

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Submission for [REDACTED] Far North Coast Regional Water Strategy
Attachments: [REDACTED]re Far North Coast Regional Water Strategy; [REDACTED] Far North Coast Regional Water Strategy.tr5

Hi Team

This is a submission received by [REDACTED] Needs to go to Regional Water Strategy Team - No action from us

Regards

[REDACTED]
|

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Sent: [REDACTED]
Subject: [REDACTED] re Far North Coast Regional Water Strategy
Attachments: 5.pdf (414 KB);



Your details

Your enquiry

Title	[REDACTED]
First name	[REDACTED]
Last name	[REDACTED]
Phone	[REDACTED]
Email	[REDACTED]
State	New South Wales
Postcode	[REDACTED]
Subject	Far North Coast Regional Water Strategy
Type of enquiry	Comment
Message	I have attached my submission to the Far North Coast Regional Water Strategy
I would like a response	Yes

Far North Coast Regional Water Strategy Attachment

Why the Richmond/Wilson still gets a D rating on river health:-

1. DPIE has no Coastal Stake Holder Advisory Panels; they do not have field staff to report what is happening with non urban use.
To get a more accurate assessment of both what is happening and what should happen in catchment management they need both now.
2. There is very little if any interaction between the various water authorities i.e. between DPIE, Water NSW and NRAR.
This gives rise to poor catchment management by not allowing problems to be fixed. It gives the community the impression that while this division remains problems are “buck passed” from one water department to another. Meanwhile the health of the river suffers.
3. Hi Flow licences have been asked for by non urban users since the first WSP under the Water Act (2000) Rous Water was granted an urban hi flow licence (not below 90 percentile flow). A couple of non urban hi flows were granted irrespective of not being allowed under the current WSP so it would be assumed that DPIE will now grant some hi flow extraction to put their house in order.
DPIE has not allowed hi flow conversions storage even though it is aware that most non urban extraction (less than 3% of total flow) occurs in the 95 percentile flows.
There has been a total embargo on any new non urban extraction for over 20 years.
4. The review of harvestable right percentage has happened before – at least twice with DPIE still not allowing above 10% on coastal dams. Ridiculous as they are short, steep catchments subject to high intensity rainfall e.g. cyclones and east coast lows. DPIE refers to dewatering of the catchment but won't allow any rewatering of the catchment. Allowing harvest right dams on streams above 2nd order won't change a thing except to legalise harvest right dams built on the flood plain – (3rd order and above).

DPIE has not looked at environmental benefits of more harvestable right dams – wild life habitat, bird life, fish habitat, acid soil reduction, water seepage to the ground water. Maybe DPIE thinks the water stored is free to the land holder – the land holder has to provide ground for storage, money for maintenance of by wash and walls, pay council and LLS rates on land under water.

There is no policy for farm dams e.g. trading rules, cease to pump – no pricing separate to stream water. There is no separate metering policy for farm dams. Again DPIE has constrained farm dams as an alternative to low flow extraction and helping to both drought proof and fire proof farms.

5. The Water Act 2000 was set up mainly to encourage environmental benefits. DPIE has not allowed this to happen. Water user groups have asked for all the above for nearly 20 years.
6. The options for the North Coast Water Strategy look good but lack any detail – any change will have an effect if it is mutually beneficial to both the non urban water use and the environment then it will work unlike it is presently.
7. In summary DPIE by doing nothing or continuing to do the same as it has for the last 20 years can only expect the results to be the same for the next 20 years.