

Now platypus we love them. I read this morning with great interest and I know you love these environmental stories, that the environmentalist Ian Kinon has joined a campaign against a forty seven million dollar pipeline in Orange, the Orange City Council wants to build this pipeline from the Macquarie River to secure its water needs. But up there the local environmentalist are saying well this is going to endanger trout cod, quall, black swans and platypus and water rats and water dragons in particular. So all of those things are endangered by a pipeline. How does a pipeline wipe out all of those ...

I thought you were going to tell me it's the river. I, I thought you were going to tell me because they would have surely explained all this, wouldn't they?

No they haven't explained. They just said, they just said you stick a pipe sucking, well what are they all going to be sucked into the pipe?

Must be.

Or just get a big tea drainer or something, you know a strainer. Yeah.

Someone that knows.

Fix that, any other problems?

Somebody who knows more about it than I do, Nick Redman is a spokesman for the Orange City Council, Nick thanks for staying up for us.

Yeah no problem.

How come all of these, these river creatures are going to be destroyed by your pipeline?

Well I guess the claim is from some of the environmental groups up here that the impact on the river will be so great these species will be impacted on I guess but ...

But how, what the, they get sucked into the pipe or suddenly there's no water and the poor swans try and take a lift somewhere else, what happens?

I think the view they have is that they think our plan is to suck the river dry. What ...

Why would you want to do that?

Well good point. What we're actually talking about is we're talking about half a percent of the flows in the Macquarie River so we're talking about a pretty tiny amount. And when, the days when the pumps actually running the, the river will only drop by between one and six millimeters, so ...

One and six millimeters. So you've got a black swan paddling away in the river at the Macquarie and suddenly it drops two millimeters and it dies, is that what these people really want us to believe?

Well I can't put words in their mouths, I guess ...

That's what they're saying you're endangering the black swans and you say alright it's only going to drop, one, two, three, four, five millimeters what do they say when you tell them that Nick?

They dispute our figures obviously that's the most, the biggest reaction I get is ??? say that we're wrong.

But look at the other side now right, on the other hand if you had this pipe in, as I understand if you had this going two years ago your, Orange would not have had to have gone through some of the terrible water restrictions during the drought?

Yeah a couple of years ago we got down to twenty-three percent, probably a lot of people would remember Goulburn getting in really bad shape.

I visited there, when that was that bad.

Yeah they actually built a pipeline as well and I was down there a couple of week ago and there's a lot of confidence in that town, just with the community and the investment ??? Council down there. So we didn't quite get to Goulburn's levels but we got to twenty-three percent.

Well that's really low enough to make you scared.

Oh it was, we were within sort of a year or so of running out completely and we were within, within a month of actually telling some businesses they can no longer operate. So ...

Alright so you're down to twenty-three percent, now with the pipe what would you have been?

We would have been at sixty percent at that point.

Alright so ...

Seems to make a hell of a lot of sense to me.

Yeah so on one hand you've got swans paddling in water about two millimeters shallower and on the other hand you've got the citizens of Orange able to go about their business and have water and not close down, it's a no brainer, isn't it?

Well we think so. We've still got to make the case to the State Government, we've got to get an environmental assessment to the State Government.

Oh here we go again.

But we think, we think the case is good but ...

How long's the pipe?

Thirty-seven kilometers.

Right oh, so can, swans can fly can't they?

I think they can yes.

So they'd be able to fly across to the Burrandong Dam and live there if?

Yeah well Burrandong Dam ...

If things were looking good, wouldn't they be able to Andrew?

I would have thought so. What's wrong with dam water Nick?

Well we're not anticipating moving any swans or any, any other ...

Mass migration, no you're not going to do it, they'll do it themselves, they'll find the water. Nick I've got to say you're not thinking laterally here mate. Because when I lived in Hong Kong that's how they overcame the opposition to making a new airport at ???? on this island. People said there was a rare Romus Tree Frog, and they said, 'Oh really'. So they got people to pick up every single frog and move it to somewhere else. I reckon you ought to offer that with these swans.

A bit of a migration policy, you think.

Yeah just say look out of the kindness of our heart we'll move them from the river to the dam if they're in any trouble. Argument over.

Yeah well we'll, that's one method we could ...

You can have that advice for free. Absolutely for free, tell them Andrew Bolt told. Thanks Nick good on you mate.

No, no don't do that. Don't do that.

Alright thanks