

PO Box 2570  
Orange NSW  
2800.

Ms. Belinda Scott,  
Planning and Infrastructure  
23-33 Bridge Street  
Sydney, 2001.  
October 15, 2012

Dear Ms. Scott,  
Please find below my submission opposing the proposed Macquarie River to Orange pipeline project, Ref No: 10\_0235.

I wish to oppose the above project on the following grounds:

It is unjustified because it has been designed to supply an artificially high water demand. The proposal is based on a per capita usage of 404 litres of water per day, whereas the average use per person per day is below 200 litres. This is due to a concerted program of restricted water use during the drought. It is irresponsible in the extreme to imply that we should return to "business as usual".

The Upper Macquarie is a significant habitat for the nationally endangered trout cod. Other threatened species found in this river reach include the Murray cod, silver perch and catfish. There have been projects funded by government grants that have involved many hours of voluntary labour for the purpose of improving the riverine environment and populations of these fish. Removal of water from the upper Macquarie when it is low will put further pressure on these fish populations through disrupting fish passage and degrading important habitat values.

The pipeline route will destroy good condition roadside vegetation that provides important wildlife corridors and habitat in an otherwise highly cleared landscape. In addition, the pipeline route will necessitate the removal of a significant amount of grassy box woodland, of which only 6% of original cover remains in existence. In addition, this landscape provides mature trees, many of which provide nesting hollows for superb parrots, which are also listed as being endangered.

The pipeline route with associated access roads and power line will cause disturbance to highly unstable soils structures in very steep terrain. This threatens landslides into the river. The threat to landslide and increased sedimentation in the river has not been adequately assessed.

The pipeline will provide an average of 1616 ML of water per year to Suma Park dam at a cost estimated at \$800 000 dollars per year. On average 1300 ml/year will spill back into the river, leaving Orange's water supply with only 300ML/year extra. For this to be adequately addressed, it would be necessary to raise the dam wall to capture more water currently spilled. For this to happen the wall would have to be strengthened also. Raising and strengthening the dam wall as well as properly implementing other proposed measures, such as increasing storm water harvesting would make the pipeline redundant.

We need a regional solution to water security, not one which just services Orange. The pipeline concentrates resources on one town, where there are regional alternatives which give much better value for money.

Nicholas King

