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Submission on the Draft North Coast Regional Water Strategy.

I wish to state my opposition to a number of options proposed in the Draft North Coast Regional Water Strategy.

1 Option 1. Expand the Clarence Coffs Harbour Regional Water Supply Scheme.

I am opposed to this option. Reduction of flows in the Nymboida River, and downstream in the Clarence River, in order to improve supplies in the Bellinger and Nambucca involves inter-catchment diversion of water which is ecologically unsustainable.

2 Option 4. Augmenting Shannon Creek Dam.

I am opposed to this option. Pumping from the Nymboida River is restricted in times of heavy rainfall. Increased pumping in drying times to fill a larger area would further stress the Nymboida River and cause further destruction of the already fragile native vegetation and fauna in the area.

3 Inland Diversion Options. I, along with the very strong local opposition, oppose these proposals. Diversions from the upper reaches of the Clarence River, and the Macleay River will impact these river systems seriously, particularly in conjunction with changing climate. Such support for areas where too much water extraction from rivers in their own catchments has occurred, is not only ecologically unsustainable, but is extreme folly.

4 I also oppose proposals to supply water for rural industries, such as blueberries, where rapid and largely unregulated expansion requires water use from very limited supplies. Additionally such water industries' use of damaging pesticides, and their further clearing of valuable and scarce native vegetation are seriously detrimental to the environment.

Yours Faithfully,

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