

18 November 2022

Dear Sir/ Madam,

The health of our river systems must be addressed more specifically.

Environmental flows during times of drought must be provided so that local extinctions do not occur.

Provision for ensuring environmental flows must be implemented, since historically there has been little or no interest from councils regarding the health of ecosystems and wildlife. Resources must be allocated to report on the ongoing health of all creeks and rivers. Systems of accountability must be instigated, reported, and actioned.

I live along Summer Hill Creek below Suma Park Dam, Orange, where environmental flows during the drought of 2019 were not supplied. The creek ran dry, leaving vulnerable aquatic life including platypus without access to water. There needs to be monitoring and provision of water made for the sake of the environment. There will be local extinctions otherwise.

Should Orange City Council be granted more means to extract water with the proposed East Orange Wetlands, together with proposed public water features, even less water will reach our creek system during drought times. This will guarantee that, at times, no water downstream of The Third Crossing along Ophir Road, Summer Hill Creek, Orange. Environmental devastation will ensue.

I sincerely hope that managing the appropriate and adequate allocation of water for the environment is prioritised. It must be independently monitored, reported, and provided. Due process for this must be put in place.

Sincerely,

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