



Tweed Shire Council: Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy

2013

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November 2013

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PROJECT 12-020– TSC SIX YEAR IWCM REVIEW

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

The Integrated Water Cycle Management (IWCM) Strategy adopted by Tweed Shire Council (TSC) in 2006 and reviewed in 2009 and in 2011 is the strategic plan which has guided and prioritised actions regarding Council's management of the urban water supply, sewerage and stormwater systems for the last 6 years. This 2013 revision of the IWCM Strategy is the result of an evaluation of Council's IWCM process which was undertaken to:

- Ensure the long-term future direction is appropriate, considering the current or emerging challenges facing Council and the community desires for future water cycle management;
- Ensure consistency with the *NSW Best-Practice Management of Water Supply and Sewerage Guidelines* (DWE, 2007) which requires a major review every 6 - 8 years;
- Identify opportunities to enhance IWCM implementation across all relevant Council functions;
- Maximise the benefit of the IWCM process by ensuring the strategy is appropriate and cost-effective, the community are fully engaged and that all aspects of the Shire's water resources are considered; and
- Ensure that Council policy keeps pace with changing circumstances and new information through a process of continual improvement.

IWCM Objectives

The Tweed community and Council have expressed a desire for an IWCM approach that is broader than the original urban water focus. This recognises that all elements of the water cycle are interdependent and all aspects of land use and infrastructure planning should be integrated with the water cycle considerations. The key considerations for implementation of a broader water cycle approach are:

- Implementation of a Total Water Cycle Management (TWCM) approach through better integration of urban water supply, wastewater, stormwater and catchment management activities;
- Identification and incorporation of community priorities;
- Provision of mechanisms for integration between the activities of the Council units that have relevance to water cycle management; and
- Compliance with the NSW Office of Water best-practice guidelines (DWE, 2007).

Community Consultation

Consultation activities undertaken as part of the IWCM review built on the activities already undertaken by Council as part of the implementation of existing IWCM actions. The objectives were to engage the wider community in the IWCM review and establish the community priorities for water cycle management. The key findings of the consultation process are:

- Council should implement a balanced approach to reducing water usage and increasing water availability. However there is significant support for continuation of demand management initiatives;
- A continuous supply of drinking water is a priority but also important to the community are maximising stormwater and wastewater re-use, maintaining the natural environment in river and catchment areas and encouraging households to reduce their water consumption;
- Maintaining clean water in the Tweed River system is a high priority;
- Council should be most supportive of protection of the water supply, followed by natural habitat and water quality protection and improving the quality of treated wastewater/urban stormwater runoff;

- There is no clear mandate on a preferred approach to augmenting future water supply with the community evenly divided between four suggested approaches (more household rebates for water saving devices, construction of another drinking water supply, greater use of recycled water and behavioural change/further education). Approximately half the community supports the use of alternative water sources (rainwater tanks, stormwater reuse and treated wastewater);
- The responsibility for maintaining the health of rivers should be shared by all ratepayers; and
- Many respondents were supportive of the implementation of integrated water management solutions and the need for increased inter-departmental cooperation within Council.

IWCM Issues

The review of the IWCM Strategy identified current and emerging IWCM issues that Council and the community will face over the next 30 years. A number of the issues are related to Council's desire to pursue greater integration of water cycle management responsibilities and inter-departmental cooperation. Some issues would not have been identified in a traditional (urban only) IWCM approach but are underlying factors that logically influence Council's approach to water management. A number of the issues also relate to future or emerging issues such as climate change and increasing regulation where information has become more available since previous IWCM reviews were undertaken.

The key challenges that Council faces in addressing these issues are:

- Finding cost effective ways to deal with the issues;
- Assigning priorities, given the different perspectives and perceptions of the issues and competing demands for funds in an environment where costs need to be fully justified to a broad spectrum of interest groups;
- Ensuring continuity of business through changing circumstances such as climate change; and
- Increasing regulatory requirements.

The key issues identified are presented in five broad categories:

1. Administration and Governance:

Issue 1: IWCM principles, responsibilities and priorities are not fully implemented across all Council units

Issue 2: There is a need for informed and transparent decision-making and better management of community expectations

Issue 3: There is a need for defensible and robust population forecasts

Issue 4: Uncertainty regarding the preferred Tweed district water supply augmentation option creates confusion regarding land use planning

Issue 5: The implications of private industry involvement in town water supply and wastewater management are unclear, particularly with regard to regulation and Council responsibilities

Issue 6: Asset management planning

Issue 7: Climate change implications need to be integrated into planning for urban water services, catchment management and natural resource management

Issue 8: High energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions

Issue 9: Best-Practice Compliance

Issue 10: Improved data collection and reporting procedures would facilitate adaptive forecasting of demand and assist with community education

2. Urban Town Water Supply:

Issue 11: There is currently no mechanism to promote retrofit of rain water tanks or installation of large rainwater tanks in new development

Issue 12: Council's 2013 target for non-revenue water is not likely to be achieved

Issue 13: Augmentation of the Tweed District Water Supply will be required in future due to population growth although the timing and additional supply required are unclear

Issue 14: The drinking water catchments are impacted by current and historical land use and development

Issue 15: As a precaution the Uki WTP is shut down during dirty water events

Issue 16: Drought contingency and water supply emergency management measures need to be further developed

3. Urban Wastewater Management

Issue 17: The opportunities for development (urban expansion) outside of the wastewater service areas is limited by the capacity of Council's infrastructure and the environment

Issue 18: Licence requirements for pH and suspended solids at Uki WWTP need to be reviewed.

Issue 19: Council and the community have a desire for increased water recycling but there are significant barriers to implementation of recycled water schemes within the Tweed Shire

Issue 20: There is a high cost of sustainable biosolids management

4. Urban Stormwater Management

Issue 21: Increased emphasis on water sensitive urban design will require more integrated Council responsibilities, increased community education and increased staff capabilities and funding

Issue 22: Existing Council development controls do not fully address the residual load of urban stormwater on downstream sensitive waterways

Issue 23: Existing subdivision erosion and stormwater controls and resources are not adequate for the rainfall and rate of development experienced in the Tweed.

5. Catchment Management

Issue 24: There is a need for a holistic catchment management strategy for the Shire

Issue 25: There is limited integration between urban and rural strategic land use planning

Issue 26: The effective management of on-site sewerage systems within the Shire is limited by the available resources

Management Approaches

A broad range of management options were identified to address the IWCM issues. The options are based on the nature of the problem, its location and extent and consideration of the work that has already been undertaken to address the issue. Options have been bundled together into IWCM scenarios which represent the current strategy (Level 1), an increasing level of urban water cycle integration (Level 2) progressing to a Total Water Cycle Management (TWCM) approach where catchment and urban water cycle management are fully integrated (Level 3).

Level 3 (the TWCM Scenario) requires significant additional investment but would enable TSC's IWCM objectives to be achieved. The greatest environmental benefit and community support are also expected to be achieved with Level 3. However, the increased benefits with the Level 3 approach come at significantly increased cost compared to Level 2. In recognition of this, it is recommended that a TWCM approach is adopted but with progressive implementation of Level 2 and Level 3 actions over time. Implementation of the

Level 2 actions will achieve full compliance with Office of Water guidelines, and provides a strong basis for further broadening the scope of Council's decision making to encompass the full water cycle. The aspirational target would be to achieve the TWCM approach in the medium-term (within 5 to 10 years), however, this will not be achieved until funding sources are identified.

IWCM Implementation

The management options have been compiled into a proposed ten year implementation program, including cost estimates, timing, TSC responsibilities and potential funding sources (Table 1).

The implementation program identifies existing and new actions that are recommended to achieve the desired IWCM outcomes. Level 1 actions are already funded and being implemented by TSC and these are considered to remain an integral component of the future strategy. The Level 1 strategic planning initiatives that should be continued are:

- Community engagement;
- Asset management planning (as part of the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework);
- Best-practice management (compliance with the NSW Office of Water best-practice guidelines);
- Implementation of the Demand Management Strategy;
- Drinking water quality management;
- Development of WSUD Policies (including urban stormwater quality management planning and review of development controls);
- Coastline management and floodplain management;
- Catchment and natural resource management;
- Water Supply Catchment Stream Bank Protection Policy (river health grants scheme);
- Environmental monitoring programs;
- Development of Sustainable Agriculture Strategy; and
- Review of the On-site Sewerage Management Strategy.

The Level 2 and 3 actions complement the existing actions but broaden the focus to include the TWCM approach.

Success of the IWCM Strategy relies on the improved administration and coordination of water cycle related activities. It is suggested that integration would be best achieved through the introduction of a new IWCM Program Leader role that will facilitate TWCM across TSC (as part of the Level 3 approach). Until this new position is able to be filled, the TSC IWCM Stakeholder Group should continue to coordinate the implementation of the adopted IWCM Strategy. The priority tasks for this position (or committee) are the implementation of this IWCM Strategy and integration with TSC's other strategic priorities.

The timing for implementation of the other proposed IWCM actions is dependent on the availability of financial and human resources. This Strategy assigns priorities with consideration of the limited internal resources available and is designed to remain flexible to access potential sources of external funding which may become available in future. It has been assumed that the first 2 years of the program would follow the Level 2 approach (urban water cycle management improvements) with transition to Level 3 (TWCM approach) commencing from year 3.

In reality, only the Level 1 and Level 2 actions that Council is able to fund will form the basis of IWCM actions in the short to medium term. To achieve full IWCM implementation, the remaining unfunded Level 2 and Level 3 actions would be the focus of a medium to longer term program. However these would need to be tied in to development of Council's Environmental Sustainability Strategy (ESS) and the overall resourcing,

funding and priorities set by this program. The ESS is in the early stages of development and an initial framework is expected to be completed in 2014. It is envisaged this would allow priorities to be set in 2015, which in turn would provide direction on the feasibility of unfunded IWCM Level 2 and Level 3 actions.

The ten year implementation program has a total budget cost of \$9.07 million (current dollars) with approximately \$1.97 million required in the first three years (refer Table 1).

Table 1: IWCM Strategy Implementation Program

	Options	Action	10 year total (\$'000)	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	
Administration and Governance	1b	Integrated Council-Wide IWCM Delivery	1,200	Committee		150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	
	2a, 2b, 2c, 7b	Community engagement	265	40	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	
	3a, 3b, 3c	Data collection	360	60	60	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	
	4a, 4b	Strengthened IWCM policies (under <i>Water Industry Competition Act</i>)	50			50								
	5b, 5c, 12a	Best-practice compliance	20	10	10									
	9c, 5e	Business Continuity Planning	150		30	10	10	10	30	10	10	10	30	
	6b, 6e	Reduction in energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions	-	Included in Council's broader sustainability initiatives										
Urban Town Water Supply	6d, 8a	Climate change adaptation – surface water availability	250	100	50				50				50	
	7a, 7c	Targets for non-residential consumption	-	Minimal										
	7g	Permanent water conservation measures	30		10	10			5				5	
	7a, 7d	Water Loss Management Program	150	50	50	50								
	7e, 7f	Rainwater tank rebate	735	20	5	5	5	140	140	140	140	140		
	9a, 9b, 9d	Drinking water catchment planning	100		50	50								
	10a, 10b	Review and update Drought Management Strategy	150		50				50				50	
Urban Wastewater Management	5d	Review and Update Sewer Overflow Abatement Strategy	50	50										
	13a, 13b	Biosolids Management Strategy	150		50				50				50	
	7a, 11a, 11b, 11c	Integrated servicing strategies and recycled water opportunities	410		50	70	120	70	20	20	20	20	20	
Urban Stormwater Management	14a, 14b, 15a, 15b, 16a, 16b	Implement water sensitive urban design framework	2,080	50	150	100	260	250	250	260	250	250	260	
Catchment Management	5a, 5f	Drinking water catchment natural asset management	100		50	50								
	6a, 6c, 17c	Climate change adaptation – flooding and tidal inundation	150		50				50				50	
	17g, 18c, 4b, 5f, 9d, 11b, 11c, 14b	Total water cycle management framework and sub-catchment plans	450			150	100	20	20	20	20	20	20	
	17d, 17f	Review of Streambank Protection Policy	20	20										
	17e, 17i	Monitoring, evaluation and reporting	400			50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	
	17b, 17h	Upper catchment floodplain planning	400			80	80	80	80	80				
	18a, 18b, 18c	On-site sewage management (additional resources)	1,400				200	200	200	200	200	200	200	
Total 10 year IWCM Strategy			9,070	400	690	880	1,030	1,105	1,200	985	895	900	980	

Fundamental actions	Priority Actions	Actions relying on prerequisite (priority) actions	Level 3 (TWCM) components
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C&NR – Community and Natural Resources Directorate, P&R – TSC Planning and Regulation Directorate, E&O – TSC Engineering and Operations Directorate, B&EH – TSC Building and Environmental Health Unit, P&I – TSC Planning and Infrastructure Unit, NRM – TSC Natural Resources Management Unit, Water – TSC Water Unit, Env levy – proposed environmental levy, SMSC – proposed stormwater management service charge, s94 – proposed additional developer contributions.

Years correspond to end of financial year i.e. 2015 is year 1 (start 1st July 2014, end 30th June 2015), etc.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Six Year IWCM Strategy Review

The NSW Government introduced the Integrated Water Cycle Management (IWCM) process in 2004 to assist local water utilities to sustainably manage their water systems, maximise benefits to the community and environment and achieve improved communication between local water utilities, water users and water managers. IWCM is a key component of the NSW Office of Water's *NSW Best-Practice Management of Water Supply and Sewerage Guidelines* (DWE, 2007). Within this framework, IWCM is the process of balancing water needs with the sustainable use of available water resources. The IWCM process identifies the appropriate water cycle management options in an urban context to efficiently provide water supply, sewerage and stormwater services, while sustainably managing the available water resources.

The IWCM Strategy adopted by Tweed Shire Council (TSC) in 2006 and reviewed in 2009 and 2011 is the strategic plan which has guided and prioritised actions regarding Council's management of the urban water supply, sewerage and stormwater systems for the last 6 years. TSC has committed significant time and effort in the regular reviews and updates of its IWCM strategy including detailed specialist studies and ongoing consultation activities. This major review of the IWCM Strategy has been undertaken to:

- Ensure the long-term future direction is appropriate, considering the current or emerging challenges facing Council and the community desires for future water cycle management;
- Ensure consistency with the best-practice management framework which requires a major review every 6-8 years;
- Identify opportunities to enhance IWCM implementation across all relevant Council functions;
- Maximise the benefit of the IWCM process by ensuring the strategy is appropriate and cost-effective, the community are fully engaged and that all aspects of the Shire's water resources are considered; and
- Ensure that Council policy keeps pace with changing circumstances and new information through a process of continual improvement.

1.2 Scope of the Review

The review involves revisiting and updating the original assumptions used to develop the current IWCM Strategy such as population growth, water demand, community preferences and waterway health, confirming if the planning targets are being met and whether data gaps from the original study are being addressed. Some of these steps have already been undertaken by TSC as part of its biennial IWCM reviews. This current review will evaluate implementation progress, consider and where necessary, modify overall objectives and determine the scope of new actions that should be considered.

Whereas the State Government IWCM approach is focussed on the management of urban water services, Council has indicated a desire to broaden the traditional IWCM scope to consider Council's full range of activities that impact on the water cycle within the Tweed Shire. This review is therefore able to provide a revised strategy that covers the broader responsibilities of Council and provide efficiencies and improved outcomes. It is intended that the outcomes from this process are highly specific to priority issues, local constraints and stakeholder expectations.

The review process including stakeholder engagement activities is illustrated in Figure 1.

The IWCM Strategy Review Background Paper (included in Appendix 1) was a key step in documenting the current status and issues relating to TSC's water management. It focuses on describing the current IWCM

Strategy (and its evolution), the actions already undertaken and the degree of success. This IWCM Strategy document develops and assesses potential solutions to the management issues.

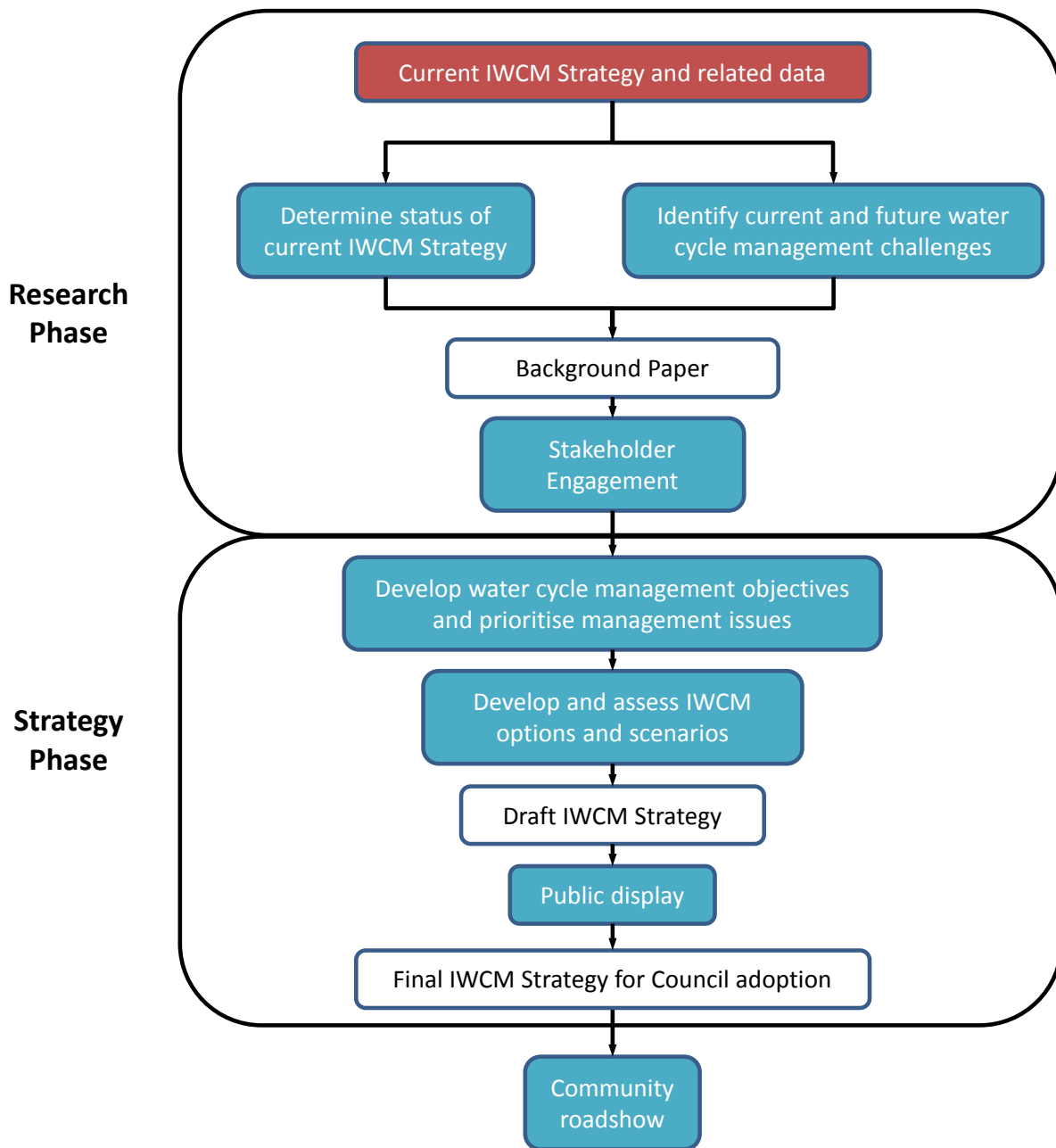


Figure 1: Six Year IWCM Review Process

2. OVERVIEW OF TWEED SHIRE

2.1 Topography

Figure 2 provides an overview of the Shire’s localities, topography and main waterways. The Tweed Shire sits within one of the largest erosion calderas in the world, which formed following eruptions of the Mt Warning Volcano around 20-23 million years ago. The Shire is bordered by the Nightcap Ranges to the south, the Border Ranges to the west and the McPherson Ranges to the north. The centre of the caldera, Mt Warning, is located south west of Murwillumbah. The Burringbar Range is situated to the east of Murwillumbah. Running east from the Burringbar Range are the Tweed coastal creeks - Cudgen, Cudgera and Mooball Creeks, their tributaries and associated floodplains.

