

## \$261 million plan dam marvellous for Orange

BY BEVAN SHIELDS

30 Oct, 2009 06:47 AM

ORANGE is the big winner in a \$261 million plan to build a dam and cover the landscape with a pipeline network large enough to stretch twice the distance between Sydney and Orange.

The ambitious proposal, described as the Central West's version of the Snowy Mountains Scheme, was released in Orange yesterday after being unanimously endorsed by the CENTROC group of councils.

The plan centres around the construction of a \$150 million dam wall on Lake Rowlands near Blayney nearly three kilometres downstream from the existing one.

The wall will boost the capacity of Lake Rowlands from 4500 mega litres to 26,310.

Water will then be pumped through over 50 kilometres of pipeline snaking its way from Lake Rowlands to Millthorpe and then Millthorpe to Orange.

Should the plan attract government funding water could be flowing from Lake Rowlands to Orange and Cadia Valley Operations within a decade.

In the meantime Orange City Council will investigate building a \$25 million pipeline to harvest water from the Macquarie River downstream of Bathurst.

A two way pipeline between Orange and Molong worth \$16 million is also on the agenda.

"This will all happen, I've no doubt it will happen and I personally think Lake Rowlands will be online in five years time, not 10," Mayor John Davis declared yesterday.

"As for the Macquarie River link, that should happen right now, right this minute, it is going to be one of our number one priorities."

Over a dozen other projects have been recommended for towns and cities stretching between Oberon in the east to Condobolin and Lake Cargelligo in the west.

The projects had to pass an extensive assessment process to ensure they're financially and economically feasible as well as practical politically.

The general manager of Central Tablelands Water, the body responsible for Lake Rowlands, said he felt validated by the decision to proceed with the Lake Rowlands expansion, contingent on funding.

"We've been talking about this and pushing this for years and years, you can't rate that feeling of validation too highly," Tony Perry said yesterday.

"The next step now is to approach the state and federal governments to secure the funding.

"I don't know how much cash the State Government really has but the Federal Government has got a stack of infrastructure money ready to go for things exactly like this."

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"The plan centres around the construction of a \$150 million dam wall on Lake Rowlands near Blayney " Yesterday it was only \$100m so who is pocketing the other \$50m today?

Posted by **mareek**, 30/10/2009 8:00:09 AM, on Central Western Daily

Flooding valuable farmland in a neighbouring shire to quench Cadia's and Orange's insatiable thirst, and at such enormous cost - what a disgrace. What arrogance.

Posted by **Disgusted**, 30/10/2009 1:23:00 PM, on Central Western Daily

Great news. Sooner the better though.

Posted by **Jayson Thornton**, 31/10/2009 6:17:32 AM, on Central Western Daily

This dam might be marvelous for orange but what about all the towns that are now getting water from lake rowlands how long before we are on restrictons like you have been for years.

Posted by **steve**, 1/11/2009 8:24:21 PM, on Central Western Daily

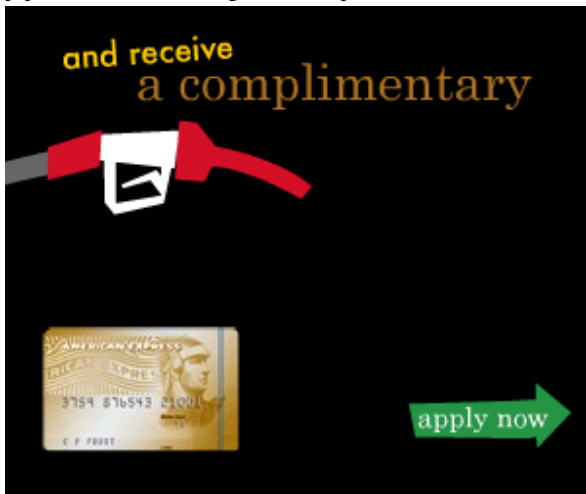
Flooding in Cudal! - let's turn it into a dam. No-one will miss that squalid little petrol stop and a few acres of scabby farmland and a few mangy sheep. I want to wash my car and fill my pool. More dams the merrier. Let's get Orange back on track. Come on OCC!

Posted by **Jilly**, 2/11/2009 5:49:45 AM, on Central Western Daily

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Mayor John Davis is confident water will be flowing to Orange and Cadia Valley Operations within five years via a multi-million dollar pipeline network coming from an expanded Lake Rowlands, near Carcoar.



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