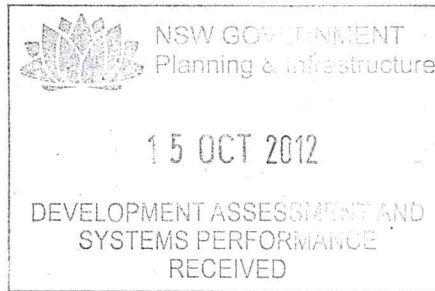


John R Burns

"Kurrawarra"

Burns Road

ULLAMALLA NSW 2850



12 October 2012

Ms Belinda Scott
Major Projects Assessment
Dept of Planning & Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Ms Scott

OBJECTION – Ref: 10_0235 Macquarie River to Orange Pipeline Project

I am writing to you to object to the proposed Macquarie River to Orange Pipeline Project. By way of introduction, I have lived and worked on my family property "Kurrawarra" for 80 years. My property has a 24 km frontage to the Macquarie River in the area of the proposed pipeline. I am very familiar with the river's high and low flow seasons and its effect on aquatic ecology including threatened fishes and animals.

This proposal should be rejected based on the inadequate ecological observations. The snapshot observation at the Gardiners Hole off-take site (Appendix G Section 3) does not constitute "in-depth" studies as claimed in the Environmental Assessment. The Macquarie River was in flood at the time this brief and superficial field assessment was conducted. The study does not serve as a baseline for impact assessment, despite a full ecological assessment required under the Commonwealth EPBC Act's notice of the project as a "Controlled Action" (Appendix N). The Aquatic Ecology reports states "The survey undertaken was not intended to serve as a baseline for impact assessment."

The Executive summary, page xiv, suggests that threatened species might "potentially occur". There are reliable records that Trout cod, Murray cod, Silver perch and Freshwater catfish do live in the waterholes in this area. My family and others have released 42600 Murray Cod fingerlings into this section of river since 1986. My family and others have released 92000 Trout Cod fingerlings over the past three years as part of the five year program to stock these waterholes under the National Endangered Trout Cod Recovery Plan and the NSW Trout Cod Recovery Plan.

The platypus was briefly mentioned in Section 6.2 (Matters of State Environmental Significance) in the Aquatic Ecology assessment report, but nowhere in the EA are the likely considerable potential impacts on the platypus considered. I know families of platypus live in every waterhole adjoining my property, from Dixons Hole to Cockatoo Hole.

I reject the Executive summary conclusion, page xi, that water extraction from the river would not '... significantly impact on flows in the river ...'. This is clearly incorrect. Serious, permanent environmental harm will be caused if almost one-third of the total river flow is extracted in low-flow periods.

Please reject this proposal. There are better alternatives to secure a regional water supply for the Orange area.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J R Burns".

JOHN R BURNS