

PCU038687

BUNDI FISHING CLUB

Richard Burns, President

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Phone 6337 8273

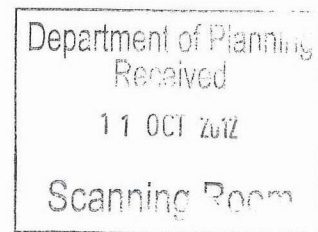
Reference No: 10_0235

Ms Belinda Scott

Department of Planning and Infrastructure

GPO Box 39

SYDNEY NSW 2001



Dear Ms Scott

OBJECTION TO THE MACQUARIE RIVER TO ORANGE PIPELINE PROJECT

My name is Richard Burns and I am writing this letter of objection on behalf of the eighty members of the Bundi Fishing Club.

The section of the Upper Macquarie River upstream of Burrendong Dam is an important endangered and threatened native fish habitat zone. It is very environmentally sensitive and deserves high levels of protection because the deep waterholes from Cockatoo Hole upstream to Dixons Long Point are the last remnant waterholes before the backwaters of Burrendong Dam 13kms downstream. Native fish populations are abundant and diverse in these deep waterholes and it is known as an important native fish breeding nursery site for the Upper Macquarie River system.

The Bundi Fishing Club was set up in 2006 by a group of people from diverse backgrounds – pensioners, family groups, nature lovers - all with a love of the Macquarie River and a common desire to look after river to save the many threatened and endangered species of native fish in this section of the Macquarie. All our members abide by the Club rules of strict bag limits and generally practice "Catch and Release".

Concerned people undertook an informal restocking of **5270 Murray Cod** fingerlings that commenced in 1986 in the nine waterholes that adjoin my property. This was 20 years before we formed the Bundi Fishing Club. When the Bundi Fishing Club was formed in 2006 to date we released a further **37325 Murray Cod** fingerlings and **11000 Golden Perch** fingerlings purchased using \$ for \$ government funding. Total 42595 (Cardno figures 28,232) .

Our Club members have also assisted in the release of 92,000 Trout Cod fingerlings:

2-3 December 2009	73,000
6 January 2011	10,000
8 December 2011	<u>9,000</u>
Total	92,000 (Cardno figures 83,000)

We have concerns about the inadequate Environmental Assessment Aquatic Study conducted by Cardno Ecology Lab. Cardno underestimate the number of fingerlings released. Cardno's study for the EA only visually examined 500 metres of one waterhole and the study states "**The survey undertaken was not intended to serve as a baseline for impact assessment**".

The Federal Government Controlled Actions requirements (December 2011) specifically state that (3) Information must include where there is a potential habitat for EPBC Act listed species, such as the Trout Cod, surveys must be undertaken. **These surveys must be timed appropriately and undertaken for a suitable period of time by a qualified person.**

As you can see, the Bundi Fishing Club is an active fishing club, and we strongly object to the proposal by OCC to site a pump and all that goes with it in this important section of Macquarie River.

To pump from the Macquarie River at a very low flow rate of 38 megalitres per day would in our opinion do serious harm to the river and put at risk all the good work that our Club has done over the years.

This proposal will encourage the European Carp to once again flourish in the river.

I have seen the damage these pests can do, and due to our stocking and general river care, the native fish are slowly getting the upper hand.

In our opinion, this proposal should not be allowed to proceed.

Yours faithfully



RICHARD BURNS
President
Bundi Fishing Club
6 October 2012

BUNDI FISHING CLUB RELEASE DETAILS

Murray Cod	1986	3270	
	1990	1000	
	1995	1000	
	2006	5600	
	2009	8030	
	2010	8000	
	2011	7245	
	2012	8450	
		<hr/>	
		42595	
Golden Perch	2007	11000	
Trout Cod	2-3/12/2009	73000	long point boat hole gardiners randwick root hog peisleys hole and the pump hole
	6/1/2011	10000	killongbutta freemantle
	8/12/2011	9000	gardiners hole boat hole peisleys hole
		<hr/>	
		92000	
Total		<hr/>	
		145595	
		<hr/>	

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Dear Ms Scott

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My name is Richard Burns, I am 71 years old. I have three children, one Patrick deceased aged 14, a victim of leukemia. I have lived all my life beside the Macquarie River where the Orange City Council propose to pump from. I know the river's moods and limitations better than most.

The river is already under stress. It is called upon to water Bathurst (population of 40,000 and growing), Oberon and Blue Mountains townships. It is far beyond its capabilities to supply water to another city, Orange, without serious and largely unknown results on its aquatic life.

I can take you to any of nine waterholes in the section of river which borders our property to sit quietly and observe platypus families feeding usually at dawn or dusk. You can observe rare and endangered birds such as the regent honey eater, the diamond firetail, turquoise parrot, azure kingfisher, waders that fly in from Siberia to name a few.

In the heart of all this, Gardiners Hole, where Orange City Council want to put in a huge pump, service road, powerline and all that goes with a major industrial project. The effect on all this in a pristine, natural area is obvious.

But just as dire is the effect of pumping at a very low flow rate of 38 megalitres per day will have on aquatic life. This fragile ecosystem has evolved over thousands of years and can cope with floods and droughts. What it will not handle, in my opinion, is extraction of large amounts of water at low flows. This pumping would create a block in the river just when the aquatic life needs it most.

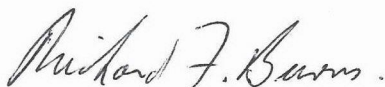
Independent studies have shown that other solutions to Orange's water security exist, but for some reason, have not been looked at:

- . Raising the wall of Suma Park Dam.
- . Pumping from Browns Creek, a flooded mine holding a huge amount of soft drinkable water.
- . Rainwater tanks fitted to houses. We have a 100,000 litre tank on our house and it supplies our needs easily.
- . Encourage people to be sensible in their water use, not as Orange City Council claims 400 litres/person/day.
- . Investigate a pipeline from Burrendong dam which holds a huge volume of water.

If all these things were combined, Orange would have an ample and reliable water supply.

To finish, I think the Precautionary Principle must apply to this pipeline proposal. The proponents do not know the effects this pipeline will have on the river and its life. This proposal should not be allowed to proceed for that reason.

Yours faithfully



RICHARD BURNS

6 October 2012