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Sent: [REDACTED]
To: DPIE W Regional Water Strategies Mailbox
Subject: Your submission for North Coast Regional Water Strategy

1. Information on confidentiality and privacy

I give my permission for my submission to be publicly available on the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment website.: Yes

I would like my personal details to be kept confidential.: No

2. Your details

Email address: [REDACTED]
Name: [REDACTED]
Address: [REDACTED]
Contact phone number: [REDACTED]
Do you identify as an Aboriginal person?: No

Are you an individual or representing an organisation?: Organisation

3. Organisation or business details

Who do you represent?: Government

If you selected Government, please clarify.: Local

If you selected Peak representative organisation, please clarify.:

4. Draft Regional Water Strategy objectives and vision

Do you support this vision for the North Coast Regional Water Strategy? : Yes

If no, please outline your vision for the long term management of water resources in this region?:

5. Information and modelling used to develop the North Coast Regional Water Strategy

Do you have any comments about the information used to develop this strategy?: In particular the broadened scope of climate data analysis should prove helpful to provide a more accurate model to forward plan.

Please provide details if there is additional information you think we should consider?:

6. Stochastic modelling method

Do you have any comments about the modelling method used to develop this strategy?: I would love to learn more about the modelling method and how it could be applied to smaller areas, as well as how it compares to current modelling methods used. It would be good to look at past events and determine if this modelling method would have provided more appropriate predictions.

Is there any additional information that you believe could help us assess the benefits and disadvantages of draft options?: None

7. Opportunities and challenges for water management in the North Coast region

Do you have any comments on the opportunities, risks and challenges identified?: I think it is great to start including Aboriginal significance of water and sources, as well as looking at what impacts previous methods of water sourcing have had on the ecosystem, habitats and environment that we may not have understood prior to this. Data taking and further innovation in efficient water use and sourcing would be hugely beneficial to the North Coast.

Are there any additional opportunities, risks and challenges that we should consider and what options could address these?: I think the most important thing to consider is that the past situation may be the community engagement and consultation piece. Whether issues were raised previously by the community or Aboriginal communities that were not considered, did not result in an outcome, or the issues were not identified, there are bound to be some sore points within the community, even for very aged or well established limits or processes, and these need to be considered in current engagement or suggestions

8. Draft North Coast Regional Water Strategy options

Which five (5) options do you think are most important?: 1. Indirect potable reuse of purified recycled water 2. Establish sustainable extraction limits for North Coast surface water and groundwater sources 3. Bringing back riverine and estuarine habitats and threatened species 4. Portable desalination 5. Improved data collection on water use and patterns

Please comment on why you think these options are most important?: These are the most important as they are currently being considered by our Council as options and/or are most relevant to our LGA, so we would love to see them rolled out as suggestions in this strategy. Further, it raises potential for our Council to assist in trialing or piloting these programs, given we are both working on common solutions, to be able to help each other.

Which five (5) options do you think are least important? (If any): 1. Protecting coastal groundwater resources for town water supplies and rural water users 2. Characterising coastal groundwater resources 3. Active and effective water markets 4. New industry and rural licence category within major council storages 5. Repurpose existing assets to provide emergency storage for local industries

Please comment on why you think these options are least important?: There are a number of other options which are not considered important for our Council and LGA, these have not been included in this measure, so as to not give inaccurate data. Groundwater options are important, however, their relevance is limited in our LGA due to the fact we do not use groundwater as a source. This is not to say that this will not be an option in a future, but thus far this has not warranted investigation. Active and effective water markets are also less important given the lack of competition or varied demand in the area.

Do you have any comments on the draft options?:

9. Option combinations

Do you have any thoughts on how the options could be combined with other options?:

Are there additional options that we should consider?:

10. Other comments

Do you have any other comments about the North Coast Regional Water Strategy?: There are a number of these which have been highlighted as potential paths forward in terms of gaining water security in the future (beyond 2050). We also have a recycled water RO plant which is essentially set up as a demonstration plant, so would be happy to work with NSW Government in trialing or expanding this program.

11. Referral

How did you hear about the public exhibition of this strategy?: Direct email

12. Additional information

Upload supporting documents: No file uploaded