Another major topographic feature of the Tweed Shire is the large coastal floodplain associated with the Tweed River. The region’s major urban centre, Murwillumbah, is situated on this floodplain along with several of the regions villages such as Tumbulgam, Condong and Chinderah.

A significant coastal dune system is associated with the coastline where the towns and villages of Fingal Head, Kingscliff, Casuarina, Cabarita, Hastings Point and Pottsville are situated.

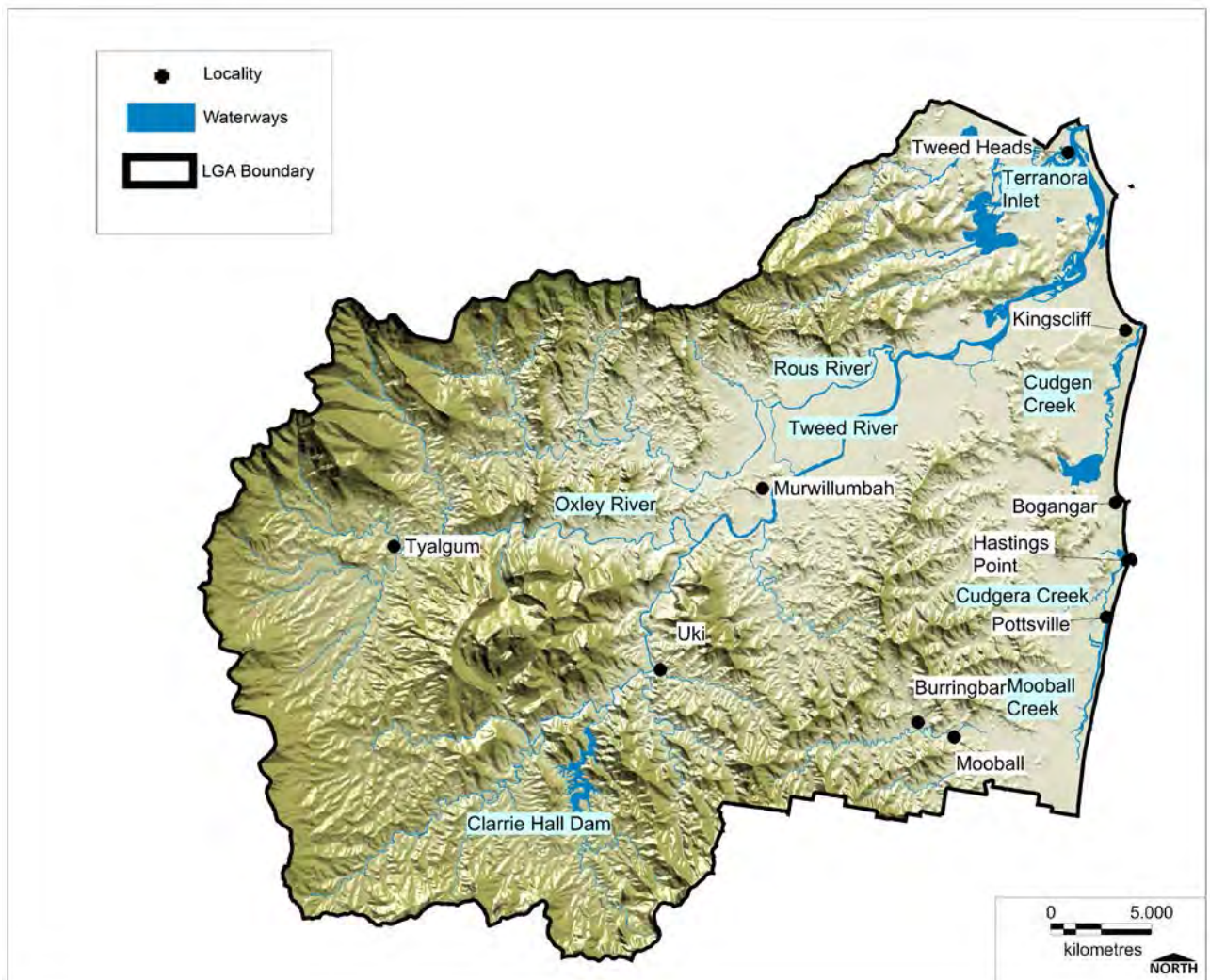


Figure 2: Location of towns, villages and waterways and general topography of the Tweed Shire

2.2 Climate

2.2.1 Historical and Current Climate Data

Tweed Shire experiences a subtropical climate, with warm humid summers and mild winters. Within the Shire, climate varies with distance from the ocean. In general, the coastal zone receives higher rainfall and experiences milder temperatures. Average annual rainfall ranges from a high of 1,800 mm per annum on the coast to 1,600 mm per annum in the west of the Shire. Table 2 presents rainfall and evaporation data for locations across the Shire averaged from 1970-2012.

Table 2: Rainfall and evaporation data at various locations across Tweed Shire (1970-2012)

Location	Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	Average Annual Pan Evaporation (mm)	Latitude (degrees)	Longitude (degrees)	General Location within LGA	Elevation (m)
Murwillumbah	1,611	1,500	-28.34	153.38	Central	8
Tyalgum	1,562	1,434	-28.36	153.21	West	120
Kingscliff	1,789	1,501	-28.26	153.58	East	5
Pottsville	1,710	1,531	-28.38	153.57	South East	5

Source: SILO (2013) from 1970-2012 (data prior to 1970 are considered unreliable for evaporation)

Seasonal variability in rainfall and evaporation at Murwillumbah is shown in Figure 3. There is a high degree of monthly variation in rainfall demonstrating a clear wet-dry season pattern, which is typical of a subtropical environment. The highest rainfall typically occurs during summer (a maximum monthly average of 239 mm in February) and in early autumn. The lowest rainfall typically occurs in late winter / early spring with a minimum monthly average of 43 mm in September. During the first six months of the year rainfall typically exceeds evaporation and in the second half of the year the opposite occurs, where evaporation exceeds rainfall.

Long-term annual rainfall for Murwillumbah (1970-2012) is shown in Figure 4. Annual rainfall at Murwillumbah has ranged from 810 mm during the driest year (2002) to 2,930 mm during the wettest year (1974).

Average temperatures vary throughout the year with a summer average of 29°C and a winter average of 22°C. Extreme temperatures range from an average maximum of 32°C in summer to an average minimum of 6°C in winter.

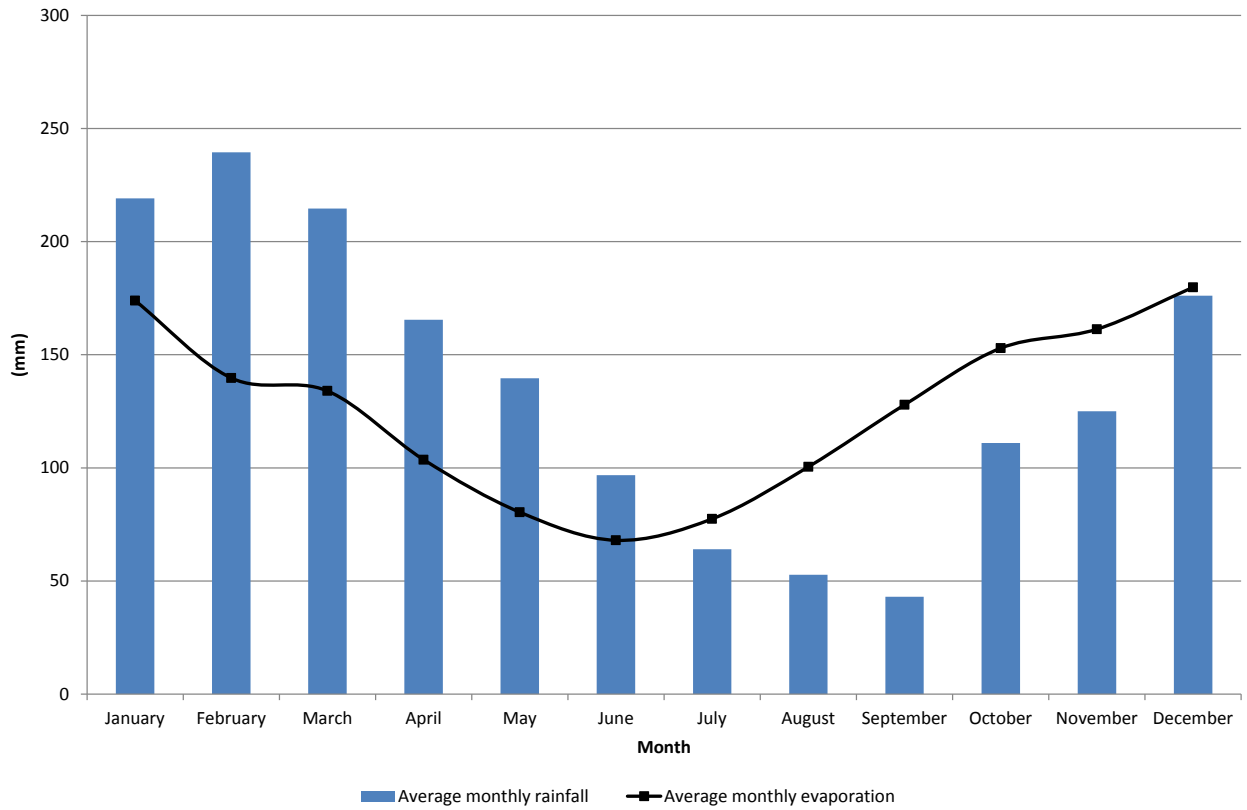


Figure 3: Mean Monthly Rainfall and Evaporation at Murwillumbah (1970-2010)

Source: SILO (2013) from 1970-2012

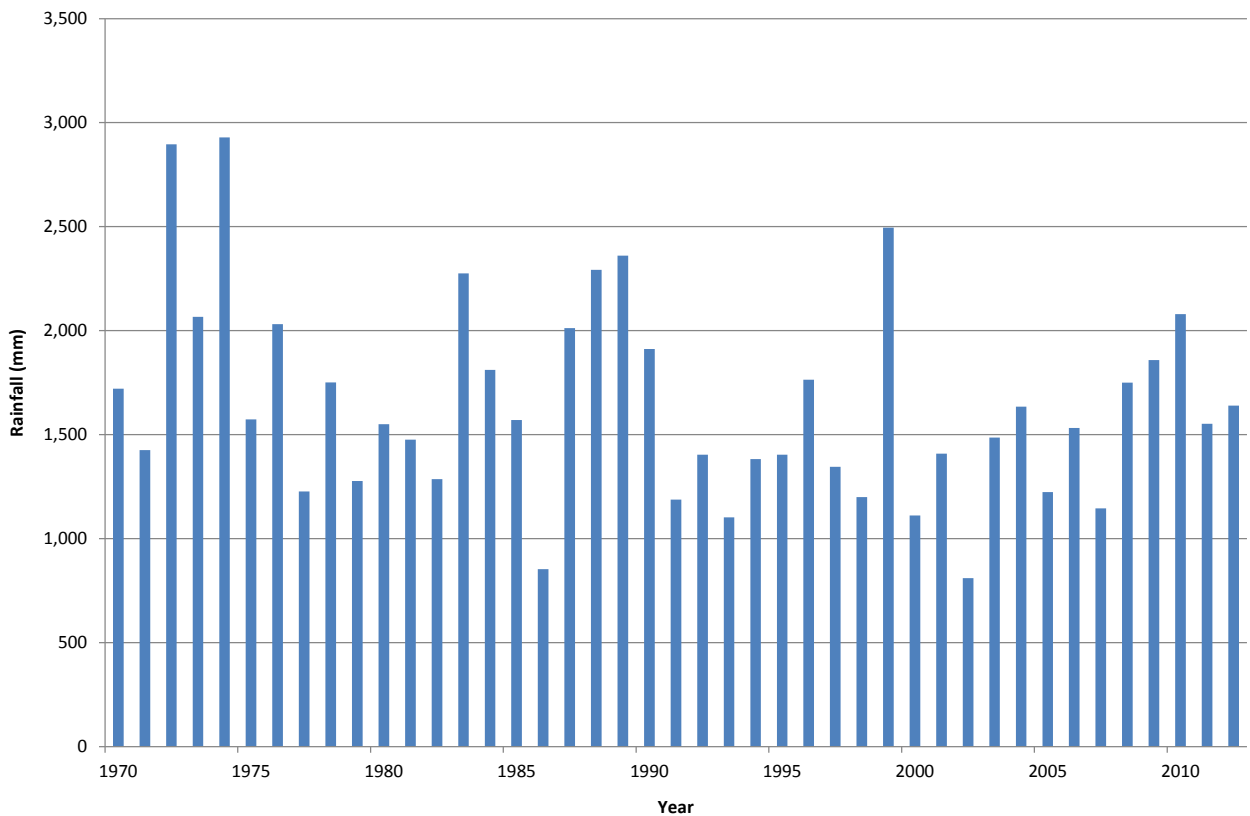


Figure 4: Historical Annual Rainfall at Murwillumbah (1970-2012)

Source: SILO (2013) from 1970-2012

2.2.2 Climate Change

Global climate change, caused by an enhanced greenhouse effect, will significantly affect the natural environment throughout the world. The *NSW Climate Impact Profile* (DECCW, 2010) provides projections of climate change and impacts of these changes on settlements, land and ecosystems of NSW. The Profile outlines some of the risks NSW faces to help decision makers develop their planning and response strategies. Expected regional climatic changes in the north coast region are:

- Rising temperatures;
- Increasing rainfall in summer and autumn;
- Increasing evaporation; and
- El Nino-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) years will continue to be drier than average but also become hotter, leading to more extreme impacts. La Niña years are likely to continue to be wetter than average but will also become warmer. During El Niño events, water stress is likely to be more pronounced because of higher temperatures.

Changes in rainfall and higher evaporation rates are likely to lead to less water for streams and rivers in the Northern Rivers, which will have downstream consequences for storages and place pressure on the area's water resources. Lower flows and higher temperatures may also reduce water quality. For example, low flows, higher temperatures and elevated nutrients create a more favourable environment for potentially harmful algal blooms (CSIRO, 2007).

The secure yield of a water supply system is expected to be impacted by the effects of climate change which are considered likely to reduce water supply through changes in local rainfall, evaporation, rainfall-runoff and stream-flows. When forecasting future supply availability, it is necessary to modify supply yields based on the expected impact of these factors.

It is now a common consensus amongst, scientists, managers and planning authorities that sea level rise is virtually inevitable due to thermal expansion of the oceans and melting of ice sheets and glaciers as well as local changes in ocean currents, wind regimes and atmospheric pressure. Key impacts of sea level rise in regards to integrated water cycle management in the Tweed Shire are reported by DECCW (2010) as:

- Coastal recession - increase in coastal inundation and erosion;
- Flooding of community assets, residential property and associated infrastructure; and
- Water supply, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure are at risk due to increased flooding and potential asset failure.

2.3 Population

Council's population and demographic data and forecasts are developed by Forecast.ID (.id Consulting, 2011), based on census data and expected population trends. Forecast.ID is currently updating the long-term population forecasts for the Tweed LGA although these will not be available for this IWCM review.

A range of potential forecasts of population served with water supply is provided in Figure 5. This figure shows:

- The historical population served with water supply (the blue line);
- Council's current 30 year forecast based on a detailed build-up of probable growth in individual developments (average 2.2% p.a. over 30 years) which assumes the 2031 population currently predicted by Forecast.ID will still be realised (the green line);
- A 30 year forecast based on a continuation of the low rate of growth experienced between 2006 and 2011 (1.3 % p.a.) (the red line); and

- The population forecasts assumed in the TSC’s Demand Management Strategy (MWH, 2009a; the purple line).

For this IWCM Strategy review, TSC has adopted the population forecast represented by the green line. While the current downturn in population growth may or may not continue into the future, it is prudent to take a balanced approach to population projections when planning, while also recognising the inherent limitations of any projection and the need for ongoing and regular revisions. The NOROC Regional Water Supply Strategy (refer Section 2.7.4) extended this to a 50 year population forecast assuming the ultimate Shire population of 180,000 people (or approximately 172,000 people served by the Bray Park water supply) is reached at 2060. The resulting number of residential and non-residential water supply connections is given in Table 3. The number of future residential water supply connections has been calculated from the average historical occupancy ratio for 2008 to 2012. The number of non-residential water supply connections is assumed to grow at the same rate as the population growth.

