

[REDACTED]

Regional Water Strategies  
Department of Planning Industry & Environment  
Locked Bag 5022  
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

Dear Sir

**Re: Submission to Draft Border Rivers Regional Water Strategy**

Thank you for the opportunity for Council to make a submission to the draft Border Rivers Regional Water Strategy.

Option 8 in the draft strategy's long list of options is "Inland diversions from the east". Option 8 specifically mentions the Bradfield and Coffey schemes which propose diversion from the Clarence catchment. Clarence Valley Council contains most of the Clarence River catchment, which is the largest coastal river in NSW, within its area.

Council has considered the issue of diversion on numerous occasions, and its position has consistently been to oppose any diversion. Council's opposition is best summarised in Resolution 6a.20.036 from its meeting of 22 September 2020:

*That Council reiterate its policy position of opposition to any proposal that would result in any diversion of water from Clarence catchments, as previously resolved by Council resolutions 12.005/06, 05.006/07, 10.017/10 and 15.081/16.*

The "considerations" section regarding Option 8 notes that:

*Previous investigations into major water diversion schemes have found these to be technically, economically or environmentally unfeasible.*

Given previous investigations have shown diversion as being unfeasible, Council questions why Option 8 has been included in the draft strategy? Any diversion of the Clarence is considered to adversely impact both the local economy (in particular the fishing industry), and also the natural environment. Diversion of the Clarence would reduce the well documented benefits of flood flows, which include:

- Increased soil fertility,
- Flushing and spreading of nutrients,
- Groundwater recharge, and

- Maintaining the natural ecological cycle.

Council reiterates its position that any proposal to divert the Clarence cannot be justified from an economic, environmental or social perspective, and considers this option should be removed from the final Border Rivers Regional Water Strategy.

If you require further information please contact [REDACTED]  
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Yours faithfully  
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