



**environmentally concerned citizens of orange**

PO Box 1582 Orange NSW 2800

[ecco.orange@gmail.com](mailto:ecco.orange@gmail.com)

[www.eccoorange.org.au](http://www.eccoorange.org.au)

**Submission: Cadia East Modification 6-Processing Rate Increase  
From: Environmentally Concerned Citizens of Orange (ECCO).**

Before presenting our case, ECCO wishes to object to the extremely short period of time allowed for public display of this submission. (only two weeks). This does not give sufficient time for research and consultation on this very important issue.

Environmentally Concerned citizens of Orange is a local community group dedicated to sustainable environmental solutions and practices. As such, ECCO wishes to oppose Cadia Mine's application to increase its processing rate from 27mta to 32 mta, due to the increased use of water required for such an increase. For an increase of 5mta per annum, Cadia has assessed that an increase of water usage of 18.5% will be required, which they assure us can be met through existing storage and water sharing agreements. ECCO is concerned that conditions could occur in the future where this may not be the case.

In its submission, Cadia provides assurances that improved water storage allows for less reliance on other water sources such as the Belabula River and its tributaries. However, should we have a drought such as that which occurred in 2009, increased pressure for water could see Cadia Mines once again seeking increased water beyond their current storage capacity, and turning to the Belabula, which would already be stressed at the time, for increased supply.

The Cadia Valley Mines are just one of the enterprises that operate along the Belabula River and depend upon its flow for successful operation. Also included in the demand is that of environmental flow, which must be maintained for river health and for the important wetlands it helps to sustain. The river is subject to the Lachlan Valley Water Sharing Plan and the Belabula River Water Sharing Plan. Extra demand in times of drought has the potential to disrupt these plans and place downstream irrigation and environmental flows in jeopardy.

There has not been a comprehensive regional water study done which deals with the impact that Cadia Mines' considerable extraction of water has had on the water resources of this region. It is therefore inappropriate in the absence of such a study to introduce in the form of a significant additional demand for water a variable the consequences of which are yet to be accurately assessed.

ECCO would like to thank the Department of Planning for this opportunity to lodge a submission on behalf of the environment.

Yours sincerely  
Nick King President of ECCO