



NSW Government

Department of Water & Energy

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DEVELOPMENT SERVICING PLANS

Our ref: Water planning 2007/1

ATTENTION: David Oxenham

TWEED SHIRE COUNCIL

FILE No. **WATER MANAGEMENT - PLANNING.**

Doc. No.

REC'D 19 DEC 2007

ASSIGNED TO: **OXENHAM B**

HARD COPY IMAGE

17 December 2007

Dear Sir

Re: Far North Coast Regional Water Plan

I refer to our meeting on 7 December 2007 regarding various issues associated with Council's town water management generally and the preparation of the Far North Coast Regional Water Plan specifically.

By 2031 the population of the Far North Coast (Tweed, Byron, Ballina, Richmond Valley, Lismore and Kyogle LGA's) is projected to have grown by more than 60,000, from about 230,000 now to over 290,000. In 2004 the then Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources initiated the preparation of Regional Planning Strategies as part of the governments planning reforms to guide future land use decisions and coordinate associated infrastructure provision in rapidly growing regions.

The resultant Cabinet approved Far North Coast Regional Strategy (ISBN 0-7347-5839-1, DoP 2006_033) contains an action requiring that "The Department of Natural Resources, Department of Energy Utilities and Sustainability and local water authorities will prepare a Regional Water Plan to ensure long term regional water efficiencies and improved drought security". After recent departmental restructuring this responsibility now rests with the Department of Water and Energy.

As discussed, the key outcome sought from the preparation and implementation of a Regional Water Plan will be to ensure effective long term regional water management with improved water efficiency, demand management and drought security within the context of the catchments water sharing framework.

Preparation of a Regional Water Plan will provide an inter catchment/whole of water cycle context for regional water management that clearly outlines future directions. It will amalgamate the work currently under way by most Council's on the preparation of their Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategies with the preparation of Macro Water Sharing Plans, also currently underway.

The Plan will also detail a vision for the future management of water across the region. By examining, from a regional perspective, the available options to meet future demand through optimising existing infrastructure, the opportunities for potential cost and supply efficiencies

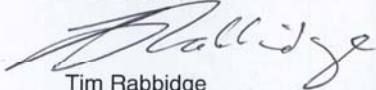
can be investigated. Whole of government agreement to any recommendations on future decisions will be sought.

It is proposed that a Local Government Stakeholder Group will be formed in 2008 to provide high level local government involvement in the project and give strategic direction from both regional and local perspectives. Additionally this approach will provide a mechanism to review content and outcomes of the project in relation to each Council's area of responsibility and provide a vehicle for effective communication back to Council to keep it advised of progress and outcomes from the project. Accordingly Council's participation in this process is seen as critical and its participation is therefore requested.

To enable an initial Project Scoping Brief and Background Paper to be compiled it would be appreciated if Council could provide information as specified in the attached table. Any additional comments Council would like to provide or suggestions to improve this process would be welcomed.

For further information regarding this matter please contact Mr Tim Rabbidge on (02) 66270115 in the first instance.

Yours sincerely



Tim Rabbidge
Water Planning & National Water Initiative Unit

ATTACHMENT A

Information Sought	Council response (concise summary of issue)	Other comments (risks & benefits/opportunities, climate change considerations, community issues etc)	List source document (including date / relevance etc)
<p>Existing Supplies and Strategies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing supply (secure yield) • Inventory of capacity & condition of associated key (bulk supply) infrastructure • Key policies adopted (eg Drought management) 			
<p>Current Use and Population Growth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current supply data (info sought on usage, number of people/connections supplied, breakdown of residential/commercial/industrial if known and % of population not supplied with reticulated water • Future population projections, best estimate of growth rates/population numbers and geographic distribution if known 			
<p>Demand Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data (incl assumptions, criteria) relating to current, expected or targeted future demand scenarios including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Water efficiency (incl BASIX) ➢ WSUD ➢ Demand management strategies (dual reticulation etc) ➢ Climate change impacts ➢ Reuse / substitution 			
<p>Future Options</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of options being considered including yields/costs/timelines etc 			