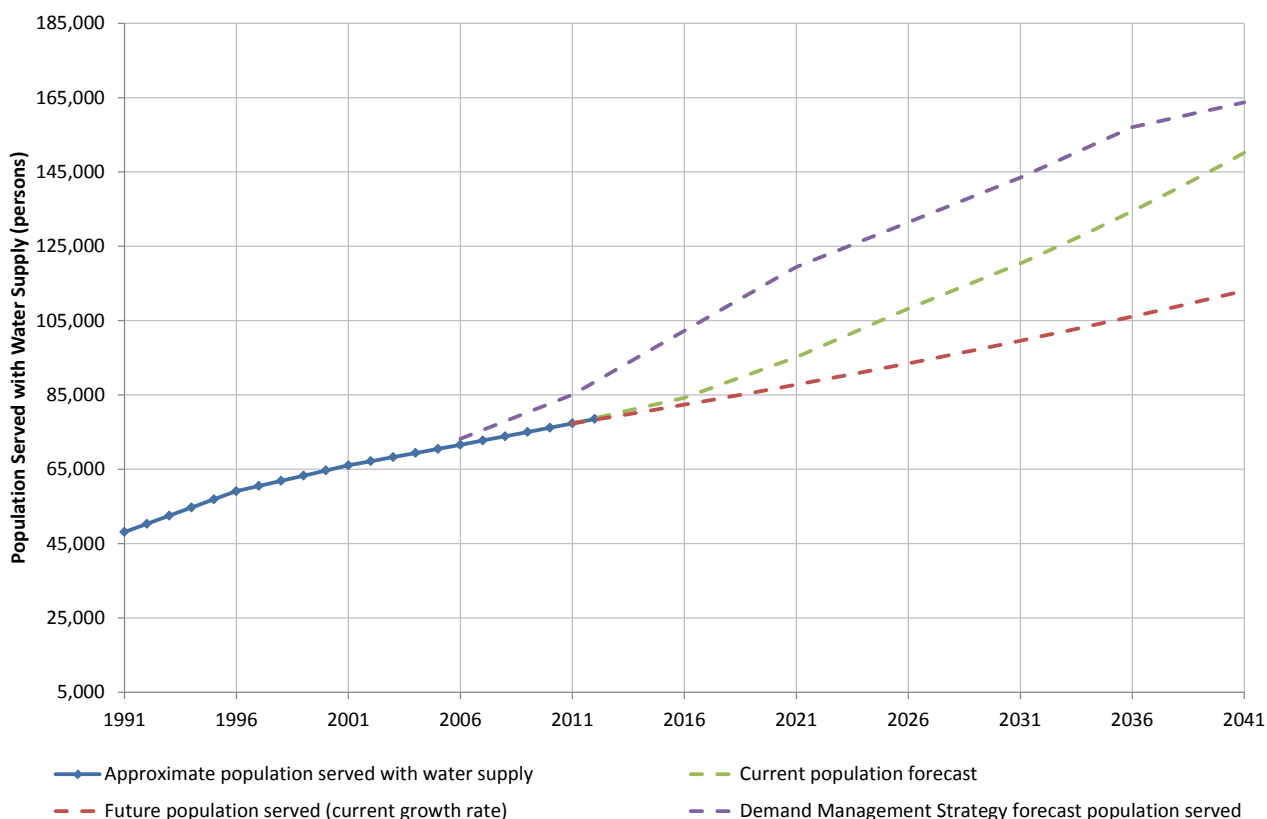


Figure 5: Comparison of forecast population served by TSC water supplies

Table 3: Future Water Supply Connections – Tweed District

Connection Type	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060
Residential connections	31,007	38,312	48,662	60,661	66,345	71,147
Non-Residential connections	1,941	2,016	2,560	3,191	3,489	3,734
Total Connections	32,948	40,327	51,222	63,852	69,831	74,881
Water supply area growth (total connections) % p.a.	0.6%	2.4%	2.1%	2.2%	0.7%	0.7%

Source: Hydrosphere Consulting (2013a)

The population served by a reticulated sewerage system is slightly lower than the population served by town water supply.

2.4 Water Resources

The raw water resources in the study area can be divided into surface water, groundwater and seawater. The Tweed Shire town water supply is currently sourced entirely from surface water resources.

2.4.1 Surface Water

Major Catchments and Waterways

The Tweed Shire can be divided into three major catchments: the Tweed River catchment, the Cobaki/Terranora Broadwater catchment and the Tweed Coastal Creeks catchment. The main river system in the Tweed Shire is the Tweed River. All tributaries in the Shire drain into the Tweed River and eventually the Pacific Ocean with the exception of the Tweed coast estuaries of Cudgen, Cudgera and Mooball Creek which have discrete catchment areas that drain directly into the Pacific Ocean (refer Figure 6).

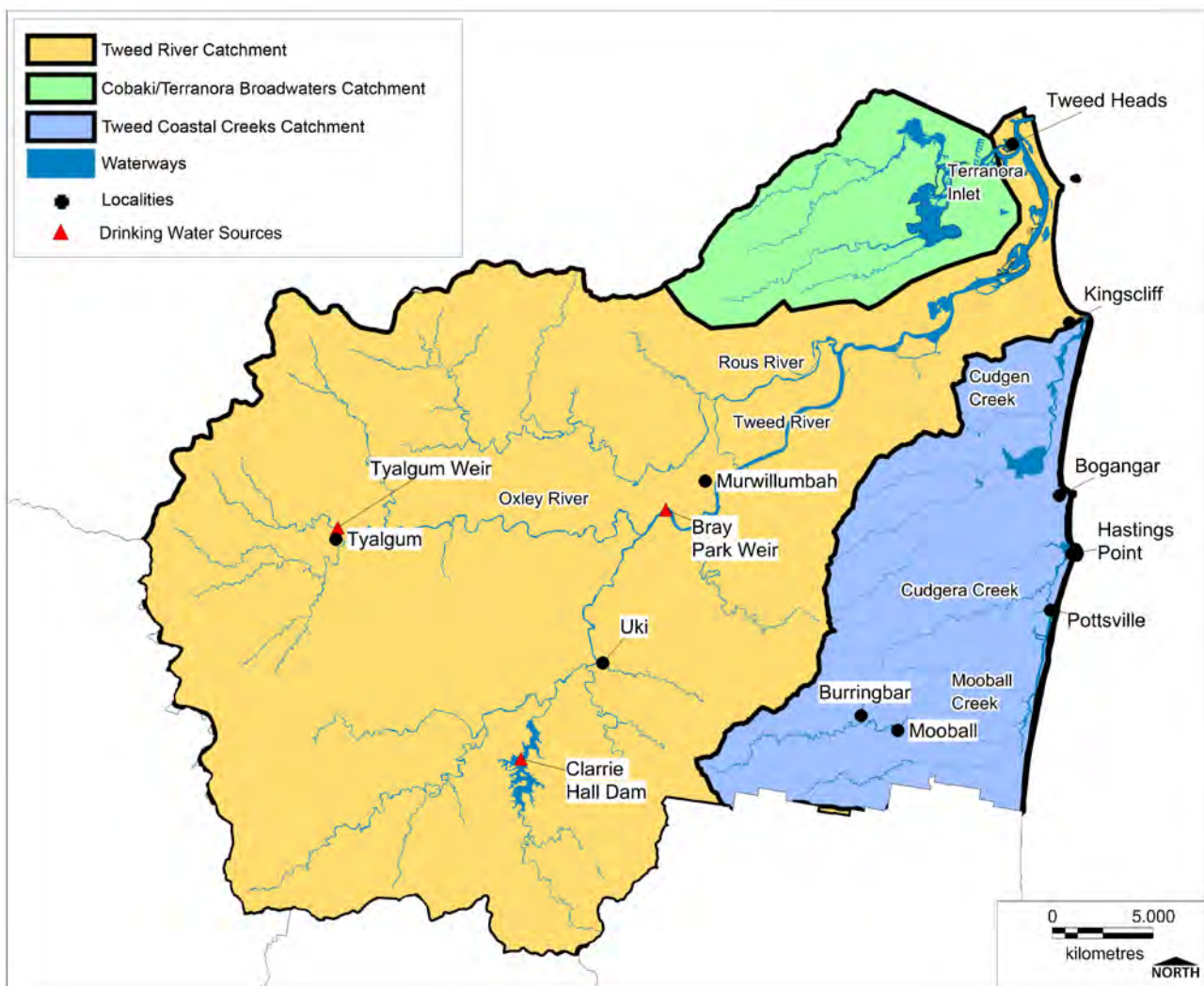


Figure 6: Tweed Shire catchments and waterways

The Tweed River catchment covers an area of approximately 1,080 km². Major tributaries are the Rous and Oxley Rivers. Streams in the Tweed catchment are heavily influenced by seasonal climatic variability. Generally high flows occur in all water sources during the periods from January through to July with peak flows typically occurring during January to March.

The major in-stream water storage structure in the Tweed River catchment is Clarrie Hall Dam, which is managed by TSC. Releases from the dam flow to Bray Park Weir (upstream of Murwillumbah) where water

is extracted for town supply. The total annual volume of surface water licensed for extraction (at February 2009) under the *Water Sharing Plan for the Tweed River Area Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources* is 35,207 ML per year compared to an annual average flow of approximately 365,000 ML for the Tweed River at Bray Park Weir. In addition, there is 780 ML per year of authorised private groundwater extraction from the 'upriver' alluvial aquifers and the 'coastal floodplain' alluvial aquifers within the plan area. This volume has been included in the plan due to the significant degree of connectivity of these aquifers with their parent streams (Office of Water, 2010b).

The licensed extraction is separated into three extraction management units (EMU). For the Tweed River Catchment EMU, the total volume of surface water licensed for extraction is 33,197 ML, including up to 27,567 ML (about 83%) for town water supply from the Mid Tweed water source (Uki and Bray Park town water supplies) (Office of Water, 2010b).

TSC holds water access licences (WAL) for Bray Park, Uki and Tyalgum water sources. The share components of TSC local water utility access licences authorised to take water from these water sources are 27,567 ML/year in the Mid Tweed River Water Source (Tweed – 27,500 ML/a, Uki – 67 ML/a) and 46 ML/a in the Upper Oxley River Water Source (Tyalgum system). For the Tweed River Catchment EMU, the total volume of surface water licensed for extraction is 33,197 ML with about 83% for town water supply (Office of Water, 2010b).

The WSP specifies operational rules for local water utility storages including environmental flow releases from Clarrie Hall Dam and Bray Park weir.

The Tweed Coastal Creeks catchment covers a total area of approximately 260 km², divided into Cudgen, Cudgera and Mooball sub catchments. There is currently no raw water extraction for town water supply within these catchments.

Water Quality

Tweed River Estuary

TSC has undertaken comprehensive estuarine water quality monitoring since 2007. There are ten sampling sites throughout the Tweed estuary and three in the Rous River estuary which are sampled monthly. ABER (2012) conducted a review of the water quality data collected between 2007 and 2011. The report concluded that water quality in the Tweed estuary failed to comply with ANZECC guidelines for the maintenance of aquatic ecosystems for a significant amount of the time. In particular, the middle to upper reaches of the Tweed estuary experience moderate hypoxia (low dissolved oxygen), which can be directly linked to phytoplankton blooms caused by excessive nutrient loadings. The major estuarine water quality issues identified by ABER (2012) are:

- High nutrient concentrations - Nitrogen and phosphorous both exceeded ANZECC Guidelines for >50% of the time. Elevated catchment nutrient inputs dominated nutrient concentrations during high flow and post high flow conditions and Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) nutrient inputs were the major source during median and low flow conditions;
- Phytoplankton blooms - The middle and upper estuary experienced moderately severe phytoplankton blooms that were driven by high nutrient concentrations;
- Low dissolved oxygen (DO) - Low DO occurred in the transition, middle, upper and Rous sections of the estuary. During low flow conditions low DO was driven by phytoplankton blooms and during flood conditions, oxygen-poor swamp water draining from the low lying floodplain was the main driver; and
- Poor water clarity - A combination of inorganic total suspended solids (TSS) and phytoplankton resulted in poor water quality throughout the middle and upper estuary. TSS was driven by turbid catchment runoff during and post, high flow conditions.

Tweed River Catchment

TSC undertakes an extensive water quality monitoring program to identify and understand sources of contamination to the raw and bulk water supplies. Thirteen water quality monitoring sites are established within the Tweed Catchment area to monitor major water quality parameters and algal concentrations. A review of the Tweed Catchment water quality data (six representative sites) is summarised below (Hunter Water Australia, 2011):

- Physico-chemical water quality parameters - Conductivity, turbidity and pH was generally good across the catchment. Concentrations complied with ANZECC guidelines except for turbidity during periods of high rainfall;
- Nutrients - Generally there is a trend of high of nutrients across the catchment. Of the six sites reviewed, median values of total phosphorous (TP) exceeded ANZECC guidelines at all sites, total nitrogen (TN) at three sites, total ammonia at four sites and nitrate at five sites;
- Cyanobacteria concentrations - typically low to moderate with high concentrations recorded 11% of the time; and
- Elevated manganese concentrations in Clarrie Hall Dam - Elevated manganese concentrations can discolour the water. Concentrations did not exceed guideline values however discolouration of drinking water was observed.

Tweed Coast Estuaries

TSC has been undertaking long-term water quality monitoring at a number of sites within the estuaries since 1999. The testing is carried out at fortnightly to six-weekly intervals at set monitoring sites along the three estuaries. Hydrosphere Consulting (2012a) reviewed the available water quality data and conducted additional water quality sampling on the three estuaries as a part of the Coastal Zone Management Plan for the Tweed Coast Estuaries which identified the following issues:

- Cudgen Creek - The middle and upper estuary of Cudgen Creek is periodically affected by low pH, particularly following rainfall events. There are known issues associated with acid sulphate soils in the catchment and this result is attributable to acid runoff from these areas. TN was elevated in the mid and upper estuary. Diffuse nutrient sources related to agricultural and urban land uses are likely to contribute to the TN load in the estuary;
- Cudgera Creek - Dissolved oxygen results for sites in the mid and upper estuary were below what is considered the level of a healthy functioning ecosystem. Low dissolved oxygen had been observed at sites directly upstream of the estuary (cane drains) and this is likely to be contributing to low DO downstream. TN was also elevated in the mid and upper estuary sites, and this indicates potential for nuisance plant growth and/or algal blooms. Chlorophyll *a* and turbidity were also elevated at one site on Christies Creek. Thermo-tolerant coliforms were persistently elevated at a site located 150 m upstream from Koala Beach residential area; and
- Mooball Creek and Burringbar Creek - All of the Burringbar Creek sites showed high levels of thermo-tolerant coliforms and there was a clear trend identified where spikes in faecal indicators followed rainfall events. The two likely sources of faecal contamination were identified as surface runoff transporting animal faeces (livestock, pets and native animals), and potentially failing (or surcharging) on-site sewage management systems (OSSM) in this area. The villages of Burringbar and Mooball are in the process of becoming sewered, and this is likely to reduce water quality risk in years following these improvements. A site downstream of the town of Mooball and Burringbar showed slightly lowered dissolved oxygen levels, pH was slightly acidic (pH 5.6) and TN was slightly elevated.

Tidal Regime

Current tidal limits in the Tweed River and its associated tributaries and the Tweed coast estuaries are outlined in Table 4. The tidal range at the mouth of the Tweed River is approximately 1.5 m (Macdonald *et al.*, 2007).

Table 4: Tidal limits of the main Tweed Shire waterways

Catchment	Creek/River	Location	Distance from ocean (km)
Tweed	Tweed River	Bray Park Weir	35.5
	Rous River	1.7 km upstream of Boat Harbour Bridge	42.0
	Cobaki Creek	75 m downstream of road bridge	14.3
Cudgen	Reserve Creek	Clothiers Creek Rd	13.9
Cudgera	Christies Creek	200 m upstream from Kanes Road	5.8
Mooball	Burringbar Creek	500m downstream from Cowell Park farm	11.1

Source: MHL (2006)

Flooding

The Tweed River is well known for its floods with the townships of Murwillumbah, Condong, Tumbulgum, Chinderah, Tweed Heads and Tweed Heads South all having experienced inundation from floodwaters. A system of levees currently protects the main townships of Murwillumbah and Tweed Heads South from the more frequent floods (BMT WBM, 2009). There are large expanses of flood prone land on the Tweed River floodplain between the major urban centres as illustrated in Figure 7. Flooding also occurs on the floodplains of the Tweed coast estuaries. As discussed previously, the area of flood prone land is predicted to increase with the effects of sea level rise.

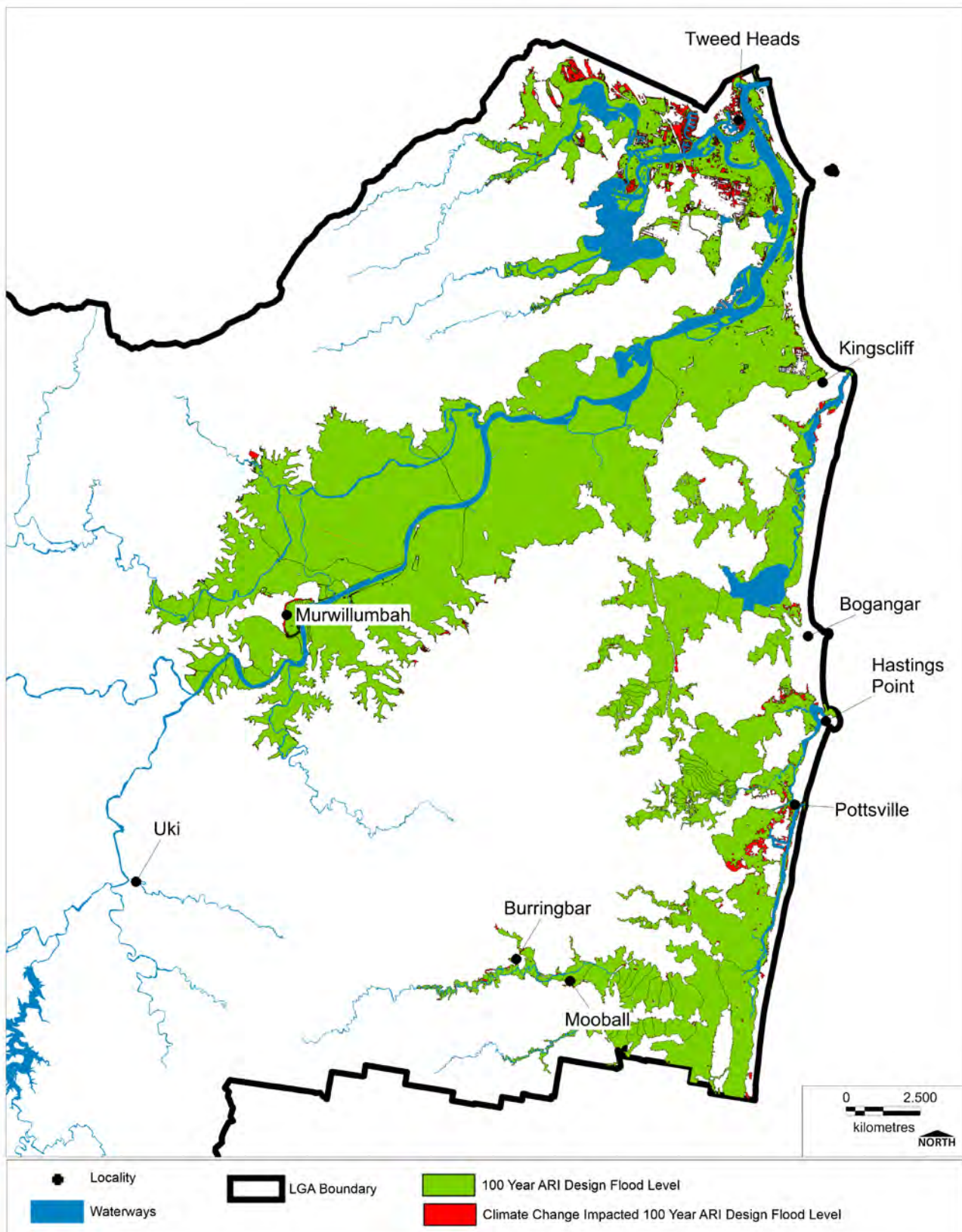


Figure 7: Flood prone land within the Tweed Shire and land predicted to be further affected by climate change impacts

Source: BMT WBM, 2009

2.4.2 Groundwater

A number of groundwater sources exist in the study area. The NSW Office of Water (2010a) groups the aquifer types into four basic categories:

1. Fractured rock aquifers found in rock formations such as granite or basalt. Groundwater in these rocks occurs mainly within the fractures and joints. The North Coast Fractured Rocks and New England Fold Belt make up the fractured rock aquifers in the study area;
2. Coastal sand aquifers, where groundwater is contained in the pore spaces in the unconsolidated sand sediments;
3. Porous rock aquifers found in rock formations such as sandstone or limestone. Groundwater occurs within the pore space in the rock matrix; and
4. Alluvial aquifers, where groundwater is contained in the pore spaces in the unconsolidated floodplain material.

