



# Troy Grant MP

MEMBER FOR DUBBO ELECTORATE

The Hon Brad Hazzard MP  
Minister for Planning and Infrastructure  
Level 33 Governor Macquarie Tower  
1 Farrer Place  
Sydney NSW 2000

Monday 15 October 2012

Dear Minister

I make the following submission in relation to the proposed Macquarie River to Orange Pipeline project. While I appreciate the efforts of Orange City Council in seeking to secure a more reliable water supply for the city of Orange, it would be regrettable were a decision to be made that failed to take full account of the likely impact such a pipeline may have upon other communities that also source their water from the Macquarie River.

As the Member representing the adjacent electorate, I am most familiar with the arguments that have dominated discussions over the construction of the pipeline and am concerned to ensure that other townships and villages are not placed at a disadvantage.

The Dubbo electorate can ill afford to have its future water security compromised by any proposal that results in extractions from the Macquarie River system which exacerbate water supply problems during times of critical shortage. I share the concerns of my colleague, the Member for Bathurst who has expressed similar sentiments in his submission on behalf of the Bathurst electorate.

I do not favour the adoption of a water supply enhancement proposal that facilitates the growth and expansion of the city of Orange at the expense of other communities. The pipeline option should not be considered if construction will lead to the detriment of surrounding districts by stunting or stymieing their potential for growth and expansion.

I consider a more appropriate means of securing Orange's water supply would involve an expansion of the capacity of the dam at Lake Rowlands. This option offers a better long term solution to the existing water security problems confronting the city of Orange.

The current water supply reserves available to Orange City Council are not at critical levels and the urgent need to address the problem that existed during drought conditions has dissipated to some extent.

It would be preferable for the NSW Government to carefully consider whether proceeding with the Macquarie River to Orange Pipeline at this juncture is in the best long term interests of Macquarie River users.

Yours sincerely

Troy Grant MP  
Member for Dubbo



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