

Comments and Response to Draft Gwydir Regional Water Strategy

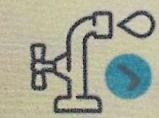
It needs to be addressed that we could better use the water that is overflowing from the wetlands and inundating 1,000s of ha of crops and farming country in the Lower Gwydir and Gingham. Refer to shaded pink area on attached map. This is mainly happening in the wet. All the water sharing plans have been set up for a dry time.

Investigating the T3 flows – The Lower Gwydir and Gingham are closed systems and the water could be better purposed being diverted into the Mehi and Carole systems which have connectivity to the Barwon River and The Murray Darling Systems.

As farmers we wish to protect our assets – we were forced to farm our land to eradicate lippia (a very invasive weed introduced by the DPI to stabilize irrigation banks). With the water taken from our country with the building of Copeton Dam and the over allocation of water licenses our country no longer grew the wetland species and became totally covered in lippia. As graziers we lost all productivity but we found farming the country controlled the lippia and once again made our land productive and sustainable. Now with new rules and laws we find our country inundated with water – we do not object to having a great wetland area in National Parks however we do object to farming country many kms away being totally inundated with water – this water is being unproductive and could easily be diverted into the Mehi at the Tareelaroi Weir. Most of the problem is too much T3 water and no one taking into account the water that falls out of the sky locally not being factored into the equation.

Upgrades to the Tareelaroi Weir need to be investigated so when Copeton Dam has to release water when it is full it can be better shared into the Mehi and Carole.





Reducing water service risks and improving water supply resilience for the region's towns and villages

OVERFLOW OF WATER ON FARMING COUNTRY - 20-30 km out from NATIONAL PARKS.



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