Figure 8 shows the location of groundwater sources in the Tweed Shire. Table 5 collates information on local aquifers from various sources including basic geology, yield and salinity characteristics, connection to surface water, DLWC's aquifer risk assessment rating and whether a Water Sharing Plan (WSP) exists for the aquifer.

Table 5: Characteristics of aquifers in the Study Area

Aquifer	Geology	Level of connection between surface and groundwater	Bore Yields (L/s)	*Salinity (mg/L)	DLWC Risk Assess	WSP
North Coast Fractured Rocks	Fractured Basalt with vesicular zones and interlayered sediments	Low-Moderate	Typical: 1-15 Max: 30	<500	High	No
New England Fold Belt (NEFB)	Fractured and weathered granite	Low-Moderate	Typical: 0.1-0.5 Max: 19	<500	Medium-High	No
Tweed Coastal Sands	Beach and dune sands	Significant (tidal section only)	Typical: 0.5-6 Max: 40	<500	Medium	No – currently being developed
Porous Rocks of Clarence Moreton Basin	Sedimentary rocks- Quartz Sandstone, Conglomerate, Siltstone, Claystone, Coal	Low-Moderate	Typical: 0.3-1.5 Max: 10	<300	Low	No – currently being developed
Estuarine and Fluvial River Alluvium - Tweed River	Unconsolidated cobbles, gravels, sands, silts, muds and clays	Significant	Typical: 0.5-2.0 Max: 15	200-3,500	High	Yes

Sources: DLWC (1998), DLWC (2001), McKibbin (1995), Sinclair Knight Merz (2006).

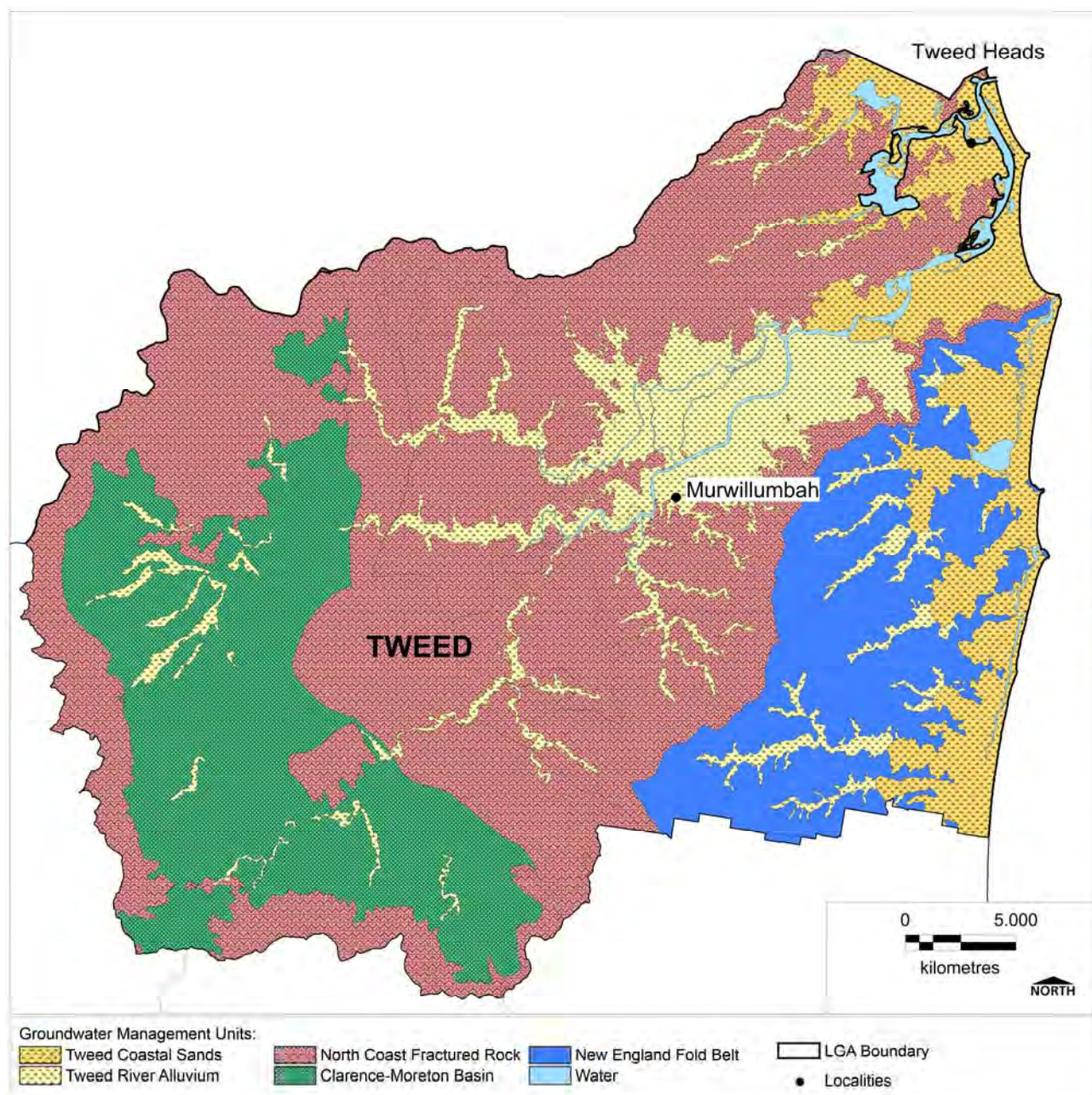


Figure 8: Groundwater Resources in the Tweed Shire LGA

Groundwater Management Units mapping layers provided by NSW Office of Water, Jan 2013

2.4.3 Seawater

Seawater accounts for 97% of the water on earth. Saline waters can be sourced from marine or estuarine locations. Desalination of seawater can augment available water resources and can be a virtually unlimited, reliable source of water in coastal regions. Brackish water from estuaries or coastal groundwater can also be used as feed water in desalination processes. Major brackish water sources in the study area are the Tweed River estuaries along with saline/brackish coastal groundwater aquifers.

2.5 Flora and Fauna

The Tweed region is regarded nationally and internationally as a centre for biodiversity. About half the region is covered by bushland with approximately 80% with a high or very high conservation status (TSC, 2010c). The Shire supports over 200 significant plant species (under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act, 1995*), one is thought to be extinct, 25 are endangered and 29 are vulnerable to extinction. Of the 100 significant animal species (under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act, 1995*), 17 are listed as endangered and 88 are considered vulnerable (TSC, 2010c).

2.5.1 Estuarine/Coastal

The Tweed River estuary is a significant contributor to the Australian East Coast Fishery through a range of mechanisms including direct contribution to catches, provision of nursery habitats, spawning stock and nutrients for offshore fisheries.

Estuarine vegetation (mangrove, saltmarsh and seagrass) occurs primarily in the lower reaches of the Tweed River and Tweed Coast estuaries. Many of these areas are conserved as SEPP 14 Wetlands and provide habitat and nursery grounds for a variety of aquatic and terrestrial species. These estuarine wetlands provide habitat for a large number of migratory waders including federally listed threatened species.

The Tweed River estuary and Tweed Coast estuaries support a range of species, habitats and communities of conservation concern. These include:

- 10 endangered ecological communities including (NSW Department of Environment & Heritage, 2012):
 - Coastal Cypress Pine Forest;
 - Coastal Saltmarsh;
 - Freshwater Wetlands on Coastal Floodplains;
 - Littoral Rainforest;
 - Lowland Rainforest;
 - Subtropical Coastal Floodplain Forest; and
 - Swamp Sclerophyll Forest on Coastal Floodplain.
- SEPP 14 Coastal Wetlands- associated with the lower floodplains and estuaries of the Tweed River and Tweed coast estuaries, particularly surrounding the Cobaki and Terranora Broadwaters, Cudgen Lake and Pottsville.
- SEPP 26 Littoral Rainforest- located sporadically along the Tweed Coast from Wooyung to Tweed Heads.
- Endangered or vulnerable shorebird species listed under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act, 1995* - most species are migratory and frequent the Tweed River and Tweed Coast estuaries.

2.5.2 Riparian and Foreshore Vegetation

Riparian land is any land that is next to, or directly influences a body of water. It includes areas adjacent to creeks and rivers, ephemeral streams, wetlands or areas surrounding dams and lakes. Riparian and foreshore vegetation provides a number of important ecological functions including fisheries habitat, terrestrial habitat, bank stability and maintenance of soil structural integrity, land use buffering, water quality filtering, lowering water temperature and reducing aquatic weeds as well as providing scenic amenity. There

are some notable areas of good quality riparian vegetation within the Tweed Shire that have been protected by environmental zoning, National Parks or nature reserves including:

- Stotts Island Nature Reserve in the mid Tweed River estuary;
- Cudgen Nature Reserve on Cudgen Creek;
- Environmental Park on Cudgera Creek; and
- Mt Warning, Mt Jerusalem, Nightcap and Border Ranges National Parks in the upper catchments of the Tweed River.

However, there are many riparian areas throughout the Tweed River and Tweed Coast estuaries catchments that are degraded as a result of clearing, development, weed encroachment and disturbance.

2.6 Land Use

Rural land use is the dominant activity in the Shire, comprising over 68% (845 km²) of the total Shire area. Nutrient-rich soils combined with high rainfall and a sub-tropical climate provides conditions suitable for a diverse range of rural land uses. Major primary industries within the Shire include:

- Sugar cane;
- Cattle grazing (predominantly beef and some dairy);
- Horticultural crops (macadamias, bananas, vegetables, etc.);
- Tea tree;
- Aquaculture (oysters and prawns); and
- Quarries.

Environmental zoning accounts for approximately 27% (329 km²) of the total Shire land area use (TSC, 2000). This is comprised of:

- 3 km² of Coastal Lands,
- 57 km² of Habitat,
- 58 km² of Scenic/Escarpment,
- 21 km² of Wetlands and Littoral Rainforest and
- 190 km² of National Parks and nature reserves.

Urban land use or land zoned for urban use in the TSC LEP (2000) accounts for just 5% (57 km²) of the Shire. The major residential areas within the Shire are along the coast around the mouth of the Tweed River at Tweed Heads, Banora Point, Terranora the coastal strip around Kingscliff, Casuarina, Cabarita and Pottsville and further west at Murwillumbah.

The two main commercial precincts in the Tweed Shire are located in the Murwillumbah CBD (Murwillumbah Street and Wollumbin Street) and South Tweed Heads (Minjungbal Drive) with smaller commercial areas located at Kingscliff, Cabarita and Pottsville. Industrial land in the Tweed Shire is concentrated in three major areas - the Airfield Industrial Estate in South Murwillumbah off Lundberg Drive, the industrial estate at Chinderah on Ozone Street, and the industrial/commercial precinct at South Tweed Heads off Minjungbal Drive. Smaller industrial areas are situated at Tweed Heads (Ourimbah Road) and at Condong.

In recent years new residential developments have proceeded near Kingscliff, Cabarita, Casuarina and South of Pottsville at Black Rocks. Future areas that have been approved for residential development include Cobaki Lakes, a 350 ha 12,000 person development situated west of the Cobaki Broadwater, an 8

ha 290 person development at Cudgen heights and a development at West Murwillumbah of 10 ha and 200 persons. Other residentially zoned land that in 2009 was yet to be subdivided are 78 ha at Tanglewood, 495 ha at Kings Forest, 370 ha at Bilambil Heights and 170 ha at West Murwillumbah (GHD, 2009).

Figure 9 is an illustration of the land use zone groups and locations of SEPP 14 Coastal Wetlands and SEPP 26 Littoral Rainforest communities within the Shire.

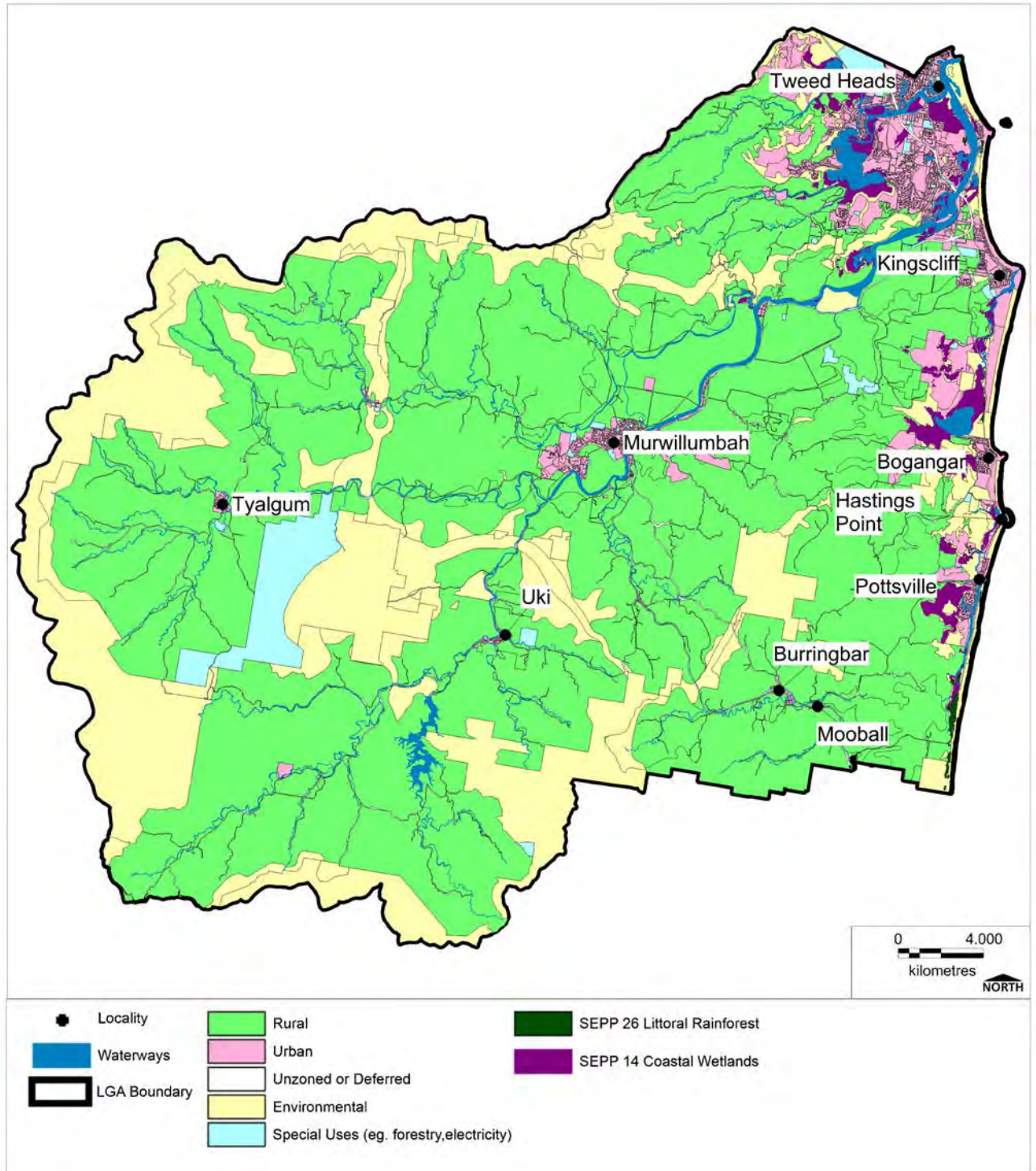


Figure 9: General land uses in the Tweed Shire

2.7 Water Supply

2.7.1 Town Water Supply

Water Supply Systems

Water is supplied to customers in the LGA through three water supply systems. Key features and operational aspects of the systems are provided in the following sections and summarised in Table 6. Figure 10 shows the location and layout of the water supply systems.

Table 6: Key features of Tweed Shire Water Supply Schemes

System	Tweed District	Uki	Tyalgum
Water Source ¹	Doon Doon Creek	Doon Doon Creek	Upper Oxley River
Source Type	Surface water storage and weir pool	Large in-stream storage and run-of-river abstraction	Weir pool
Storage capacity	Clarrie Hall Dam (15,000 ML), Bray Park Weir (840 ML)	Clarrie Hall Dam (15,000 ML)	Tyalgum weir pool (7.52ML)
Towns/villages served	Murwillumbah, Tweed Heads, the coastal strip from Kingscliff to Pottsville and the villages of Mooball and Burringbar	Uki	Tyalgum
Population Served (2012)	78,500		225
Estimated future population served (2042)	151,000 ⁴		350
Average annual water demand (ML/a)	9,400		50
Licence entitlement (ML/a)	27,500 ¹	67 ¹	46 ¹
Current Secure Yield (ML/a)	13,750 ²		120 ³
Estimated future water demand 2042 (ML/a)	17,500 ⁴		52
Treatment Facilities	Bray Park WTP (100 ML/d)	Uki WTP (0.44 ML/d)	Tyalgum WTP (0.25 ML/d)

1. As specified in the *Water Sharing Plan for the Tweed River Area Unregulated, Regulated and Alluvial Water Sources* (Office of Water, 2010b)

2. Source: SunWater (2006)

3. Source: SunWater (2003)

4. Various demand projections were presented in the Background Paper, based on possible population growth scenarios. Council will continue to review and update its forecast population growth.

