

SUBMISSION TO OPPOSE THE MAQUARIE RIVER PIPELINE PROJECT

Ref No: 10_0235

To Belinda Scott (Planning N.S.W. Government),

As rate paying residents of Orange for almost 50 years we are appalled that the Government is considering funding an environmentally disastrous and unnecessary project such as the MACQUARIE PIPELINE PROJECT.

The natural environment has already been plundered by our ancestors who moved to the area in the 1840's. As farmers and orchardists they cleared native vegetation, polluted rivers and creeks and introduced a plethora of weeds and pests. Our 97 year old aunty talked fondly of the Koalas on her property. We have never seen a Koala in the area. As children we saw platypus in local streams. our children have never seen one. The ignorance of our ancestors and many like them has resulted in major environmental repair for our generation. On our 2.5 hectare block we have bulldozed blackberries and have a continual battle with rabbits and foxes. We DO NOT ACCEPT that with our education and sophisticated knowledge of the repercussions of our actions on the environment we can plead a similar ignorance to that of our ancestors of 170 years ago. Surely we are more informed than poor, illiterate English settlers!

During the recent drought, the residents of Orange, including our 78 year old mother (used to hosing down the path and leaving a sprinkler on to keep the lawn green in summer,) proved that they were able to modify their water use to a more sustainable level of 250 litres per person each day. The amount quoted as justifying the pipeline 404 litres per person each day is exaggerated and certainly not necessary.

Further researched and agreed KEY points AGAINST the PIPELINE are as follows:-

KEY POINTS:

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.

We urge you to OPPOSE the MACQUARIE RIVER PIPELINE.

Government money needs to be spent to develop environmentally sensitive, sustainable and intelligent water supply solutions for Orange, so that future generations look back with pride at our initiative and care.

Yours sincerely,

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