



12th October, 2012

MACQUARIE RIVER PIPELINE TO ORANGE
REFERENCE NUMBER 10_0235

OBJECTION

1. The proposed pipeline is an ill considered measure to supply water to the city of Orange. Whilst acknowledging the importance of Cadia Mine to the economy of Orange, the time of taking, without impunity, from the natural environment has passed. Successive Orange councils have failed to acknowledge and rectify water shortage catchments and storage for the city of Orange for years. Bathurst Council had the for sight to raise the wall on Chifley Dam, albeit affecting the flow downstream of the Macquarie. Bathurst City Council refused to supply water to Orange via a pipeline when requested. In desperation Orange City Council is now turning to a most ill considered proposal that is doomed to fail for the following reasons.
2. During the last drought, when Orange was under strict water restrictions, both the Macquarie River and Burrendong Dam were at catastrophic low levels. One of the major tributaries of the Macquarie River is the Turon River. During this last drought the Turon was **totally** dry below Hill End and to the junction of the Macquarie. After good rainfall the city of Orange's storage is full. The river flows as well. There is no need to take extra water. In times of low rainfall the storage may be low but the river is certainly very low. In fact it is dry in places with water holes stagnant. When will the water be taken? Orange has no more storage for the "good times" Will Orange City Council rape the River in times of low water further adding to its demise?
3. What of the needs of riparian water users downstream?. Dubbo, Warren the Macquarie Marshes to name just some.

Conservationists from all quarters were alarmed during the last drought regarding the minimal flow to the Macquarie Marshes.

Under Urban Water Planning - Principle 3. Adopt a partnership approach so that Stakeholders are able to make an informed contribution to urban water planning including the consideration of the appropriate supply/demand balance.

4. The successful NO BASE campaign in 1984-86 fought against the Army Artillery relocating to the Central Tablelands including a large section of the Macquarie River.

Extensive surveys were undertaken to determine flora and fauna species in the area. Many endangered, vulnerable and rare species were identified in the specific area proposed by the pipeline.

It was noted and celebrated amazingly a vast mixture of eastern and western species – hence the term “RIBBON OF LIFE” was born.

It was also determined that environmental impact studies conducted on behalf of the proposers of the project were biased. Does this equate to the current proposal? An independent State Government EPA, NPWS, Climate Change Department study may be appropriate with input from ALL affected persons downstream of this proposal.

5. In conclusion, my objections are from a practical point of view. Orange does not need a pipeline- it needs more water catchment and more storage.

To think a pipeline from a river that has minimal flow during most times will solve the water supply problem for Orange is just a band aid, knee jerk reaction with no foresight for future growth and future industry in Orange. No consideration for the environment, the species and all other riparian water users.

We all know band aids fall off.

I urge consideration be given to halting this proposal now and to find a more secure water future for Orange without wasting millions of tax payers dollars on such a short term, ill conceived, doomed to fail project.

Yours Sincerely,
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