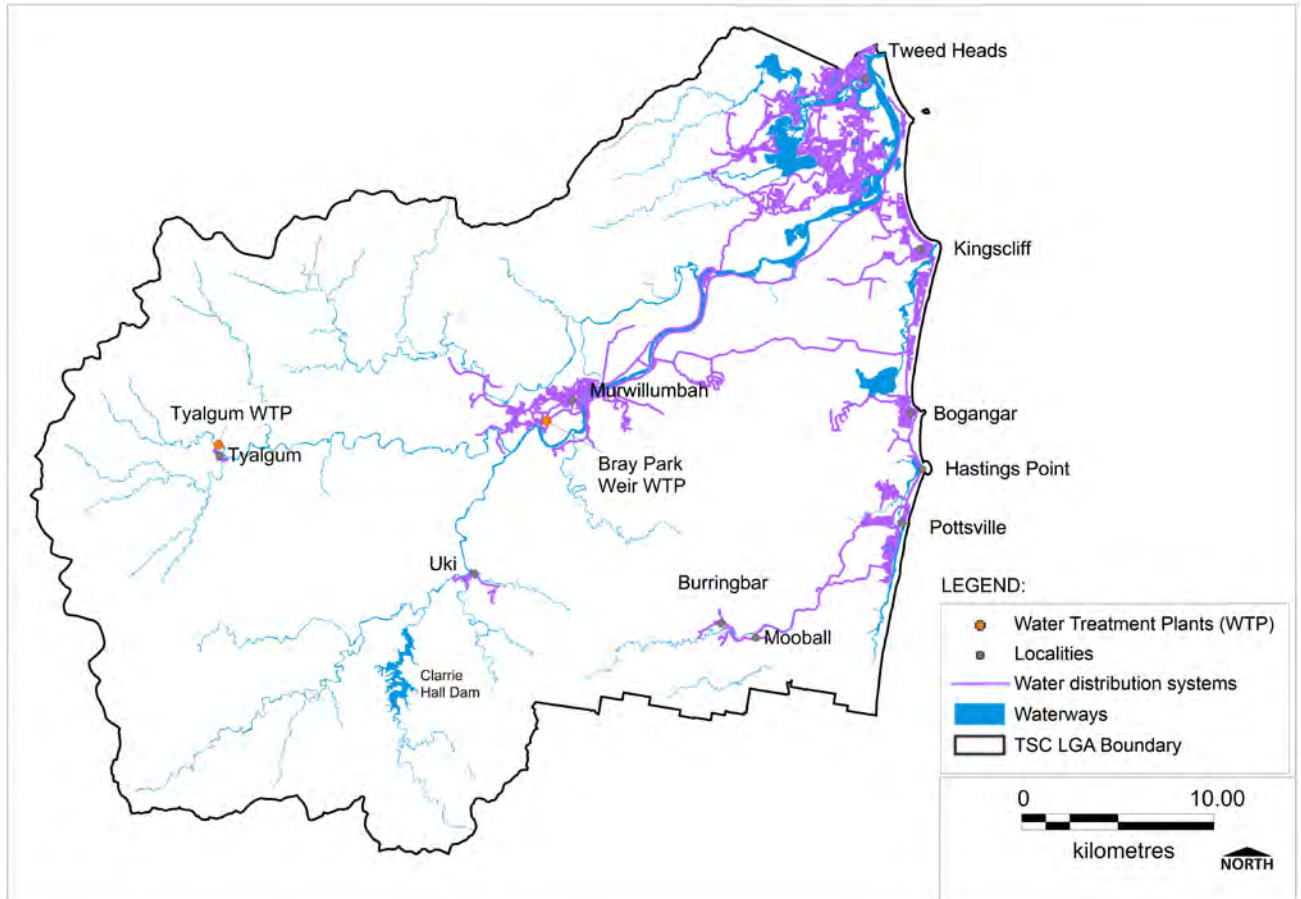


Figure 10: TSC Water Supply Systems

Drought and Emergency Management

The TSC Drought Management Strategy was adopted in 2009 as part of the current IWCM Strategy for all water supply systems. Restriction levels and demand targets for the Bray Park and Uki water supply schemes were reviewed in 2012. The adopted restrictions regime is shown in Table 7.

Table 7: Drought Restriction Levels and Target Demand Reduction

Restriction Trigger Levels	Demand Reduction Target (%)	Bray Park/Uki (% of Clarrie Hall Dam Full Capacity)	Tyalgum Water Supply
External sales banned and pre-activation activities	0	90	Not used
Level 2 restrictions	15	75	Water stops flowing over the weir
Level 4 restrictions	20	60	Water-carting required to supply the system
Level 6 restrictions	25	50	Not used
Level 7 restrictions	30	40	Not used

A small emergency connection (approximately 3 ML/d) to the South-East Queensland water grid is in place at Tweed Heads but there is no water use agreement in place with SEQ Water and TSC believes it is unlikely that water would be provided during a drought situation given that SEQ would probably be experiencing similar climatic conditions. Other emergency supply and drought management options have been considered but require further investigation (refer Section 4.2.4).

2.7.2 Private Water Supplies

The current number of residential properties and population not connected to a town water supply within the Tweed Shire is 7,300 (estimated from the number of dwellings reported in the 2011 Census) (Hydrosphere Consulting, 2013a). The properties rely on household rainwater tanks, bore water or direct river extraction. In times of prolonged drought, rainwater tanks may be depleted or groundwater/surface water extraction may be restricted and these private water supplies may purchase potable water from town water supplies via water carters.

2.7.3 Rainwater Tanks

Council's policy for rainwater tanks in urban areas adopted in 2011 encourages the installation of rainwater tanks to provide non-potable water for outdoor uses, flushing toilets and washing machines. Customers are encouraged to install the largest tank they can. The policy requires dual supply rainwater tanks in single residential premises to have a minimum storage capacity of 5,000 L and a minimum roof area catchment of 160 m². For multi-residential dwellings, it is recommended that the rainwater tank volume is maximised with 80% to 90% of the roof area connected.

All new residential development must comply with the State Government's Building Sustainability Index (BASIX) which requires 40% reduction in potable water use per household through a combination of rainwater tanks, water efficient appliances, garden design or recycled water reuse.

2.7.4 Regional Approach to Water Management

The Northern Rivers Regional Organisation of Councils (NOROC) aims to increase tangible benefits to member councils through enhanced resource and capacity sharing programs. These programs aim to deliver efficiencies and cost savings for NOROC member councils and promote local government innovation and excellence.

The NOROC member Councils (including Tweed) have identified the need for a cooperative approach and innovative resource sharing initiatives to ensuring long-term future water demands will be met. The NOROC Water Managers Group has developed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to provide a foundation for developing a voluntary, cooperative partnership between the member Councils to deliver best-practice water supply and sewerage services to the Northern Rivers region of New South Wales and to optimise shared resources (staff, equipment, materials, specialist knowledge and capabilities).

Objectives of this MOU are:

- Development of a regional water supply strategy incorporating integrated water cycle management criteria, based on a 50-year planning horizon - a Bulk Water Supply Strategy (BWSS) for the Northern Rivers Region is currently being prepared by NOROC. The outcomes of this strategy will be considered by TSC in planning for water supply security;
- Development of a regional drinking water quality management plan incorporating an implementation strategy – TSC is preparing its drinking water quality management plan independently of the other NOROC member councils;
- Development of a regional approach to water supply demand management – not yet commenced apart from the initiatives of Rous Water and its member Councils;
- Development of agreed protocols and processes for the effective sharing of resources recognising the opportunistic nature of resource sharing – not yet commenced;
- Development of a regional best-practice pricing strategy – not yet commenced; and

- Development of operational objectives and methodologies for benchmarking across the region and across regional water utilities in NSW and across Australia – not yet commenced.

The common objectives of the group were agreed as follows:

- Water security and water quality;
- Regional integrated water cycle management and water resource sharing;
- Demand management;
- Resource sharing – expertise; training; specialist staff; specialist equipment; staff retention; career development;
- Financial capacity and sustainability;
- Managing growth and development;
- Joint lobby / access to funding;
- Funding options;
- Centres of excellence;
- Regional pricing setting parameters;
- Benchmarking / performance indicators;
- Joint standards; and
- Government compliance / performance reporting.

2.8 Wastewater Management

2.8.1 Council Wastewater Systems

The main population centres in the Tweed Shire each have conventional gravity reticulated wastewater systems, with some low pressure pump systems used in some areas. The wastewater systems are described in Table 8 and illustrated in Figure 11.

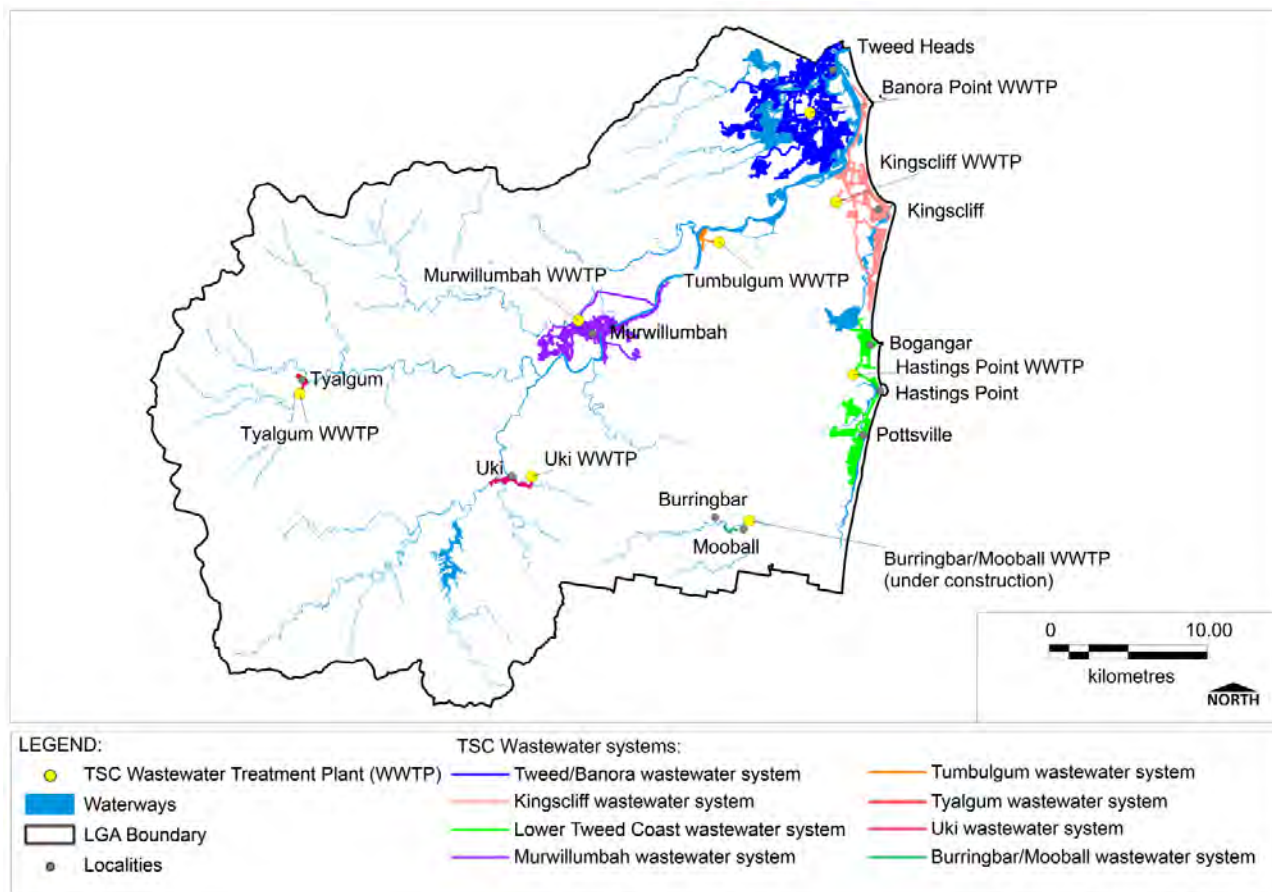


Figure 11: Tweed Shire Council Wastewater Management Systems

2.8.2 Private Wastewater Systems

The On-site Sewage Management (OSSM) Strategy details Council’s approach to the supervision of sewage management systems in the Tweed Shire (TSC, undated a). There are approximately 6,000 properties not connected to a town sewerage system within the Tweed Shire. These properties rely on on-site sewerage systems including septic tanks, aerated wastewater treatment systems, waterless composting toilets and greywater systems.

Table 8: Existing Council Wastewater Management Systems

System	Areas Served	WWTP capacity (EP)	Treatment Process	Effluent Management	EPA Licensed Discharge (ML/d)	2011/12 STP Inflows	
						Average Dry Weather Flow (ML/d)	Peak Wet Weather Flow (ML/d)
Tweed Heads	Currently decommissioned but Council has approval to redevelop to 10,000 EP if and when required.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Banora Point	Tweed heads, Cobaki Lakes, Bilambil Heights, Banora Point, and Terranora.	62,500 ¹	5-stage Bardenpho process with tertiary filtration	Irrigation of golf course and planned for sports fields. Tertiary treated wastewater discharged to Terranora Inlet.	75	11.1	67.5
Kingscliff	Kingscliff, Fingal Head, Salt, Casuarina and Kings Forest	25,000	Chemically enhanced biological nutrient removal (CEBNR) process	Irrigation of Chinderah Golf course and used on site. Tertiary treated wastewater discharged into the Tweed River.	24	2.6	5.5
Hastings Point	Tanglewood, Bogangar, Cabarita Beach, Hastings Point Pottsville, Koala Beach and Seabreeze.	16,000	Activated sludge process with phosphorus removal, intermittently decanting extended aeration tanks (IDEAT), deodorisation, tertiary filtration	Tertiary treated wastewater discharged to an exfiltration zone in the beach dunes east of the plant.	12.96	2.45	8.2
Murwillumbah	Condong, Murwillumbah, South Murwillumbah, Bray Park	16,000	IDEAT, phosphorus removal, pH correction, UV disinfection, deodorisation, tertiary filtration.	Reuse at Condong Sugar Mill in cooling towers. Tertiary treated wastewater discharged into Rous River.	14	3.19	25.7
Tumbulgum	Tumbulgum	700	Activated sludge process with phosphorus removal, UV disinfection.	Tertiary treated wastewater discharged into Tweed River.	0.756	0.087	0.3

System	Areas Served	WWTP capacity (EP)	Treatment Process	Effluent Management	EPA Licensed Discharge (ML/d)	2011/12 STP Inflows	
						Average Dry Weather Flow (ML/d)	Peak Wet Weather Flow (ML/d)
Tyalgum	Tyalgum	500	Continuous activated sludge process.	Wastewater is treated to secondary standards and discharged via on-site pasture irrigation.	0.48	0.06	0.5
Uki	Uki	600	Continuous activated sludge process	100% of dry weather flows reused to irrigate Koala food trees grown for Currumbin Sanctuary	0.7	0.046	0.06
Burringbar Mooball	Burringbar, Mooball	750 ³		A number of reuse options for irrigation have been identified.	n/a	0.135 ²	n/a

¹Capacity in 2011/12 (TSC performance indicators report, 2012). Banora Point WWTP has been designed to be upgraded in stages to keep pace with development. Following completion of Stage 2 upgrade at Banora Point WWTP, the plant has a capacity of 75,000 EP. Stage 3 will provide capacity to serve 125,000 EP (GHD, 2005)

³Design parameters provided by TSC as the WWTP is not yet operational

2.9 Urban Stormwater

Tweed Shire urban areas are serviced by stormwater drainage assets, which aim to prevent flooding by conveying stormwater to receiving waterways. Some stormwater assets also aim to provide treatment of stormwater to improve the quality of discharges. The TSC Drainage Assets Management Plan (TSC, 2010b) describes the different asset types as follows:

- **Underground Drain:**
 - Pipes – located underground within the roadway or nature strip generally range in size from 225 mm in diameter to greater than 1,200 mm in diameter;
 - Pits - provide points of entry for stormwater from the above ground drainage system to the underground drainage system;
 - Pumping stations provide for situations where the stormwater in parts of the underground drainage system cannot flow freely by gravity to the receiving waterways. Pumping stations are also used to increase the rate of stormwater discharge to receiving waterways during significant storm events or when the receiving waterways (being the local creeks) break their banks, thereby minimising incidences of flooding;
- **Above Ground Drain:**
 - Open channels (such as kerb and channel, spoon drains and swale drains) acts as a drainage channel, directing stormwater road surface flows into the underground stormwater drainage network via drainage pits;
 - Retarding basins are constructed to provide temporary stormwater storage and thus ease stormwater runoff peaks that are generated by significant storm events for flood protection of downstream urban areas. Retarding basins can also provide additional purposes such as water quality treatment and landscape amenity;
- **Water Quality Devices:**
 - Gross Pollutant Traps (GPT) capture litter and other rubbish left in the streets that can be washed down stormwater drains prior to entering the receiving waterways;
 - Wetlands are an area that is regularly wet or flooded and has a water table that stands at or above the land surface for at least part of the year; and
 - Sedimentation ponds are constructed to provide for treating stormwater prior to its disposal into receiving waterways.

Table 9: Tweed Shire Council drainage assets

Drainage Asset Type	Quantity
Stormwater Pipes	316,467 m
Stormwater Nodes	15,379
Stormwater Culverts	238
Stormwater Channels	32,013 m
Flood Gates	209

Source: TSC (2010c)

TSC recognises that many waterways in the Tweed are currently under stress as a result of historical urban development without due consideration to stormwater impacts on receiving environments (Australian Wetlands, 2012). In more recent years there have been a range of stormwater treatment devices installed throughout the Tweed to address hotspots within existing urban areas. These include:

- Gross pollutant traps – e.g. Ukerebagh Passage;
- Gross pollution interceptor, sediment basin and artificial wetland – e.g. Duffy St Drain;
- Constructed wetland – e.g. Knox Park;
- CDS unit – e.g. Kingscliff East;
- Stormwater treatment device- e.g. Cabarita Beach outfall; and
- Sediment pond – e.g. Koala Beach Estate.

3. IWCM FRAMEWORK

3.1 Current IWCM Strategy

3.1.1 2006 IWCM Strategy

TSC commenced the IWCM process in 2004. The critical drivers at that time were:

- Uncertainty about the ability of existing surface water sources to adequately service future populations - driven by a number of factors including predicted ongoing high population growth rates, a reduction in the estimate of safe yield of its water supply sources and the possibility of a reduced entitlement to water in the future (as a result of the proposed water sharing plan process);
- The impacts of urban stormwater on the Lower Tweed River estuary - driven by high population growth, high urban runoff rates and the minimal use of stormwater quality improvement devices;
- The impacts of effluent on the Lower Tweed River estuary - driven by high population growth, low effluent reuse and effluent from the four major wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) discharging directly into the Lower Tweed River estuary; and
- The impacts of agricultural runoff on the upper Tweed River and Bray Park Weir - driven by the high proportion of agricultural land in the catchment, past land management practices that led to loss of vegetation (including riparian vegetation) and past and existing agricultural practices.

To manage the above issues, Council committed to an IWCM process involving the integrated management of the water supply, sewerage and stormwater services within a whole of catchment strategic framework.

The objectives of the (Hunter Water Australia, 2006) were to:

- Develop guiding principles and objectives for urban water services that are consistent with the broader catchment and triple bottom line requirement;
- Evaluate and short-list IWCM options for water service delivery that address these objectives and requirements;
- Provide a forum for community and other stakeholder involvement in the ongoing development of an IWCM strategy for urban water services;
- Provide the strategic framework for the future development of the urban water services; and
- Deliver sustainable urban water services within a sound business planning context.

3.1.2 Interim IWCM Strategy Reviews in 2009 and 2011

Following adoption of the IWCM Strategy in 2006, progress was monitored and strategy actions were revised to enable ongoing implementation. The progress of the IWCM Strategy was reported to Council in 2009 and 2011 and the strategy actions were revised at each stage with the current set of 18 actions adopted by Council in February 2011. Further information on each initiative is included in the Background Paper (Appendix 1). Many of the actions have been completed or substantially progressed.

3.2 Development of this IWCM Strategy

This IWCM Strategy has been developed through a structured process consisting of:

- Review and update of the drivers for IWCM in the Tweed (as documented in the 2006 IWCM Strategy and summarised in Section 3.1.1);

- Incorporation of community objectives and priorities (Section 3.3.1);
- Identification of stakeholder values that help define the future direction for IWCM in the Tweed (Section 3.3.2);
- Development of IWCM management objectives which incorporate the community objectives and stakeholder values (Section 3.3.3). and which can be used to guide the development of management options;
- Identification of IWCM targets - urban water service targets, legal obligations and agreed levels of service identified in the Background Paper (Appendix 1) and summarised in Section 3.4;
- Identification of IWCM issues - defined by non-compliance with IWCM targets or non-achievement of management objectives (refer Section 3.5); and
- Development of management options to address the IWCM issues (Section 4) and IWCM scenarios (bundles of management options) with varying resourcing and funding requirements to achieve the IWCM management objectives (Section 5).

