

Water down the mine

IN reference to the article in Saturday July 24th CWD "Criticism on water hard to swallow".

Several months ago I had a lengthy telephone conversation with the mayor regarding Orange water problems. This conversation forms the basis of the following comments.

Since December 1997 Orange City Council has supplied partially treated effluent (up to 10 megalitres per day) free of charge to Cadia mine - this agreement put in place before the current mayor's term.

The agreement was intended to be for the life of the open cut mine which is now winding down but during our conversation the mayor advised that Cadia mine had taken the viewpoint that the original agreement was not only for the life of the current mine, but any new mine as well (e.g. the new underground mine).

As Cadia had taken legal advice on their position, council concern was that a lengthy and expensive legal case might result, so they were trying to negotiate a compromise agreement with the company. So much for the excellent relations between Orange city and Cadia mine.

As far as I am aware I have read or heard nothing further about this matter. Has an agreement been reached and how will this impact on Orange City going forward? What concerns me (and it appears many other Orange residents) is that council's dealings with Cadia have not been totally transparent to ratepayers.

Several years ago, Orange City

Council made it mandatory for new developments in specified areas to have a third recycled water pipe (purple), in this way ensuring the cost of installing a grey or recycled water system in the future is minimised.

According to the council Integrated Water Cycle Management Concept Study of December 2007 (detailed on the council's new website) "It currently conveys potable water only due to lack of treated effluent available."

"The intention is for it to be used for treated effluent by 2010 depending on availability." The treated effluent of course is being supplied to Cadia mines and it appears will continue to do so indefinitely thus indirectly putting additional pressure on Orange's water supply.

Comments were made some time ago that if we didn't supply this treated effluent to Cadia the mine would run out of water and close, but my understanding was that several other councils offered to supply recycled water to Cadia - at a cost.

Even though the mine was and is making huge profits naturally it would take the cheaper (free) option.

For several months talk of securing additional water from the Macquarie River has been around but nothing concrete has eventuated - a lot of rhetoric but nothing else.

I suspect little or no progress has been made as there would undoubtedly be objections from other stakeholders and environmental issues to consider, not to mention financial ones.

In any case, if the pipeline was approved and funding secured, the pipeline itself would take at least a

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year to complete, not a few weeks as councillor Romano was reported to have naively said some time ago.

Secure water supply is for many Orange residents the most worrying issue yet the council does not seem that concerned putting trivial matters such as a heated pool and non smoking in public areas ahead of water supply.

Perhaps a public forum on water would appease residents with councillors making themselves available to answer questions.

Peter Lee, Orange

Students running the gauntlet

WHAT would the ramifications be if a Canobolas High School student is hit and injured (or worse) by a vehicle while foolishly running across four lanes of the Mitchell Highway at the Lone Pine intersection, in front of fast flowing traffic that is bearing down on them, when there is a refuge designed for safe crossing a very short distance away?

What would the ramifications be if one of the dashing students trips and pitches forward onto the road in front of the fast flowing traffic bearing down on them?

What about the hapless driver if such an event was to happen?

That person would have to live with that from then on.

What we saw today made us

shudder and wonder what the duty of care is from the school council.

At the time of writing, impatient stupidity of drivers, the traffic was and fast flowing made dangerous condition unsatisfactory for crossing.

Why are these students of sight, out of mind because a different colour lights has been proposed in the future.

It is obvious from that if these students at that point it is an indicative P&C and the school nobody is there to be inclined to bravado, patience wait until there traffic for their own consideration to the school should not have to put up with it.

Bruce M

Showground isn't a good

ORANGE City Council spent thousands of dollars on consultant fees and staff time up with a proposal to most of the needs of the showground at the Why now change it?

Is it another attempt at a failing race club?

They have already spent thousands of dollars in prize cost Orange businesses of dollars by having a day declared two years was then followed up after this year and still cannot draw a large crowd costs to upgrade Towan