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Sent: [REDACTED]
To: DPIE W Regional Water Strategies Mailbox
Subject: Your submission for 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.: Yes

I would like my personal details to be kept confidential.: No

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.:

If you selected Peak representative organisation, please clarify.:

4. Draft Regional Water Strategy objectives and vision

Do you support this vision for the North Coast Regional Water Strategy? : No

If no, please outline your vision for the long term management of water resources in this region?: Mostly I support, but I note environment is last where this should be first and the other needs coming under as an umbrella of other considerations.

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

Do you have any comments about the information used to develop this strategy?: Yes. How do we know the issues raised by community at the meetings is being used? There was much local information given at the Grafton meeting for example that presenters were unaware of. How do we know that Aboriginal bodies were well represented and issues raised have been incorporated? How is the growth of elite horticulture crops (blueberries, macadamia nuts) that have substantially expanded in recent years being monitored and there future use of water taken into account? Is the catchment areas of our water supplies being

given further protection? Why is NSW Forestry not regulated more and acting responsibly in ensuring protection of our waterways from siltation?

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?:

It is at least taking more data into consideration. In the modelling need to ensure the health of the catchment is implemented. Turbidity from clearing, bush fires etc affects water supplies. Better management and protections for catchments need to be considered. (eg Sydney water catchment protected - why not the Clarence?).

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

The option for providing water supplies from the Clarence to other shires such as Nambucca & Bellingen places significant stress on river systems. Impacts of unsustainable population growth and intensive horticulture need to be considered and alternate re-use facilities investigated and implemented rather than taking from the environment. Dams on rural properties need to be monitored/licensed as they take from the natural environment. Incentives to land and house holders need to be implemented to curb water use and reward for installation of water tanks and other water saving devices. Loss of biodiversity needs to be considered with increasing dam capacity. Again it seems the environment is not being put first, but rather being used as a commodity to enable humans to expand. Expanding population, tourism, and elite horticulture such as blueberries, macadamia nut industries - curbs of water usage in these areas need to be implemented rather than looking to what more can be taken from the river systems.

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

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

The risk of mining in the Clarence Catchment seems to be on the agenda. This will have significant affect on the health of our river, tourism, fishing and water supply. This is an opportunity to put into place restrictions on water use by the expanding elite horticulture industry and the significant pesticide use that impacts our water supplies. It is an opportunity to ensure NSW forestry is better managed, and no go zones are enforced to protect river health.

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

Expansion of wetlands, natural areas, riparian zones in catchments to ensure water quality is improved. Opportunity to expand BASIX programme for new and existing buildings to ensure better water retention and use - incentives for water tanks and more efficient water supply. Portable desalination plants for use in drought times rather than taking from the environment. I do not support increasing capacity of dams for human expansion - humans in Australia need to be more aware of their water wastage and pay accordingly. I do not support inter-change of water supplies between councils. Councils need to consider capacity of their region, rather than the endless population growth. Councils need control over farming industry and water usage.

8. Draft North Coast Regional Water Strategy options

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

1. River Recovery Program for the North Coast: a region-wide program of instream works, riparian vegetation and sediment control. 2. Remove impediments to water reuse projects. 3. Increase use of recycled waste water for intensive horticulture. 4. Bringing back riverine habitat and threatened species. 5. Convert low-flow water access licences to high-flow water access licences.

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

Expansion of human population and intensive horticulture cannot just continue to the detriment to our natural water ways and environment. Humans need to be more resourceful in using less water.

Which five (5) options do you think are least important? (If any):	1. Expand the Clarence-Coffs Harbour Regional Water Supply Scheme. 2. Increased harvestable rights. 3. Increased on-farm water storage. 4. Augment Shannon Creek Dam. 5. Apply the NSW Extreme Events Policy to the North Coast region
Please comment on why you think these options are least important? :	Again, expansion of human population and intensive horticulture cannot just continue to the detriment to our natural water ways and environment. Humans need to be more resourceful in using less water.
Do you have any comments on the draft options?:	Look at protecting what we have with our natural water ways and improve health. Look at improving water use and monitoring. Look at rural users and ensure they are not impacting the natural flow to the environment. Look at opportunities to use less water.
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?:	
10. Other comments	
Do you have any other comments about the North Coast Regional Water Strategy?:	Great to have the opportunity to comment. Protect what we have - no mining in the Clarence catchment. Ensure pesticides and run-off are better managed. User pays and funding is put toward better water usage management and education.
11. Referral	
How did you hear about the public exhibition of this strategy?:	Newspaper, Social media , Word of mouth
12. Additional information	
Upload supporting documents:	No file uploaded