3.3 IWCM Values and Objectives

3.3.1 Community Strategic Objectives

While the key drivers for IWCM have not significantly changed since Council commenced the IWCM process in 2004 (refer Section 3.1), the community and Council have expressed a desire for an IWCM approach that is broader than the original urban water focus. Community objectives such as protecting biodiversity and water management are highlighted in the Community Strategic Plan 2011/21 (TSC, 2011a) as the Tweed region deals with increasing population and the need to preserve the natural environment. The relevant priorities identified in the Community Strategic Plan 2011/21 are:

- Making decisions based on sustainability;
- Pursuing sustainable population;
- Undertaking effective and transparent consultation;
- Responding to community input; and
- Providing high quality services and maintaining assets.
- Protecting biodiversity / natural attributes;
- Enhancing water management;
- Promoting sustainable development; and
- Encouraging sustainable housing / urban design

The desire for implementation of a total water cycle approach is driven by population growth, environmental impacts, community values, climate change and the increased consideration of stormwater and wastewater as a resource. This approach recognises that all elements of the water cycle are interdependent and all aspects of land use and infrastructure planning should be integrated with the water cycle considerations.

In developing its IWCM Strategy, the key challenges that Council faces are:

- Identifying the issues that have the greatest impact on Council and the community;
- Finding cost effective ways to deal with the issues;

- Assigning priorities, given the different perspectives and perceptions of the issues and competing demands for funds in an environment where costs need to be fully justified to a broad spectrum of interest groups;
- Ensuring continuity of business through changing circumstances such as climate change; and
- Increasing regulatory requirements.

3.3.2 Values Identified through Stakeholder Consultation

Consultation activities undertaken as part of this IWCM Review built on the activities already undertaken by Council as part of the IWCM implementation actions. The objectives were to engage the wider community in the IWCM review and establish the community priorities for water cycle management. The community engagement activities focused on:

- Provision of information on the current status of the IWCM Strategy and the issues to be addressed in the IWCM review (the Background Paper, Appendix 1). 28 submissions from government agencies, community groups and individual community members were received;
- A community survey (random telephone survey of 616 adult residents during November 2012 and a parallel on-line and paper survey with 441 valid surveys received); and
- Promotion of the project and engagement activities to the wider community and interest groups.

A detailed description of the stakeholder consultation activities and outcomes is included in Appendix 2. The feedback from the community and other stakeholders has been used to develop water cycle management objectives and priorities as discussed below.

The mechanisms used to establish current stakeholder values and priorities were the telephone survey, the online/hard copy survey and the written submissions. The selection of residents for the telephone survey was entirely random, other than ensuring an adequate representation across each of three geographic areas within the Tweed Shire. Random sampling error (RSE) for a survey of 616 households is +/- 3.9 % at the 95 % confidence level. Effectively this means that were the same random survey to be conducted 20 times, results should be representative of the overall adult Tweed Shire population to within +/- 3.9 % in 19 of those 20 surveys. Although, the online survey and written submissions cannot necessarily be used to make reliable inferences about the overall population of the Tweed Shire due to the self-selecting nature of the responses, they are a useful snapshot of community opinion and reflect the views of those who chose to participate in the survey. Further detail is provided in Appendix 2.

The key findings of the consultation process are:

- Council should implement a balanced approach to reducing water usage and increasing water availability. However there is significant support for continuation of demand management initiatives;
- A continuous supply of drinking water is a priority but also important to the community are maximising stormwater and wastewater re-use, maintaining the natural environment in river and catchment areas and encouraging households to reduce their water consumption;
- Maintaining clean water in the Tweed River system is a high priority;
- Council should be most supportive of protection of the water supply, followed by natural habitat and water quality protection and improving the quality of treated wastewater/urban stormwater runoff;
- There is no clear mandate on a preferred approach to augmenting future water supply with the community evenly divided between four suggested approaches (more household rebates for water saving devices, construction of another drinking water supply, greater use of recycled water and behavioural change/further education). Approximately half the community supports the use of alternative water sources (rainwater tanks, stormwater reuse and treated wastewater); and

- The responsibility for maintaining the health of rivers should be shared by all ratepayers.

The written submissions identified the need for a review of the key assumptions of the IWCM strategy including population projections, demand forecasts and the impacts of climate change. Many respondents were supportive of the implementation of integrated water management solutions and the need for increased inter-departmental cooperation within Council.

A contentious issue within the community is the approach to future water supplies and whether that should be met by a new potable water source, demand management or source substitution. The results of this current consultation process suggest the community is divided about this issue with some survey respondents identifying the need for a new dam and some stating their opposition to a new dam.

3.3.3 IWCM Management Objectives

Based on the community strategic objectives and the stakeholder values, the key management objectives for IWCM in Tweed Shire are:

- Implementation of a Total Water Cycle Management (TWCM) approach through better integration of urban water supply, wastewater, stormwater and catchment management activities;
- Identification and incorporation of community priorities;
- Provision of mechanisms for integration between the activities of the Council units that have relevance to water cycle management; and
- Compliance with the NSW Office of Water best-practice guidelines (DWE, 2007) as a minimum.

3.4 IWCM Targets

The IWCM process is about addressing water cycle management problems. The issues are defined by non-compliance with urban water service targets, both legal obligations and agreed levels of service or non-achievement of water cycle management objectives.

All councils have targets which relate to legislation, contracts, standards and agreed levels of service. Some targets relate to regulatory requirements (for example water extraction, water processing, water discharge and waste disposal) and cannot be varied. These targets are mandatory and non-compliances are therefore described as IWCM issues. For the purposes of this IWCM review, targets also include formal guidelines and objectives which Council intends to meet.

The targets and objectives that are relevant to this IWCM Review are discussed in the Background Paper (Appendix 1) and summarised in the following table.

Table 10: IWCM Targets

Source	Target	Summary of Objectives Related to IWCM
Council's Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework	Community Strategic Plan (CSP)	Identifies the long-term aspirations of the community, key directions, outcomes and key result areas
	Delivery Program	Interprets the long-term strategic plan into 4 year strategic actions
	Operational Plan	Annual Operational Plan for the budget year
	Resourcing Strategy	Includes the Financial Plan, Workforce Management Plan and Asset Management Strategy (TSC, 2011b)
	State of the Environment Report	Identifies pressures, responses and priorities for the Tweed Shire environment and natural resources.

Source	Target	Summary of Objectives Related to IWCM
Legislation	<i>Local Government Act, 1993, and Local Government (General) Regulation 2005</i>	Best-practice management, on-site sewage management, regulation of private sewer systems, pricing.
	<i>Local Government (Water Services) Regulation, 1999</i>	Water restrictions, trade waste.
	<i>Public Health Act, 2010</i>	Framework for Management of Drinking Water Quality (Australian Drinking Water Guidelines)
	<i>Protection of the Environment Operations (POEO) Act, 1997</i>	Environmental Protection Licences (refer below).
	<i>Water Management Act, 2000</i>	Water Sharing Plans and Water Access Licences and Developer Charges.
	<i>Catchment Management Authorities Act, 2003</i>	Northern Rivers Catchment Action Plan objectives.
	<i>Environmental Planning and Assessment (EP&A) Act, 1979</i>	Environmental impact assessment and planning and relevant planning instruments.
	<i>Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000 and Rehabilitation Act 1987</i>	Provision of safe working environment.
	<i>Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) Act, 1992</i>	Determination and advice on prices and pricing policy for government monopoly services.
	<i>Competition Policy including Competition Policy Reform Act, 1995</i>	Prohibition on anti-competitive behaviour.
	<i>Water Industry Competition Act, 2006</i>	Encourage competition in the water industry and to foster innovative recycling projects and dynamic efficiency in the provision of water and wastewater services.
Environmental Planning Instruments	<i>SEPP Building Sustainability Index (BASIX), 2004</i>	BASIX was mandatory for regional NSW from 2005/06.
	<i>State and Regional Development SEPP, 2011</i>	<p>The system establishes two separate assessment frameworks for State Significant Development (SSD) and State Significant Infrastructure (SSI). Projects that fall within these categories will be assessed by the Department of Planning and Infrastructure and determined by the Minister, the Planning Assessment Commission or senior departmental staff.</p> <p>The SSD assessment system has been established to guide planning decisions on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large-scale industrial, resource and other proposals in 24 different development classes; or • Development in precincts identified as important for the State by the NSW Government. <p>The SSI assessment system has been established to allow planning decisions on major infrastructure proposals, in particular linear infrastructure (such as roads, railway lines or pipes which often cross a number of council boundaries) or development which doesn't require consent but which could have a significant environmental impact (such as a port facility).</p>

Source	Target	Summary of Objectives Related to IWCM
	<i>SEPP Infrastructure, 2007</i>	Provides a consistent planning regime for infrastructure and the provision of services across NSW, along with providing for consultation with relevant public authorities during the assessment process.
	<i>SEPP Coastal Protection</i>	Development in the NSW coastal zone is appropriate and suitably located.
	<i>North Coast REP, deemed SEPP (1988)</i>	This plan covers all of the North Coast LGAs. It identifies environmental features that are important to the region and provides a basis for new urban and rural development.
	<i>Tweed LEP</i>	Tweed LEP 2000 currently zones a range of areas for various urban land uses. It provides the main statutory basis for future development and is the statutory instrument that has been used to implement the existing Residential Development Strategy, 1992 (through the rezoning process). It sets the basis for the existing stock of zoned and developed or undeveloped land that needs to be considered in assessing the long-term requirements for urban land in Tweed Shire.
	<i>Tweed DCP</i>	DCPs indicate to developers what level of detail is required with certain types of applications and what standards are sought with the design of certain developments.
Water Sharing Plans and Licences	<i>Water Sharing Plan Tweed River Area Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources</i>	Rules for sharing water.
Environment Protection Licences (under POEO Act)	Banora Point WWTP	TSC is required to comply with load limits and concentration and volume limits are specified for the effluent quality monitoring point. The STP licences also require TSC to monitor and record pollution complaints, STP bypasses, biosolids and sewer overflows to the environment.
	Hastings Point WWTP	
	Kingscliff WWTP	
	Murwillumbah WWTP	
	Tumbulgum WWTP	
	Tweed Heads WWTP	
	Tyalgum WWTP	
Uki WWTP		
Water Supply and Wastewater Activity Management Plans	Demonstrates the link between the community's needs, the agreed levels of service and management of the services.	
Water and Sewerage Levels of Service	Define the standards required from the water and wastewater systems.	

Source	Target	Summary of Objectives Related to IWCM
National Water Initiative and Best-Practice Management	The NWI provides objectives, outcomes and agreed actions to be undertaken by state and local governments across all aspects of water management. TSC is required to demonstrate compliance with the NWI by encouraging best-practice through effective, efficient and sustainable water supply and wastewater businesses. Substantial compliance with the Best-Practice Guidelines is also a pre-requisite for State Government financial assistance towards the capital cost of backlog water supply and wastewater infrastructure and for payment of a dividend from the surplus of the water supply or wastewater business to the council's general revenue. Compliance with the Best-Practice Management Guidelines is also a requirement of the Division of Local Government's Planning and Reporting Manual.	
<i>Northern Rivers Catchment Action Plan (CAP)</i>	The CAP outlines targets that are aimed at improving and protecting natural assets, such as water, soil, native vegetation, cultural heritage, biodiversity, and the adjoining assets in the coastal and marine environment. The CAP also has a variety of targets relating to water management, some of which include water supply and waste water management, water conservation management, water quality management and water sharing. The CAP also promotes the value of people and communities in the catchment.	
Recycled Water Agreements	Council has agreements with Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary, Tweed Golf Course and Chinderah Golf Course for supply of recycled water.	
Guidelines, Standards and Codes	<i>Australian Guidelines for Water Recycling: Managing Health and Environmental Risks (2006)</i>	Adopt a risk management approach to managing risks to human health and the environment from recycling of water from greywater and treated sewage.
	<i>National Water Quality Management Strategy - Guidelines for Sewerage Systems - Use of Reclaimed Water (2000)</i>	Provide advice on reclaimed water quality, level of treatment, safeguards and controls and monitoring.
	<i>NSW Interim Guidelines for Management of Private Recycle Schemes (2008)</i>	Provides advice, for obtaining approval to install and operate a private recycled water scheme.
	<i>NSW Guidelines for Greywater Reuse in Sewered, Single Household Residential Premises (2008)</i>	Guidelines for approval of greywater treatment systems in accordance with Item C6, Section 68, <i>Local Government Act, 1993</i> .
	<i>Environmental Guidelines: Use of Effluent by Irrigation (DECC, 2004)</i>	Guidelines for use of treated effluent in landscape watering, irrigation of pasture, crops, orchards, vineyards, plantation forests or rehabilitated sites and irrigation of golf courses, racecourses and other recreation grounds.
	<i>Environmental Guidelines: Use and Disposal of Biosolids Products (EPA, 2000)</i>	Guidelines related to the beneficial use and disposal of biosolids.
	<i>Environment and Health Protection Guidelines: Onsite Sewage Management for Single Households (known as the 'Silver Book'), 1998</i>	Guidelines to assist with the assessment, regulation and management of single household on-site sewage management systems.
<i>On-site Sewage Management (OSSM) Policy</i>	Promotes sustainable on-site sewage management and to guide landholders or developers towards best-practice.	

3.5 IWCM Issues

The review of the adopted IWCM Strategy identified current and emerging issues and determined if the existing direction is adequate to address these issues. Based on the review of the current IWCM strategy,

the progress of the actions and data collected as part of this IWCM review, a current set of IWCM issues has been developed.

In particular, this IWCM review considered Council's strategic aim to provide a broader whole-of-catchment management approach. This differs from the adopted 2006 IWCM Strategy which focussed on and successfully implemented urban water cycle actions (particularly water and wastewater services) which were largely supported by staff and resources from Council's Water Unit.

The Background Paper (Appendix 1) identified a broad spread of IWCM issues to be addressed as part of this IWCM Strategy. A number of the issues are related to Council's desire to pursue greater integration of water cycle management responsibilities and cross-divisional cooperation. It is worth noting, these issues would not have been identified in a traditional (urban only) IWCM approach but are underlying factors that logically influence Council's approach to water management. Some of the issues also relate to future or emerging issues such as climate change and increasing regulation where information has become more available since previous IWCM reviews were undertaken.

The current issues identified as part of this review are presented in the broad categories of:

- Administration and Governance;
- Urban Town Water Supply;
- Urban Wastewater Management;
- Urban Stormwater Management; and
- Catchment Management.

The Background Paper in Appendix 1 provides detailed explanation of these issues.

3.5.1 Administration and Governance

Issue 1: IWCM principles, responsibilities and priorities are not fully implemented across all Council units –

The current IWCM Strategy largely follows the traditional IWCM approach which is based on delivery of integrated urban water services by a local water utility. While Council has already implemented some improvements in integration and inter-departmental cooperation, increased integration may lead to increased opportunities for gains in efficiency and/or better IWCM outcomes.

Issue 2: There is a need for informed and transparent decision-making and better management of

community expectations - Council does not have unlimited resources to meet the demand for infrastructure and services as well as address all community desires for prosperity and environment protection. This highlights the need for informed and transparent decision-making as well as effective communication with the community in order for rate payers to have faith in the decision-making process. Given the finite level of Council resources and the capital-intensive nature of urban water services, Council needs to provide leadership and justification for its decisions based on the best available information.

Issue 3: There is a need for defensible and robust population forecasts - Population forecasts are inherently difficult as they rely on assumptions regarding demand for land sales, the capacity of urban release areas, community preferences for settlement, the future types of housing and the planning approvals process. The 2011 census data indicate that there is a lower rate of population growth than was assumed in the current IWCM Strategy. If this lower growth rate continues, there could be implications for the selection and timing of water and wastewater infrastructure.

Issue 4: Uncertainty regarding the preferred Tweed district water supply augmentation option creates

confusion regarding land use planning – Council has been progressively purchasing land to cater for the inundation areas (and buffer zones) of the proposed Byrrill Creek Dam and potential raising of Clarrie Hall

Dam. The absence of a firm direction regarding the future water supply is likely to cause anxiety amongst affected land holders as well as difficulties implementing land use planning and development controls.

Issue 5: The implications of private industry involvement in town water supply and wastewater management are unclear, particularly with regard to regulation and Council responsibilities - The Water Industry Competition (WIC) Act, 2006 allows private utility operators to develop and operate water and wastewater schemes under licence from the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART). Council's role and responsibilities regarding private schemes are unclear. In addition, there is a need to ensure the private schemes implement Council's IWCM objectives.

Issue 6: Asset management planning - The current IWCM Strategy includes an action to implement the water supply and sewerage asset management plans. Whilst these plans were prepared in 2010, implementation is an ongoing process and there is a need to continuously improve asset management planning.

Issue 7: Climate change implications need to be integrated into planning for urban water services, catchment management and natural resource management - Future sea level rise and climate variations will affect water cycle management infrastructure and activities. This impact needs to be considered in future water supply and wastewater planning, demand management and risk management.

Issue 8: High energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions – Council's water supply and wastewater infrastructure consumes high levels of energy, which is currently sourced from non-renewable sources. There are opportunities to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions and develop energy and greenhouse gas emission targets.

Issue 9: Best-Practice Compliance - While Council currently substantially complies with the NSW government best-practice requirements, the Strategic Business Plans and Development Servicing Plans require regular review to remain compliant. In addition, water usage patterns for existing multi-residential properties needs to be better understood.

Issue 10: Improved data collection and reporting procedures would facilitate adaptive forecasting of demand and assist with community education - The demand management implementation plan is focussed around a campaign of target residential demand per person but current reporting of performance has created some confusion and inconsistencies. In addition, Council has implemented a new customer management system with revised data and reporting requirements and until staff members become familiar with the new system, retrieval of accurate data relating to customer types and water demand will be problematic. Despite this, the current targets for residential demand are considered to be achievable.

3.5.2 Urban Town Water Supply

Issue 11: There is currently no mechanism to promote retrofit of rain water tanks or installation of large rainwater tanks in new development - Council's policy for rainwater tanks in urban areas encourages the installation of rainwater tanks to provide non-potable water for outdoor uses, flushing toilets and washing machines. However there is no incentive to install tanks larger than required by BASIX or to retrofit existing properties. Continuing and expanding the existing rebate program and introduction of innovative education and incentive programs are well supported by the community but will require significant additional investment.

Issue 12: Council's 2013 target for non-revenue water is not likely to be achieved - Council's target of 10% non-revenue water (NRW) by 2013 is not likely to be achieved as the 5 year average is 13.7%. However it is expected that the implementation of projects to reduce leakage and unauthorised use of standpipes will reduce the level of NRW over time. These "real losses" represent a wasted resource, reduce the effective capacity of a water supply system and may result in unnecessary operating costs, and so a long-term water loss reduction program needs to be developed and included in Council budgets.

Issue 13: Augmentation of the Tweed District Water Supply will be required in future due to population growth although the timing and additional supply required are unclear – Data on current population growth rates suggest that augmentation of the Tweed district water supply will not be required until approximately 2030 and possibly beyond that time frame. However there are uncertainties regarding future population and demand as well as climate change implications and secure yield, and it is important to continually review available data to optimise the timing of the significant investment that will be required.

