

Att: belinda .scott@planning.nsw.gov.au

RE: PROPOSED MACQUARIE RIVER PIPELINE REF: 10 0235

Dear Sir/Madam,

OBJECTION TO THE ABOVE PLANNED PROJECT.

I wish to register my opposition to the proposed Macquarie river pipeline. As a resident of Orange, and having grown up near the proposed extraction site at the river, I believe that this project will provide little to no benefit to the region.

My opposition is based primarily on the fact that, having grown up in the Long Point area during the recent drought I witnessed the flow in the river reduced to insignificant levels and even stop completely. How this can be seen as a viable source of water for drought protection, when it does not have a guaranteed flow is beyond me.

The reduction and/or stoppage of flow in the river will also have a large detrimental effect of the local fish and other aquatic species, including but not limited to the nationally endangered Trout Cod, and threatened Murray Cod, Silver Perch, Catfish and platypus. The aquatic ecology section of the environmental assessment has been severely deficient. For example, of the 27+ Km of the river to be impacted, only 500m was visually examined. At approximately 1.85% of the distance, this figure seems laughably insufficient for an effective assessment.

Further, the storage capacity in Suma park Dam is nowhere near enough to justify the pipeline. Current flow projections for the pipeline are approximately 1616 ML/year at a cost of \$800,000/year. However on average 1300 ML/year spills from the Dam and flows back into the Macquarie river to be pumped back to Orange again. Therefore this pipeline will only provide on average and extra 300 ML/year at a cost of \$800,000, surely this money can be better used on a more cost effective project for the region.

The water to be provided by this pipeline is based on an average 'unrestricted' use of 404 litres per person per day. However, as recent domestic use in Orange has been around 225L/p/d, a more realistic water demand target, inclusive of business and industry use would be between 300-350L/p/d. This target is similar to the targets of Goulburn (337L/p/d) and Canberra (302L/p/d) which have on average 30% less rainfall then Orange. This again ties in with the need for a larger storage area for the region's water supply.

As the son of Colin Young, "Elebah" 18.29 Long Point Road, Long Point, I was present at the walkover with [REDACTED] of a proposed access track for the pipeline. The path that [REDACTED] with the intended track moving over near-vertical drops, cutting across erosion gullies and through areas of land slip. Further the tracks that [REDACTED] has proposed all cut across steep gullies, through areas of very unstable ground and in points solid basalt rock. An access track across this ground would be far too expensive to build, let alone maintain, and in some areas it would be impossible. I have [REDACTED] to construct this pipeline and access track effectively and within budget. If I can see that this land is far too difficult to build on without the computer imaging and mapping resources [REDACTED]?

Further evidence that call into question [REDACTED] is the fact that although the environmental assessment has been released, the pipeline route is yet to be confirmed. With 4 different locations still being considered, each with different environmental impacts and costs, a large part of the EA becomes invalid. Why it has been released this early confounds me.

Considering the large amount of funding that is being provided by the federal and state governments (\$38.2 million), surely a regional approach to water supply would be more sensible. With rich deposits of mineral wealth in the region a plan that guarantees the water security of the region would secure further investment throughout the area and not just Orange. This from a Federal and State government level is a more effective use of capital, that will have a greater effect on a larger number of people for the same relative cost.

To conclude, it is my belief that this pipeline will deliver little to no benefit to the region. It has been ill-conceived, poorly planned and the personnel in charge of completing it, from all accounts seem to be largely incompetent. This pipeline will have huge negative effect on local flora and fauna, and will cost an astronomical amount to run once it has been completed. I highly doubt that it can be built to an acceptable standard without running vastly over budget, and therefore will not be constructed soundly, leaving landowners to clean up the eventual failure of the pipe on their land. What will provide the State and Federal governments with a more efficient outcome is a regional approach to water security.

Richard Young