



10th October 2012

Belinda Scott
Department of Planning & Infrastructure,
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY 2001

SENT VIA EMAIL: Belinda.scott@planning.nsw.gov.au

Objection: Macquarie River to Orange Pipeline Project

Dear Belinda

I am writing to you in objection of the proposed *Macquarie River to Orange Pipeline Project*. Although born and bred in Sydney I have been a regular visitor to the Hill End area over a period of 37 year, where I first learnt of my passion for the Australian Bushland and particularly our native wildlife.

I have been particularly fortunate to spend much of my time both as a child and now in my adult years along the Upper Macquarie River, particularly in and around the site where the proposed Orange Pipeline will drain from the river.

There is an abundance of native species in this area whose habitats will be impacted by the pipeline. After reading through the information provided on the proposed project, I believe that not enough research has been undertaken into the effects of the proposed pipeline on the fish, birds and mammals that rely on this river for survival. Without a definite site for the pipeline, proper evaluation of the impacts of this project cannot be undertaken.

Much has been said about the impact of the pipeline on endangered and threatened fish that utilise this significant habitat. The proposed extraction of water from upper Macquarie River at low flows will disrupt fish passage and degrade important habitat values for the endangered Trout Cod and threatened species such as Murray Cod, Silver Perch and Catfish.

Less has been said about the effect that the construction of the pipeline in such steep terrain will have on the landscape directly along the side of the river. Birds such as Rainbow Bee-eaters use the banks of the river for nesting holes and would

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potentially be impacted by the installation of the pipeline. There are many other bird, mammal and reptile species that utilise the banks of the river for food sources and nesting/hollow spaces. The impacts the pipeline will have on the river flow will significantly change the landscape along the river.

There are many water holes downstream of the proposed off-take location that are perfect habitat for Platypus and the waterholes are integral to their survival in dry times.

I believe it extremely important to assess the potential impact of the project on the native species that live along the river and urge your department to consider these concerns and reject the proposal until further environment studies can be conducted.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa Christie', with a stylized, cursive script.

Lisa Christie
Manager
Featherdale Wildlife Park