

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Your submission for Border Rivers 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: Southern Downs Regional Council
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 Border Rivers 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 Border Rivers Regional Water Strategy

Do you have any comments about the information used to develop this strategy?:

As a Local Government region within the Border Rivers area, but in Qld, Southern Downs Regional Council would like to be included in consultation/community engagement

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?:

Agree with using stochastic modelling.

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 Border Rivers region

Do you have any comments on the opportunities, risks and challenges identified?:

Are there any additional opportunities, risks and challenges that we should consider and what options could address these?:

Council notes that the Granite Belt region of our local government area has streams which flow across the border and through to NSW. It is noted that Emu Swamp Dam, on the Severn River, is not noted in the draft strategy, and suggest this project may have some impact on flows through to NSW. The project has not commenced construction and is still progressing through the pre-construction and viability stages, with more expected to be known on construction timing in mid 2021.

8. Draft Border Rivers Regional Water Strategy options

Which five (5) options do you think are most important?:

1. Govt commitment 1. Final business case for building a new dam on Mole River. 2. Option 40. Support reforms to simplify and strengthen cross border groundwater management. 3. Option 7. Intra and inter regional connections project investigation. 4. Option 5. Improve cross-border management of flows at major breakout points. 5. Option 8. Inland diversions from the east

Please comment on why you think these options are most important? :

1. Council is very interested in this project and has been in discussions with our counterparts in Tenterfield Shire Council regarding the project. We note there have been documents showing a stage of this project with a pipeline to Emu Swamp Dam, however this was not evident in the options document. Council strongly supports this project and encourages cross border relations to look at options of supplying water into Qld for the purpose of drinking water, to Storm King Dam in Stanthorpe, currently Council's only source of drinking water supply for this area. Further conversations are also set to occur between a Water Alliance formed by regional Council's in South-West Qld, who have a further interest in the Mole River project as well as

any other cross-border water options. 2. Council is supportive of any reforms to simplify groundwater use as well as cross-border relations. Council would also like to see an option to simplify cross-border relations in regards to any water sources, not just specific to groundwater or overland flows. In regards to groundwater in the Granite Belt, Council acknowledges there has been limited success in drawing water from groundwater supplies in this area with rates typically low at around 3 litres/second. This option may be more relevant to Local Governments in Qld further west, however Council still supports the intention of the option. continued below.....

Which five (5) options do you think are least important? (If any):

No comments here

Please comment on why you think these options are least important? :

No comments here

Do you have any comments on the draft options?:

cont... from above. 3. "Investigation of potential additional intra-regional pipeline connections in the east and north-east, and inter-regional pipeline connections such as to Stanthorpe in Queensland. This option could also consider a pipeline from the Great Artesian Basin to the east of the catchment." The description is noted and Council assumes this is to assist in cross border water supply to Stanthorpe rather than from Stanthorpe, given the current drought situation and water security issues in Stanthorpe. Council is unsure of the statement around the GAB to the east of the catchment, however is willing to offer discussions and sharing of information from our own investigations in the Granite Belt area in the search for water in this region. Again, any water from the GAB that NSW is able to find within a suitable distance from Stanthorpe would also be of interest to Council, and we would welcome cross-border discussions on this. Council is of the strong opinion that Local Government and State Government borders should not determine or limit water availability for communities. 4. Council supports the intent of improvements to the monitoring and management of cross-border flows between Qld and NSW. 5. Council notes the commentary around this option, however should this be re-instigated would be interested and supportive of any cross-border options. This would appear to be a long-term option, with mention of the Bradfield scheme and other diversion schemes which are yet to be progressed

9. Option combinations

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

Nil

Are there additional options that we should consider?:

Nil

10. Other comments

Do you have any other comments about the Border Rivers Regional Water Strategy?:

Southern Downs Regional Council thanks NSW Government for the opportunity to review the draft and provide a submission. Council is keen to collaborate on this plan and would welcome further discussions regarding the plan and any future proposals. Council recognises that NSW has a cross border commissioner but Qld does not, however Council officers are available for discussions on cross border water. Council has good relationships with relevant water staff in the State Government and are prepared to host and facilitate any meetings required around water matters. Should you require further discussions with Council, please contact [REDACTED] Council would like to

ensure you are aware of the following report; https://www.rda-ddsw.org.au/fileadmin/user_upload/Regional_Water_Analysis_Project.pdf

11. Referral

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

Other