



# MACQUARIE MARSHES ENVIRONMENTAL LANDHOLDERS ASSOCIATION

“Bluelight” Warren NSW 2824

Ph 02 6823 2233 Fax 02 68232364 Mobile 0428 277 637  
Email: [rsmclellan@reachnet.com.au](mailto:rsmclellan@reachnet.com.au)

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15<sup>th</sup> October 2012

Belinda Scott

**Re: Macquarie River to Orange pipeline project / Orange Drought Relief Connection**

The Macquarie Marshes Environmental Landholders Association (MMELA) thank you for this opportunity to comment on these works and would appreciate any further information.

- MMELA objects strongly to the Orange pipeline.
- The Macquarie Marshes are under threat from over allocation within the Macquarie Valley.
- While we are grateful of the Commonwealths purchasing of environmental water, the reliability of all general security water in the Macquarie is only 51%. This means that twice the average annual flow of the river is issued in general security entitlements.
- The simple facts are that the Marshes are struggling with the current upstream extraction and any more extraction would place pressure on the resilience of the Marshes to recover from the next drought and the forecast of climate change predictions.
- MMELA is concerned about the activating of sleeper licences to provide the water to the orange pipeline. If the water was purchased from existing active entitlements we could have a different view on this matter.
- MMELA also disagrees with the proposed figure of daily water usage of Orange residents. As we all live on rural properties and have to provide our own water at our own costs we object to the daily water use (Orange residents) of 404lt per person per day. This seems an unacceptable high usage figure as many other communities pride themselves in the fact they can sustain a strong healthy community well below this figure. We also disagree on the use of the IQQM to assess the impact on the Marshes. It has been shown that IQQM is an inadequate method to assess the changes from increased water extraction.

Yours Faithfully

Shannon McLellan  
MMELA Secretary