

Ms Belinda Scott

Planner, NSW Planning and Infrastructure

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As a resident of the NSW Weddin Shire, which is also part of the Murray Darling Basin, which is under wholesale threat, I **strongly object** to the proposal for the **Macquarie River to Orange Pipeline Project**.

1. The pipeline is not justified because it has been designed to supply an artificially high water demand. The proposal is based on an average personal daily water use that is much higher than current 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 needs to be developed using state and federal grant monies in an ecologically sustainable manner.

Have you seen the recently released scientifically researched documentary 'True Tales of the Trout Cod'?

The upper Macquarie River is one of three areas left in Australia where Trout Cod populations are surviving and is a significant site for the success of the national Trout Cod recovery plan. The proposal to extract water at low to very low flows of 38ML per day will disrupt fish migrations for breeding and feeding purposes.

This particular stretch of the Upper Macquarie River is a Trout Cod recovery area with the year 2011 being the third of a five-year program to stock these waterholes under the National Endangered Trout Cod Recovery Plan and the NSW Trout Cod Recovery Plan. Orange City Council has failed to acknowledge the Trout Cod Recovery Plan in the Environment Assessment.

I strongly object to this proposed development.

There must be another way to manage city water demands.

Yours faithfully



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