

Hi Belinda,

Please find our objection to the orange pipeline.

We own and manage a 5000ha grazing property located in the Macquarie Marshes. Part of our property has been Ramsar listed. We run a beef grazing business on our property that has been run by our family for 78 years. Our family has seen the value of the marshes both environmentally and commercially deteriorate as a result of upstream water extraction. We have seen our community suffer and witness on a daily basis the damage to the Marshes that river regulation has brought.

While we respect the right of Orange residents to have access to water the pipeline project is completely unacceptable.

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.

We are 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.

We also disagree with the preposed figure of daily water usage of Orange residence. As we live on rural a property and have to provide our own water at our own cost. We object to the daily water use (Orange residence) 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.

We trust that you will consider our concerns and have a good look at the many other options available to the Orange residents.

Regards, Garry and Leanne Hall
"The Mole"
Warren, 2824