

Belinda Scott - OBJECTION - Macquarie River to Orange pipeline project - Ref No: 10_0235

From: Greg Windsor <Greg.Windsor@lpi.nsw.gov.au>
To: ""belinda.scott@planning.nsw.gov.au"" <belinda.scott@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 21/09/2012 2:15 PM
Subject: OBJECTION - Macquarie River to Orange pipeline project - Ref No: 10_0235

Dear Belinda,

I am writing to object to the proposed Macquarie River to Orange pipeline project.

Whilst I can understand the need to secure a reliable water supply for Orange, I believe that this proposal is flawed and other options should be explored.

The upper reaches of the Macquarie River, in particular, that between Bathurst and Burrendong dam is a unique pristine environment with strong links to the region's historical past. Any development has to consider both the history and the environmental significance of this area.

Many major water holes exist in the deep river valley extending beyond Dixons Long Point. These waterholes have a long history of habitation from the pre-colonial times, through to the 1850s Gold Rush and the Depression era. In these times, many people were completely reliant on the river for food and water, whilst the deep valley provided shelter from the weather extremes in our area. This history is reflected in the names given to these water holes which all have their own stories. Just as we strive to protect our colonial past in the built environment we should also endeavour to look after our natural history in the same manner. The proposed pipeline would not only create a scar across this unique landscape but dramatically affect water flows and levels in the river which would change the character of this location.

This area has extraordinary natural beauty and is home to many endangered fish species including the Trout Cod, Murray Cod, Silver Perch and Catfish. The placement of a pipeline into this environment would have dramatic effects on this aquatic life and ultimately spell the demise of these species in this part of the river. If this happens, the river will be left bare and ripe for the explosion in population of introduced species like the European Carp. This has happened in other parts of the Macquarie catchment creating monocultures which dramatically affect the health of the river.

The placement of the pipeline into this valley also risks landslides which not only affects the environment but the ultimate viability of the project.

Surely options that exploit pre-existing water supplies in and around Orange or Burrendong Dam itself would be better than that proposed.

Can you please acknowledge receipt of this objection.

Yours Sincerely

Greg Windsor
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21 Sep 2012

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