

[REDACTED]

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From: regionalwater.strategies@dpi.nsw.gov.au  
Sent: [REDACTED]  
To: DPIE W Regional Water Strategies Mailbox  
Subject: Your submission for Gwydir 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.: Yes

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?: Individual

3. Organisation or business details

Who do you represent?:  
If you selected Government, please clarify.:

4. Draft Regional Water Strategy objectives and vision

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

If no, please outline your vision for the long term management of water resources in this region?: I do support this vision but not by altering the flow of water and destroying the environment, habitat & homes of the animals, indigenous people & residents that reside in the Gwydir Region.

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

Do you have any comments about the information used to develop this strategy?: We have not ben included in any of the community engagement listed above. We have heard through other members in our community that our property is in the heart of this project & we have not been consulted at all. Our local member also has not been advised of the proposed strategy. This seems very unusual & suspicious.

Please provide details if there is additional information you think we should consider?: The members of our local government, residents of our local towns, farmers, graziers and indigenous people need to be given all information relating to the proposed water strategy. This will be a democratic process that will not be dictated by office bearers and rather by people that have a experienced and broad knowledge of our river system and on our land.

6. Stochastic modelling method

Do you have any comments about the modelling method used to develop this strategy?:	It is broad and lacks detail. A lot more information will need to be provided to all members of the community. You are going to have to break down your modelling method a lot more than one sentence of information.
Is there any additional information that you believe could help us assess the benefits and disadvantages of draft options?:	Meetings with community members. Personal letters with landholders & residents. Clear & thorough information. Land targeted for this proposal.
7. Opportunities and challenges for water management in the Gwydir region	
Do you have any comments on the opportunities, risks and challenges identified?:	This opportunity appears to be for those only downstream. We will not support a strategy that proposes to impact on a huge area of the environment, sacred land & farming country to ensure the growing population downstream has enough water for their households or irrigators to harvest. I grew up in an aboriginal community & I don't know any member of any aboriginal tribe that would support such a strategy.  Build dams closer to Moree for residential use. You built one for water skiing so surely you could do the same for water consumption. Moree needs to understand water restrictions & the impact it has on declining aquifer levels. The residents have never had a limit on their water usage even throughout the worst drought in 100 years. There were green gardens, golf courses & parks everywhere. Meanwhile every other town in regional NSW were placed water restrictions. Reduce water harvesting of the Gwydir to ensure it reaches the wetlands. The aboriginals would never support destroying land & its habitat to ensure water reached wetlands downstream. This is a political decision and do not insult us or our indigenous people by claiming they want or support this proposal.
Are there any additional opportunities, risks and challenges that we should consider and what options could address these?:	Build dams closer to Moree for residential use. You built one for water skiing so surely you could do the same for water consumption. Moree needs to understand water restrictions & the impact it has on declining aquifer levels. The residents have never had a limit on their water usage even throughout the worst drought in 100 years. There were green gardens, golf courses & parks everywhere. Meanwhile every other town in regional NSW were placed water restrictions. Reduce water harvesting of the Gwydir to ensure it reaches the wetlands. The aboriginals would never support destroying land & its habitat to ensure water reached wetlands downstream. This is a political decision and do not insult us or our indigenous people by claiming they want or support this proposal.
8. Draft Gwydir Regional Water Strategy options	
Which five (5) options do you think are most important?:	1. New Lower Gravesend Dam 2. Managed aquifer recharge investigation 3. Water efficiency projects 4. Review urban water restriction policy 5. Secure flows for water- dependent cultural sites
Please comment on why you think these options are most important? :	1. I am a landholder where the proposed dam will be built. 2. Moree needs to research its aquifer activity & respond accordingly. 3. Enforce water efficient projects on the township. 4. Moree doesn't have a water restriction policy! Try it first & observe the difference it could make to the water availability & aquifer levels. 5. Be genuine about the cultural sites & not just downstream. Learn the history of the Gravesend/Warialda/Bingara area & respect our land and our people....aboriginal & white people.
Which five (5) options do you think are least important? (If any):	1. Cold Water pollution migration measures 2. Diversion screens to prevent fish extraction at pump off takes.
Please comment on why you think these options are least important? :	I think most of them are important except the two options listed above. I think these are the least of our worries given the current concerns & the negative impact this could have on our native animals that inhabit the land to be flooded.
Do you have any comments on the draft options?:	I do not support the Gravesend Dam. I would have to receive further information on the weir option to make an educated comment. And I support the reuse, recycle & stormwater project option.
9. Option combinations	
Do you have any thoughts on how the options could be combined with other options?:	Not at this stage but we will be doing our own research and consider other options.
Are there additional options that we should consider?:	Increase Moree's water efficiency. Consider better aquifer conservation.
10. Other comments	

Do you have any other comments  
about the Gwydir Regional Water Not at this stage.  
Strategy?:

11. Referral

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