Issue 14: The drinking water catchments are impacted by current and historical land use and development - The catchments for Clarrie Hall Dam and Bray Park Weir are impacted by historical and current agricultural land management practices as well as the impacts of on-site sewerage management systems. While treatment facilities at Bray Park and Tyalgum have been upgraded to provide additional treatment reliability, there are opportunities for improved catchment management activities to control pollution at the source including agricultural land management, urban stormwater quality improvements, riparian management, point source pollution controls, education and catchment development controls.

Issue 15: As a precaution the Uki WTP is shut down during dirty water events - The need for consideration of the adequacy of treatment facilities at Uki was raised in the 2011 review of the IWCM Strategy. However, the appropriate management actions (e.g. operational controls, WTP modifications or upgrade) have not yet been determined.

Issue 16: Drought contingency and water supply emergency management measures need to be further developed - Given the predicted delay until augmentation of the Tweed District water source is required, it is considered appropriate to reassess the water supply failure scenarios including normal, restricted and emergency demand requirements. This assessment should consider the impacts of water sharing plan rules, potential fish passage requirements, proposed catchment management measures and effectiveness of the upgraded Bray Park WTP. Feasible contingency measures to cater for emergency scenarios (e.g. drought, infrastructure failure, raw water contamination) will also need to be developed.

3.5.3 Urban Wastewater Management

Issue 17: The opportunities for development (urban expansion) outside of the wastewater service areas is limited by the capacity of Council's infrastructure and the environment - Estuary management planning in the Tweed has identified issues relating to the impacts of wastewater discharges and urban runoff and the nutrient assimilation capacity of the waterways. The sustainable servicing of new development areas will require consideration of the sensitivity of the receiving waterways, increasing regulations, treatment requirements and costs as well as the development of policies to translate the IWCM objectives into development controls.

Issue 18: Licence requirements for pH and suspended solids at Uki WWTP need to be reviewed - As all effluent is used for irrigation of a koala feed tree eucalyptus plantation, high levels of suspended solids and pH in the irrigation dam are not a concern from an environmental protection point of view. However the environment protection licence requirements are mandatory targets and liaison with the NSW EPA is required to establish more appropriate targets for this situation.

Issue 19: Council and the community have a desire for increased water recycling but there are significant barriers to implementation of recycled water schemes within the Tweed Shire - Council has a target for 15% of treated effluent to be reused by 2013, however, this target is not likely to be met, with between 5% and 9% of wastewater currently being recycled. Increasing regulations, treatment requirements and cost associated with use of recycled water contribute to this issue. With the current Council direction and policy relating to recycled water use, the initiative to implement recycling is left to the developer which provides little incentive for recycling. Nonetheless, future planning and assessment of recycled water schemes must weigh up the high cost to the community.

Issue 20: There is a high cost of sustainable biosolids management - The challenges with biosolids management include the high cost and energy consumption of treatment options for beneficial reuse, odour impacts, potential changes to auditing and regulation requirements and land availability for storage and treatment. There are potential synergies between biosolids reuse and Council's Agriculture Strategy and increased integration between these strategic planning processes may provide additional benefits for farm management as well as wastewater management.

3.5.4 Urban Stormwater Management

Issue 21: Increased emphasis on water sensitive urban design will require more integrated Council responsibilities, increased community education and increased staff capabilities and funding - The draft Tweed Urban Stormwater Quality Management Plan (Australian Wetlands, 2011) has a strong emphasis on achieving water quality objectives for downstream waterways. The Plan refers to guidelines, resources and tools that should be used to implement best-practice stormwater management, many of which have been developed by the Water By Design program for the South East Queensland Health Waterways Partnership. Implementation of the WSUD framework will require significant strategic planning, community education and additional resources to be effective.

Issue 22: Existing Council development controls do not fully address the residual load of urban stormwater on downstream sensitive waterways - For some developments, existing Council development controls (e.g. D7) can be satisfied through design of stormwater pollutant reduction systems yet residual loads may be detrimental to downstream sensitive waterways. In these cases, compensatory activities to offset residual and cumulative impacts of stormwater discharge into waterways may be considered, however, guidelines and policy mechanisms are required to enforce offsets and address the residual impacts.

Issue 23: Existing subdivision erosion and stormwater controls and resources are not adequate for the rainfall and rate of development experienced in the Tweed - Resources for inspection and/or enforcement of Council's erosion and sediment control requirements for new developments are limited and Council relies on complaints or inspections to highlight inadequacies in control systems.

3.5.5 Catchment Management

Issue 24: There is a need for a holistic catchment management strategy for the Shire - There is currently no framework for coordinating catchment management activities across the Shire. Existing estuary management plans and coastal zone management plans for estuaries have been developed through the state government's planning process. While the more recently updated plans have acknowledged the upstream catchment areas as affecting the health of estuaries, the main focus is on the health of the estuarine reaches. If a total catchment approach to water cycle management is desired, there is a need to strengthen the linkages between existing catchment management, plans for estuary management, agricultural management and IWCM programs and activities.

Issue 25: There is limited integration between urban and rural strategic land use planning - There is a need to protect the agricultural values and limit encroachment and cumulative impacts of urban development on farming land. Integration of rural strategic planning with the urban area planning is required to achieve the aims of the IWCM Strategy.

Issue 26: The effective management of on-site sewerage systems within the Shire is limited by the available resources - Although there are some on-site sewerage (OSS) systems that are failing there is limited opportunity to cost-effectively connect to Council reticulated wastewater systems due to transfer costs and capacity limitations. Additional financial and human resources would be required to adequately regulate, inspect OSS and educate residents.

4. MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

Potential options to address the identified management issues are described in the following sections. These have been presented as:

- Current Strategy – adopted by TSC as part of the IWCM Strategy and 2009 and 2011 reviews; and
- Other Options which would assist in better achieving the IWCM objectives. In some cases, these have previously been identified by TSC but not yet implemented.

The options represent a varying level of water cycle management integration as follows:

- Level 1: The current strategy – ongoing strategic planning with progressive implementation of high priority actions. Funding for these actions has already been allocated by Council;
- Level 2: Urban water cycle management improvements - Increased urban water cycle integration to resolve current issues and address urban water related objectives. Achieves full compliance with NSW Office of Water best-practice guidelines; or
- Level 3: Total water cycle management approach - Full achievement of all identified objectives over the long-term. Achieves full compliance with NSW Office of Water best-practice guidelines with increased focus on total water cycle management.

For each management option in Level 2 and Level 3, the estimated ten year implementation cost (in current dollars) is also provided.

4.1 Administration and Governance

4.1.1 Integration of Council Water Cycle Management Activities

Issues to be addressed:

Issue 1: IWCM principles, responsibilities and priorities are not fully implemented across all Council units – The current IWCM Strategy largely follows the traditional IWCM approach which is based on delivery of integrated urban water services by a local water utility. While Council has already implemented some improvements in integration and inter-departmental cooperation, increased integration may lead to increased opportunities for gains in efficiency and/or better IWCM outcomes.

Current Strategy – Level 1

Management Option 1a – Urban Water Focus

Historically, water supply, wastewater, urban stormwater and natural resources have been managed by different parts of TSC and State Government regulators (e.g. Office of Environment and Heritage and Office of Water). This has created a departmentalised focus across government on the discrete parts of the water cycle. Due to the primarily urban water focus of the current IWCM Strategy, IWCM activities are currently implemented through the TSC water unit with input from other functional areas into key aspects such as this IWCM review.

The current structure and functions of Council, with the Community and Natural Resources directorate including the Water Unit and the Natural Resource Management Unit, allow direct coordination between some of these functional areas and activities. This in turn facilitates coordinated development of priorities for funding (for example, the dividends from the water supply and wastewater businesses are used to fund stream bank protection works, refer Section 4.5).

Since adoption of the current IWCM Strategy, TSC has been implementing opportunities for increased cooperation across TSC departments such as the IWCM Stakeholder Group and the new lateral roles of Demand Management Program Leader and Sustainability Program Leader. The adopted Demand Management Strategy also provides an opportunity to consider TSC activities in relation to water usage through the top water users program.

Other Potential Options – Level 2

No additional options have been identified as part of an urban water cycle management approach as this is TSC's current focus.

Other Potential Options – Level 3

A successful IWCM strategy requires a coordinated approach across Council with long-term support and clear responsibilities for implementation. The IWCM program creates an opportunity to implement a Council-wide total water cycle approach which is broader than the traditional urban water focus. Providing a more holistic management approach and a shared vision for the Shire would involve enhanced integration of the related TSC functions including:

- The Waterways Program (estuary and river health);
- Drinking water supply;
- Wastewater management;
- Stormwater management;
- Land use planning;
- Urban development;
- Economic development;
- Agricultural services; and
- Recreation Services.

IWCM approaches are discussed in Section 4.5. These approaches need to be supported by improved governance models for IWCM that will enhance IWCM outcomes and result in cost efficiencies as well as appropriate knowledge, recognition and continued support from TSC Councillors and senior management.

Management Option 1b – Integrated Council-Wide IWCM Delivery

Ten year implementation cost: \$1,200,000 (\$150,000 p.a. from year 3)

Integration of departmental actions is considered to be a key step that will improve the coordination and delivery of water cycle management services and the success of water cycle management initiatives. This may be achieved through a range of methods including departmental restructure or creation of a strategic IWCM framework managed through a new cross-departmental coordination role.

Structural integration of the water cycle management activities of the Planning and Regulation and Engineering and Operations directorates would strengthen linkages between the related water, wastewater, stormwater and ecosystem health aspects of land use planning and urban development and avoid duplication in planning and decision making. While it is beyond the scope of this IWCM Strategy to consider full Council restructure, if future restructuring is undertaken (for other reasons) then the need for IWCM integration should be taken into account.

It is suggested that integration could be achieved through the creation of a cross-departmental coordination position (the IWCM Program Leader). Figure 12 illustrates conceptually the broad role of the IWCM Program Leader with obligations spanning across most TSC functional areas.

The position would involve coordination of the planning and delivery of the various components of the IWCM Strategy, ensuring inclusion in Council’s Delivery Plans, hands-on delivery of administrative and documentation tasks, assistance with the identification of external funding for related environmental and engineering works and would relieve the burden on existing staff for these tasks. This would preserve the functions and focus of the current structure and personnel roles, but would also achieve the desired integration to achieve effective TWCM.

Alternative delivery methods (such as steering committees) are a possibility but are unlikely to have the power to influence Council decision-making or prioritise funding and resources to implement the committee’s goals. Without increased integration, history has shown that other functions and responsibilities are more likely to be prioritised and therefore TSC’s performance in water cycle management is not likely to improve dramatically.

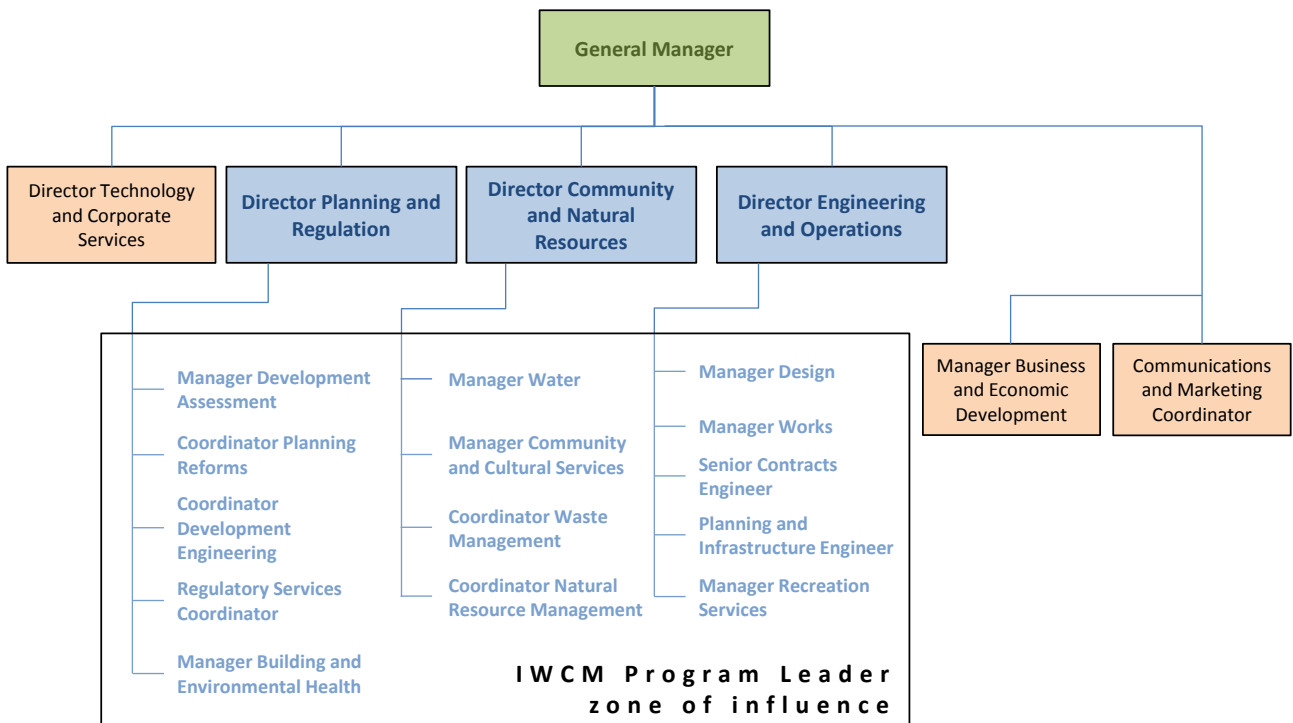


Figure 12: Integration of existing Council organisation structure and functions related to water cycle management

Over and above the resourcing issues, significant integration of IWCM objectives would be required across Council's activities to ensure successful implementation. The major components of the integration option would include:

- Integration into existing Council policy and monitoring, evaluation and reporting frameworks including the Integrated Planning and Reporting Frameworks and State of Environment Reporting to ensure a focus for decision making, accountability, rigour and continued improvement;
- Coordination of water cycle management activities, particularly IWCM Strategy actions and integration of those into the Community Strategic Plan and Council's four year Delivery Plan;
- Identification of funding requirements and opportunities to implement management initiatives as well as access to those funds;

- Improved direction and guidance for TSC staff and developers regarding water cycle management considerations for:
 - land use planning and land release strategies,
 - economic development,
 - development servicing,
 - asset management,
 - climate change adaptation, and
 - protection of ecosystem health (protected vegetation, habitat, waterway impacts);
- Community education and consultation;
- Monitoring and evaluation:
 - Strategy implementation;
 - Improvements and synergies;
 - Enforcing regulations, development conditions, and policies;
 - Closing the loop to inform future decisions; and
- Strategic planning and review.

The priority tasks are the implementation of the IWCM Strategy and integration with TSC's other related functional areas and strategic priorities.

4.1.2 Community Engagement

Issues to be addressed:

Issue 2: There is a need for informed and transparent decision-making and better management of community expectations - Council does not have unlimited resources to meet the demand for infrastructure and services as well as address all community desires for prosperity and environment protection. This highlights the need for informed and transparent decision-making as well as effective communication with the community in order for rate payers to have faith in the decision-making process. Given the finite level of Council resources and the capital-intensive nature of urban water services, Council needs to provide leadership and justification for its decisions based on the best available information.

Issue 4: Uncertainty regarding the preferred Tweed district water supply augmentation option creates confusion regarding land use planning – Council has been progressively purchasing land to cater for the inundation areas (and buffer zones) of the proposed Byrrill Creek Dam and potential raising of Clarrie Hall Dam. The absence of a firm direction regarding the future water supply is likely to cause anxiety amongst affected land holders as well as difficulties implementing land use planning and development controls.

Current Strategy – Level 1

Management Option 2a – Community engagement in IWCM decision-making

TSC's Community Engagement Strategy outlines the process for involving the Tweed community in TSC's strategic planning and decision-making processes. While Councillors as elected representatives are empowered to make decisions on behalf of the community, the strategy recognises the importance of community involvement in this decision-making and assisting TSC in making better informed decisions.

TSC has undertaken extensive community engagement as part of the development and ongoing implementation of IWCM Strategy components (refer Appendix 1). The regular reviews of the IWCM Strategy in 2009, 2011 and this major review, indicates a strong commitment to ongoing implementation, alignment with community values and continuous improvement of the adopted approach to IWCM. However, the wide range of competing community expectations is difficult to balance with the provision of value-for-money services. Despite the continued consultation and investigations, key decisions such as water supply augmentation have created considerable community angst, are not yet resolved and will continue to be contentious given the competing community desires.

The stakeholder consultation undertaken for the IWCM review has identified community priorities but also confirmed that the wide range of competing community expectations still exists.

Other Potential Options – Level 2

Management Option 2b – Strengthened community engagement process

Ten year implementation cost: \$110,000 (\$20,000 in year 1 then \$10,000 p.a.)

Various community engagement tools have been used as part of the IWCM implementation including a Community Working Group (CWG) established with the aim of assisting TSC to select a preferred option from four shortlisted water supply augmentation options. While the CWG was a consultative body and TSC retained the authority for decision-making, feedback from the CWG suggested there were different expectations regarding their role. One of the desirable outcomes of the IWCM Strategy is community acceptance of the final adopted outcomes. While this is not always achievable given the range of competing community expectations, engagement processes should focus on ensuring ongoing provision of accurate and timely information, ongoing consultation to review and establish community values and transparent decision-making. Clear expectations also need to be given to the stakeholders regarding the decision-making process and the way their input will be used. The adopted decision also needs to be justified in terms of the process followed as well as technical factors influencing the decision. Similarly, any constraints to implementation (e.g. financial, human resources or pre-requisite actions) need to be clearly explained.

The consultation activities undertaken for this IWCM review have established community priorities and provided input into the future direction of the strategy. It is clear that the community is divided about key decisions such as water augmentation and dual reticulation and it is unlikely that a general consensus will be achieved. TSC should aim to ensure future engagement activities are focussed, transparent and appropriately considered. This could be achieved by a structured program of regular follow-up community surveys, targeted information-gathering, provision of accurate and timely information and community engagement tools that are focussed on the adopted strategy.

Other Potential Options – Level 3

Management Option 2c – Community engagement covering the full water cycle

Ten year implementation cost: \$100,000 (\$10,000 p.a.) in addition to Option 2b

Community engagement is also a key component of the total water cycle approach. TSC currently engages with the community on a regular basis as part of the delivery of different Council service areas including:

- Water Supply Services (e.g. water supply and water treatment education, demand management education programs, targeted consultation as part of IWCM development etc.);

- Wastewater Services (e.g. WWTP fact sheets, septic system information, Water Matters newsletters highlighting services and incentives offered by the TSC Water Unit and water and wastewater projects underway etc.); and
- Natural Resource Management (e.g. River Management educational resources, consultation and education as part of Estuary Management and Coastal Zone Management Plan development and implementation works, River Health Grants fact sheets, stormwater education programs etc.).

The aim of community engagement as part of total water cycle management is communicating the linkages between natural systems and land use practices and to better manage and influence key water cycle services for the communities and the environment. Engagement would be complimentary to existing TSC programs and focus on the interactions between the different service areas in Council and particularly the links between the urban water cycle and natural waterway health. Much of the content of community engagement programs will be governed by the total water cycle management framework discussed in Section 4.5.1 (Management Option 17g – Total water cycle management). However, general examples include the impacts of catchment management and land use on water supply and waterway health, water supply extraction impacts on environmental water requirements, wastewater and stormwater discharges affecting downstream waterways and aquatic habitats etc.

