

TO THE HONOURABLE ~~THE SPEAKER~~ AND MEMBERS OF  
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

This petition from Orange Ratepayers' Association draws to the attention of the House of Representatives the environmentally damaging and financially unviable proposed Macquarie River to Orange Pipeline. The Environmental Assessment stated approximately 80% of the water pumped would be returned to the Macquarie Catchment via spills from storage. The Project would impose major cost increases for the rate payers of Orange. Pumping water from Cobbs Hut Hole will have a severe impact on the aquatic life including the endangered Trout Cod and the threatened Murray Cod. The Project would have unacceptable impacts on threatened ecological communities and threatened species (Grassy Woodland Gums). The Minister for SEWPaC has deemed that this proposal be a Controlled Action because of its impact on listed threatened species and communities under the EPBC Act.

**The proposal is currently before the NSW Planning Assessment Commission for a decision. We therefore ask the House to do all in its power to encourage the Minister for SEWPaC to use his discretionary power to overturn the NSW Planning Assessment Commission's decision should the Planning Assessment Commission approve the Macquarie River pipeline.**