point that we must hold ~~a a~~ [a] clean-up day for the Hawkesbury River.

Yours Sincerely,

Khushi Siromani – Local School Kid, Waitara Public School