

Belinda Scott - Macquarie river pipeline

From: "Peter Kuestler" <peterkuestler@gmail.com>
To: <belinda.scott@planning.nsw.gov.au>
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Subject: Macquarie river pipeline

1. The pipeline is not justified because it has been designed to supply an artificially high water demand. The proposal is based on 'unrestricted' average personal daily water use that is much higher than recent usage in Orange.
2. The upper Macquarie River is significant habitat for the nationally endangered Trout Cod. Other threatened fish species found in this river reach include Murray Cod, Silver Perch and Catfish.
3. The proposed extraction of water from upper Macquarie River at low flows will disrupt fish passage and degrade important habitat values.
4. The pipeline route will destroy good condition roadside vegetation that provides important wildlife corridors and habitat in a highly cleared landscape.
5. The pipeline route with associated access road and power line will cause disturbance to highly unstable soil structures in very steep terrain, threatening landslides into the river.
6. A regional water supply solution, that services more than the needs of Orange, needs to be developed using state and federal grant monies in an ecologically sustainable manner.