

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Your submission for Far 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.:

I would like my personal details to be kept confidential.: Yes

2. Your details

Email address: [REDACTED]

Name: Jill Garsden

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.:

If you selected Peak representative organisation, please clarify.:

4. Draft Regional Water Strategy objectives and vision

Do you support this vision for the Far 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 Far North Coast Regional Water Strategy

Do you have any comments about the information used to develop this strategy?: Given the current information that we are in a La Nina, which is supposed to deliver wetter-than-average conditions, and given the fact that our local rainfall throughout the spring season just finished has been well below average, I would treat information about 'key drivers of wet and dry periods' with considerable caution!

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?: Unable to comment due to lack of familiarity with processes used

Is there any additional information that you believe could help us assess the benefits and disadvantages of draft options?:

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

Do you have any comments on the opportunities, risks and challenges identified?: With regard to management and use of water in the region, there is no mention above of the challenges posed by the common use of water restrictions during dry periods. We need a way of fostering responsibility for how limited supplies are used without denying the population the right to choose exactly how to use the amount of water they are justly entitled to on a mains supply.....eg. some households want water for swimming pools, others for frequent showering and bathing, others for growing their own food organically.

Are there any additional opportunities, risks and challenges that we should consider and what options could address these?: I would like to see a halt, or at least far more rigorous controls, on the harvesting of spring water/ water mining for sale in plastic bottles.

8. Draft Far North Coast Regional Water Strategy options

Which five (5) options do you think are most important?: 1. Establish sustainable extraction limits for Far North Coast surface water and groundwater sources; 2. Regional Demand Management Program; 3. Remove impediments of water use reuse projects; 4. Improve stormwater management; 5. Direct potable reuse of purified recycle water

Please comment on why you think these options are most important? : Unless sustainable extraction limits are established (and enforced) people will always abuse water supplies. So much water is wasted in our culture; regional demand management, including a complete re-think on how to support households in reducing their demand, is vital. Water must be re-used where possible so obviously impediments to that must be removed. Our rainfall increasingly comes from isolated scattered storms and every opportunity to harvest stormwater in all locations must be seized. The means and attitudes towards achieving potable reuse of recycled water need to be promoted in order to achieve maximum water efficiency.

Which five (5) options do you think are least important? (If any): 1. Increased harvestable rights; 2. New Dunoan Dam on Rocky Creek; 3. Interconnection of Rous County Council and Tweed Shire Council bulk water supplies; 3. Connect the regional water system to the South East Queensland water grid; 4. Active and effective water markets; 5. Regional desalination

Please comment on why you think these options are least important? : There's a real danger in increased harvestable rights - the draining of the Murrumbidgee-Darling system by irrigators of non-essential and unsuitable crops being a case in point. The Dunoan Dam proposal is folly for several reasons including the increasing variability in rainfall events meaning that two dams on one creek is effectively putting all eggs in one basket. Connection of regional water system to other supplies and grids doesn't address the issues that need to be faced; it merely shifts responsibility. Desalination plants are potentially damaging to already fragile coastal environments and tend to foster more wanton use of water rather than limit demand.

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?: I think there needs to be a rigorous cost-benefit investigation and assessment with regard to retrofitting established urban areas with water saving devices (particularly more water efficient toilets and appliances) and large household water tanks and associated plumbing to reduce the demand on regional supplies.

10. Other comments

Do you have any other comments: It needs to include a massive public education campaign, as there are still many people in the community who perceive unlimited water use as a right and who don't comprehend why they should take responsibility for limiting their demand. Such people clamour for a new dam on the basis that they think it will overcome the need

about the Far North Coast
Regional Water Strategy?:

for water restrictions and the like, not paying any attention to the issues involved in building a dam. Water demand and supply choices should not be made on the basis of selfish ignorance!

11. Referral

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

Direct email , Social media , Communication from peak body , Other