

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

This petition from **Friends of the Macquarie River** draws to the attention of the House of Representatives the environmentally damaging proposal to pump water from Cobbs Hut Hole, a small waterhole in the unregulated section of the Upper Macquarie River above Burrendong Dam for a permanent water supply for Orange City Council. It is unacceptable that the pump will continue to extract water over long periods, even though storage levels in Burrendong Dam may be critically low and environmental water allocations to the Ramsar listed Macquarie Marshes might be restricted. Pumping water from this small waterhole will have a severe impact on native fish including the endangered Trout Cod and the threatened Murray Cod **in this environmentally sensitive pristine section of the Macquarie River**. 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.