

SUBMISSION OPPOSING THE PROPOSED MACQUARIE RIVER TO ORANGE PIPELINE

FROM

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1. The following comment has been extracted verbatim from the executive summary to the environment assessment provided by the pipeline consultants to Orange city council “ it is estimated that the project would require the permanent removal of 19.5 hectares of native vegetation. This vegetation includes 7.8 hectares of the Box Gum Woodland, a threatened ecological community, listed under the Threatened Species Conservation Act”. The consultants apparently believe that if land is provided as an offset to this removal it justifies it. We consider that the removal of mature trees, many with hollows suitable for nesting for superb parrots, another endangered species, cannot be justified and that this project should not be permitted to proceed
  
- 2 The Upper Macquarie River which will be impacted by the proposed pipeline is significant habitat for the nationally endangered Trout Cod (*Maccullochella macquariensis*). Other threatened fish species found in this part of the river include Murray Cod, Silver Perch and catfish. The Environmental Assessment for aquatic ecology undertaken by the consultants for this project is seriously deficient in addressing the impact of the pipeline on these fish. For example only 500m of the 27 km of river to be impacted were visually examined. The Aquatic ecology report states “The survey undertaken was not intended to serve as a baseline for impact assessment” This is simply inadequate. A proper water ecology assessment must be undertaken before any consideration of approval of this development should be considered
  
3. It is considered that Council has fallen well short of the standard of due diligence required for such a significant development. Not only has only a minority of councillors past and present been to inspect the pipeline and its access points to the river, but despite the fact that all councillors received a written invitation to attend a public meeting on the pipeline on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> September only 2 of the 6 new councillors recently elected bothered to attend

For these and other reasons it is considered that the proposed pipeline is not ecologically sound and should be rejected in favour of another scheme which provides water for areas other than just Orange

