

[REDACTED]

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?: Other

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?:

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?: In regard to the Gwydir Regional Water Strategy, there has been a lack of consultation with the local community and key stakeholders who are part of the farming community. There has also been a lack of consultation with local government.

Please provide details if there is additional information you think we should consider?: There needs to be consideration to new and improved farming practices. Ground cover management to combat erosion which in turn reduces run off into Gwydir River System. Consideration must also be given to increased water use efficiency by irrigators in the Gwydir Valley.

6. Stochastic modelling method

Do you have any comments about the modelling method used to develop this strategy?: because of the inherent randomness of Stochastic modelling it would be suitable to use when planning water infrastructure, which should be based on an imperial fact based model. any given scenario projected by the Scholastic model may not necessarily eventuate.

Is there any additional information that you believe could help us assess the benefits and disadvantages of draft options?: option 2 will only deliver minimal (if any) benefit to the system; as it is not feasible in terms of shareholder acceptance, implementation time and cost - efficiency.

7. Opportunities and challenges for water management in the Gwydir region

Do you have any comments on the opportunities, risks and challenges identified?: the construction of a new dam will not necessarily mean more water and increased water security, especially with the increased frequency and length of droughts combined with the projected increase of Moree's population over the next 20 years.

Are there any additional opportunities, risks and challenges that we should consider and what options could address these?: there is a risk that option 2 (being the construction of the new dam) will be neither cost effective or feasible over the next 20 years, as per page 84 of the draft. this risk flows from the lack of stakeholder acceptance and engagement, time to implement the opinion and a low likelihood of a cost-effective outcome.

8. Draft Gwydir Regional Water Strategy options

Which five (5) options do you think are most important?: option 9 option 3 option 25 option 29 option 1

Please comment on why you think these options are most important? : Copeton Dam is already over allocated. Run off into the catchment area will be less in a dryer climate and better farming practices will reduce erosion. Options to reduce and recycle what we have must be considered. If climate is to get better, evaporation will also rise putting another stress on the Copeton Dam. the enlargement of Tareelaro weir will result in an immediate increase of water in the system. the above options are feasible because they are cost - efficient and likely to deliver on achievable outcomes.

Which five (5) options do you think are least important? (If any): option 2 option 1 option option option

Please comment on why you think these options are least important? : the Gwydir River needs to continue to flow. we already have a very large dam in copeton. If we add or increase constraints within the system it will be detrimental to the cultural necessities of Aboriginal communities and also threaten the existence of our previous native environment. Option 2 will be at great expense and only have a shallow water storage, resulting in greater evaporation.

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?: option 9: removal of systems constraints in the Gwydir catchment to improve flows reaching the Gwydir wetlands could be combined with option 21: secure flows of water - dependent cultural sites. Also Option 3: Reuse, recycling and storm water projects could be combined with Option 25: Review urban water restriction policy.

Are there additional options that we should consider?: an increase in the capacity of Copeton Dam.

10. Other comments

Do you have any other comments about the Gwydir Regional Water Strategy?: There needs to be better consultation with local government, community and agricultural stakeholders. There also needs to be a better assessment on feasibility and cost efficiency. there needs to be consideration for local flora and fauna as there are many platypuses in the Horton river which would be majorly effected by this project.

11. Referral

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