4.1.3 Data Collection and Review

Issues to be addressed:

Issue 3: There is a need for defensible and robust population forecasts - Population forecasts are inherently difficult as they rely on assumptions regarding demand for land sales, the capacity of urban release areas, community preferences for settlement, the future types of housing and the planning approvals process. The 2011 census data indicate that there is a lower rate of population growth than was assumed in the current IWCM Strategy. If this lower growth rate continues, there could be implications for the selection and timing of water and wastewater infrastructure.

Issue 10: Improved data collection and reporting procedures would facilitate adaptive forecasting of demand and assist with community education - The demand management implementation plan is focussed around a campaign of target residential demand per person but current reporting of performance has created some confusion and inconsistencies. In addition, Council has implemented a new customer management system with revised data and reporting requirements and until staff members become familiar with the new system, retrieval of accurate data relating to customer types and water demand will be problematic. Despite this, the current targets for residential demand are considered to be achievable.

Current Strategy – Level 1

Management Option 3a – Ongoing data collection and review

Data on the water supply and sewerage services are collated and reported annually by the Water Unit as part of TSC's regulatory reporting requirements. These data are used to benchmark TSC's services against the other NSW local water utilities.

Since the original IWCM Strategy was adopted, TSC has utilised external consultants (Forecast.ID) to provide population forecasts. The current forecast is based on a 30 year forecast based on 2006 Census data and partially updated using 2011 Census data. A revised projection based on 2011 Census data and revised development projections is expected to be completed during 2013 and will be a key input into the future IWCM process. Infrastructure planning is based on the available information regarding population growth and demand for services.

Monitoring of waterway health aspects is undertaken by the Natural Resources Management Unit of TSC as part of existing environmental management programs (refer Section 4.5).

Other Potential Options – Level 2

Management Option 3b – Improved collection and management of population and demand data

Ten year implementation cost: \$260,000 (\$50,000 in year 1 and 2 then \$20,000 p.a.)

The challenge for TSC is to implement an IWCM Strategy that can be adapted to key drivers of change such as population growth whilst balancing competing factors of sustainability, financial control and community expectations.

A key data input into the IWCM process is the future population forecasts and resulting water cycle demands. The predicted demands of the future population will influence key decisions in relation to land use planning, water demand, water supplies and timing of augmentation, development servicing, financial management and debt servicing, sizing of infrastructure and the capacity of the environment to cater for growth.

The data used in the current IWCM Strategy (particularly population and water demand forecasts) are perceived by sections of the community to be out-dated and erroneous (refer Section 3.3.2 and Appendix 2). The original IWCM Strategy actions relied upon population forecasts updated every five years, making it difficult to adequately account for changes in development capacity, community preferences for settlement, the future types of housing and the planning approvals process or the impact of market forces.

It should be made clear to the community that accurate population forecasts are inherently difficult. The best way to counter these difficulties is through increased emphasis on data collection and more regular reviews. This would provide greater understanding of water cycle management issues and pressures and increased certainty in these key decision-making factors. As discussed later in Section 4.2.2, the immediate urgency in water supply augmentation appears to have diminished with lower than expected population growth. However increasing pressures such as climate change and population growth require that the short-term focus should be on improved understanding of these factors.

As part of this option, it is recommended that increased emphasis is placed on the collection and review of data including:

- Existing customer numbers and types (single and multi-residential, non-residential, etc.) within the water supply and sewerage service areas – currently population served with water supply and sewerage services is determined from the 5 year census data and the estimated population change each year. More accurate data may be obtained using customer billing information. However, this would require better data relating to multi-residential customers which are not currently metered separately and may require modifications to the existing customer billing database;
- Existing water consumption for each customer type and predicted impact of demand management programs on customer demand – consumption is currently reported on a Shire wide basis with estimates of water losses. Useful information can be obtained from customer billing information and an analysis of historical consumption patterns. It may also be appropriate to more accurately estimate the components of water loss (refer Section 4.2.1); and
- Long-term (40 - 50 year) population, servicing and demand forecasts – More regular (2 - 3 year) review of population forecasts (using customer data and information on development approvals and the expected development capacity and type for urban expansion areas and infill will facilitate better adaptation to population growth. Improved understanding of population forecasts will assist with

predicting future demand for water supply and wastewater services. This would assist with more integrated Council planning, development policies and infrastructure service provision. Climate impacts in relation to modified demand patterns also need to be reviewed as more detailed information becomes available.

Consistent with the whole-of-Council approach, data should be collected and utilised consistently across TSC so that key decisions are formulated using the same basis.

Other Potential Options – Level 3

Management Option 3c – Increased understanding of total water cycle

Ten year implementation cost: \$100,000 (\$10,000 p.a.) in addition to Option 3b

Data collection is also a key component of the total water cycle approach focussing on the integration of data from different parts of the water cycle to assist in catchment-based decision making. This is addressed in Management Option: 17g – Total water cycle management (Section 4.5.1).

4.1.4 Private Water Utility Regulation

Issues to be addressed:

Issue 5: The implications of private industry involvement in town water supply and wastewater management are unclear, particularly with regard to regulation and Council responsibilities - The Water Industry Competition (WIC) Act, 2006 allows private utility operators to develop and operate water and wastewater schemes under licence from the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART). Council's role and responsibilities regarding private schemes are unclear. In addition, there is a need to ensure the private schemes implement Council's IWCM objectives.

Current Strategy

Management Option 4a – Participate in Water Industry Competition Act licensing for private water utility schemes

Private water utilities may apply for a licence under the *Water Industry Competition (WIC) Act, 2006* to provide water supply and sewerage services. These schemes may create opportunities for servicing areas not currently or not able to be supplied by TSC. They may also allow redirection of existing served areas to increase capacity in existing infrastructure and improve operation. Such schemes have been considered by TSC as part of rezoning proposals for Tanglewood and Dunloe Park.

Adoption of the service delivery model using a private water utility would relieve TSC of the responsibilities associated with development of water supply and wastewater infrastructure in anticipation of development. However, there is concern among NSW water utilities regarding the consequences of failure of a private utility system (“last resort arrangements”) and TSC’s role in this regard. The WIC Act includes provisions that ensure the continued supply of water and sewerage services in the event that a licensed retail supplier fails or becomes unviable. These provisions, referred to as retailer of last resort arrangements, are designed to protect customers and are similar to those that apply in the energy industry. The NSW Department of Finance and Services is currently reviewing the adequacy of the “retailer of last resort arrangements” under the WIC Act. While there are broad provisions for a retail supplier licensee failure, the WIC Act does not have any arrangements in place that would respond to a licensed network operator failure – operator of last resort arrangements. Therefore the review will also consider arrangements that should be in place to address a licensed network operator failure. TSC has provided a submission to the review addressing a wide range of considerations.

Assuming satisfactory resolution of the last resort arrangements, private utility schemes have the potential to assist TSC in servicing new development. These schemes may also provide opportunities for local wastewater recycling initiatives. The scheme currently being proposed for future urban development in West Pottsville includes dual reticulation (for toilet flushing, clothes washing and outdoor uses) replacing an estimated 53% of total water demand as well as recycled water for irrigation supply and fire-fighting. This approach is supported by TSC's current policy of encouraging effluent reuse schemes and other integrated water solutions proposed by developers of greenfield sites that are sustainable in the long-term.

Other Potential Options – Level 2

No additional options have been identified as part of an urban water cycle management approach as this is TSC's current focus.

Other Potential Options – Level 3

Management Option 4b - Strengthened IWCM Policies (under Water Industry Competition Act)

Ten year implementation cost: \$50,000 (in year 3)

Currently water supply and wastewater servicing planning is undertaken for land identified for rezoning with limited consideration of servicing of greenfield developments. While TSC's IWCM Strategy can provide objectives for water cycle management across the Shire, it is not directly applicable to private utility schemes. There is concern among Council stakeholders that private utilities may not be required to meet IWCM objectives consistent with those of Council.

As part of a total water cycle approach (refer Section 4.5.1), increased emphasis on water supply and sewerage requirements as part of land use planning would assist with infrastructure planning, identification of limitations with TSC's water supply and sewerage systems and achievement of ecosystem health objectives. Increased understanding of development servicing requirements and strengthened water cycle management policies will improve TSC's ability to apply IWCM objectives to private water utility schemes and developments approved by the State Government (state significant development and infrastructure).

Key outcomes would be:

- The establishment of water cycle management priorities that direct the development of policies that Council can apply when requested to provide input into private schemes; and
- Development of mechanisms to ensure policies are applied e.g. through regulation, grant funding, offsets or other incentives.

4.1.5 Asset Management

Issues to be addressed:

Issue 6: Asset management planning - The current IWCM Strategy includes an action to implement the water supply and sewerage asset management plans. Whilst these plans were prepared in 2010, implementation is an ongoing process and there is a need to continuously improve asset management planning.

Issue 9: Best-Practice Compliance - While Council currently substantially complies with the NSW government best-practice requirements, the Strategic Business Plans and Development Servicing Plans require regular review to remain compliant. In addition, water usage patterns for existing multi-residential properties needs to be better understood.

Current Strategy – Level 1

Management Option 5a – Asset management planning as part of Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

While IWCM principles will continue to assist in prioritising infrastructure actions, asset management planning is being undertaken as part of the State Government water utility best-practice requirements as well as the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework.

Management Option 5b – Substantial compliance with best-practice guidelines

The outcome of a local water utility (LWU) complying with the *Best-Practice Management Guidelines* is appropriate, affordable and cost-effective services to meet community needs while protecting public health and the environment and making best use of regional resources. There are six criteria TSC needs to complete to demonstrate best-practice management of water and sewerage businesses. Substantial compliance has been achieved as indicated in Table 11.

Table 11: Compliance with Best-Practice Management Requirements

Criteria	Current Status – Water Supply	Current Status – Sewerage
Strategic Business Planning	The 2006 Activity Management Plans are currently being updated	
Pricing (including Developer Charges, Liquid Trade Waste Policy and Approvals)	Substantially compliant. The DSP was adopted in 2007 and will be updated in 2013. Each unit in a multi-residential property is required to have a 20mm service connection. For non-potable component the usage charge is to be based on long-run marginal cost and access charge to be relative to a customer’s capacity requirements with at least 50% of residential revenue generated through usage charges.	Council will adopt a Trade Waste Policy with sewage discharge allowance phased-out over 3 years. The DSP was adopted in 2007 and will be updated in 2013
Water Conservation	Compliant.	N/A
Drought Management	Compliant.	N/A
Performance Monitoring	Compliant.	
Integrated Water Cycle Management (IWCM)	Compliant. Adopted in 2006. This 6 year review.	

Other Potential Options – Level 2

Management Option 5c – Full compliance with best-practice guidelines

Ten year implementation cost: \$20,000 (\$10,000 p.a. in year 1 and 2)

While TSC currently substantially complies with the *Best-Practice Management Guidelines*, full compliance would be achieved with:

- Adoption of TSC's trade waste policy;
- Improvements in water supply customer metering (separate metering of multi-residential properties, refer Section 4.1.3). This would initially require an audit of multi-residential properties to provide confidence in the number of connections and provide input into the feasibility of separately metering all flats and units. Substantial costs would be incurred if Council separately metered all multi-residential properties;
- Development of a pricing policy for non-potable water supplies (recycled water). While application of a charge for recycled water supplies is not recommended at this time, development of a policy for future cost recovery should be undertaken as part of the identification of increased opportunities for recycling (refer Section 4.3.1). It is acknowledged that introduction of a charge for recycled water use is likely to decrease the attractiveness of recycled water schemes for the user; and
- Ongoing review and update (every 5-6 years) of the Development Servicing Plans (refer Section 4.3.1).

Management Option 5d – Review and Update Sewer Overflow Abatement Strategy

Ten year implementation cost: \$50,000 (in year 1)

The *Sewer Overflow Abatement Strategy* (TSC, 2007a) was prepared in 2007 in response to reporting conditions of the sewerage system licences (PRP100). The report recommended a total of \$3,375,000 expenditure to address specific needs over those met by ongoing operations budgets over the period 2007 – 2012. However, the actions have not all been implemented due to lack of funding and resources. There is a need to review the actions and update the *Sewer Overflow Abatement Strategy* considering realistic overflow containment targets, the required procedures for overflows to sensitive environments and identification of funding for implementation.

Management Option 5e – Review and update water supply and wastewater Business Continuity Plans

Ten year implementation cost: \$150,000 (\$30,000 every 5 years from year 2 and \$10,000 p.a. in other years)

Business Continuity Plans (BCPs) were prepared in 2011 for:

- Management of Treated Water Supply in the Event of 'Contamination of a Raw Water Source';
- Management of Treated Water Supply in the Event of 'Contamination of a Supply Network';
- Management of Water Supply in the Event of 'Impending Water Source Failure and Inadequacy of Planned Emergency Supply Arrangements';
- Management of Water Supply and Wastewater Schemes in the Event of a 'Major Flood Event'; and
- Management of Water Supply and Wastewater Schemes in the Event of a 'Tsunami'.

The BCPs document arrangements and procedures that enable TSC to respond to an event that lasts for an unacceptable period of time and return to performing its critical functions after an interruption. The BCPs provide a list of prioritised actions and recommend a 'full' review on a four yearly cyclic basis (commencing 2014) and an annual 'minor' review. The BCPs should be updated as required when other related strategies such as the *Drought Management Strategy* and *Restrictions Policy* (refer Section 4.2.4), water supply augmentation strategy (Section 4.2.2) and climate change adaptation strategy (Section 4.1.6) are updated. The latest guidelines (including revised 2012 Water Directorate guidelines should also be considered).

Other Potential Options – Level 3

Management Option 5f – Management of natural assets

Ten year implementation cost: \$100,000 (\$50,000 in year 2 and 3)

As part of a total water cycle approach, natural assets (land, waterways and vegetation) are considered as part of the asset cycle. For example, in terms of drinking water asset management, the catchment assets form a key initial component of pollution control and raw water quality whilst the condition and extent of natural assets are a key determinant of waterway health. Similar to the approach adopted for the water supply, sewerage and drainage asset management plans, the Shire's natural resources would be considered in terms of levels of service, asset stock and condition, risk management, maintenance requirements, priorities and funding. These considerations would form key inputs into the development of sub-catchment management plans. This concept is partly addressed through estuary health and coastal zone management programs but would be extended to all sub-catchments through the total water cycle approach (refer Section 4.5.1). The building and management of social capital (for instance community capacity building in IWCM) might also form part of this approach.

4.1.6 Climate Change Adaptation

Issues to be addressed:

Issue 7: Climate change implications need to be integrated into planning for urban water services, catchment management and natural resource management - Future sea level rise and climate variations will affect water cycle management infrastructure and activities. This impact needs to be considered in future water supply and wastewater planning, demand management and risk management.

Issue 8: High energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions – Council's water supply and wastewater infrastructure consumes high levels of energy, which is currently sourced from non-renewable sources. There are opportunities to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions and develop energy and greenhouse gas emission targets.

Current Strategy – Level 1

Management Option 6a – Consideration of Sea Level Rise Impacts

In response to the risk of sea level rise, TSC is developing coastline management and floodplain management strategies as well as coastal zone management plans. Sea level rise impacts are considered with reference to assets and values of the local area and actions are recommended to plan for avoidance of future issues, to mitigate unavoidable impacts and where information gaps exist, further investigate the potential effects of sea level rise. Key strategies and plans are:

- *Tweed Valley Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan* (BMT WBM, under development);
- *Tweed Valley Flood Study* (BMT WBM, 2005) and *Climate Change update* (BMT WBM, 2009);

- *Tweed Shire Coastline Hazard Definition Study* (WBM, 2007); *Tweed Shire Coastline Management Study* (Umwelt, 2005a) and *Tweed Shire Coastline Management Plan* (Umwelt, 2005b);
- *Coastal Zone Management Plan for Tweed Coast Estuaries* (Hydrosphere Consulting, 2013b);
- *Coastal Zone Management Plan for Cobaki Broadwater and Terranora Broadwater* (Australian Wetlands, 2010).

Management Option 6b – Energy Savings Action Plan

The NSW Government introduced legislation in May 2005 requiring high energy users and local councils in NSW to prepare Energy Savings Action Plans. Annual reports are required for three years post-approval. The plans are expected to be reviewed after four years.

Actions to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions have been focused on the delivery of initiatives in TSC's Energy Savings Action Plan and identifying opportunities for renewable energy generation at water and sewer facilities. Planet Footprint has been engaged to assist TSC with identifying opportunities to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions such as renewable energy sources. Examples of climate change action initiatives undertaken by TSC with relevance to water and wastewater service delivery include:

- Environmental Design Guidelines for new council facilities including requirements for energy and water efficiency, waste minimisation, the use of local native plants for landscaping and design that reduces reliance on the motor vehicle for facility access; and
- Actions to improve energy and water efficiency of infrastructure such as energy efficient pumps and motors, reducing peak load consumption by pumping in off-peak times and designing networks to maximise the use of gravity for water and wastewater transfer.

There is currently limited funding and staff resources to implement further actions of the Energy Savings Action Plan in the water and sewer business.

Other Potential Options – Level 2

Climate change is an important consideration for water cycle management, particularly in coastal areas where the combined effects of sea level rise and increased storminess are considered key threats. Adaptation to climate change impacts and improvement in public awareness is important for effective partnership. Adaptation strategies need to be developed covering increased flooding, tidal inundation, storminess and natural resource management in relation to urban water assets and operations, surface water availability and greenhouse gas emissions and these are discussed below. Council's coastal zone management planning process is already addressing the impact of climate change on natural assets such as dunes and riverbanks as well as community infrastructure. Integration of these parallel processes is addressed through the TWCM approach (Section 4.5.1).

Management Option 6c - Climate Change Adaptation - Flooding and Tidal Inundation

Ten year implementation cost: \$150,000 (\$50,000 every 4 years from year 2)

There is a risk that increased flooding and tidal inundation due to climate change will affect Council's ability to achieve its levels of service. BMT WBM (2009) modelled flooding extents in the Tweed Valley with climate change scenarios incorporating sea level rise projections and increases in rainfall intensity (refer Section 2.2.2). The flood extents show that large tracts of urban land in the Shire are at risk of flooding and this is likely to be exacerbated with sea level rise. Coastal erosion and recession is also expected to increase into the future with implications for coastal infrastructure and assets (WBM, 2007).

There are key implications for water cycle management in the Tweed Shire including:

- Inundation of low lying water, wastewater and stormwater assets causing asset failure and reduced access for maintenance during flooding events;
- Increased groundwater infiltration into water, wastewater and stormwater systems affecting system performance (e.g. overflows, increased salinity, etc.); and
- Coastal erosion impacting on coastal assets such as water and wastewater pipelines, outfalls and stormwater assets.

It is recommended that a risk assessment is undertaken to assess climate change impacts on water cycle management and particularly asset management in areas vulnerable to flooding, tidal inundation and coastal recession. The existing flood mapping and coastal hazard definition studies for the Tweed Shire (and their subsequent updates when available) provide a sound basis for the risk assessment. The priority areas are the highest density development and commercial areas where flooding, tidal inundation and/or coastal erosion are already an issue. As part of the risk assessment, there is an opportunity to identify potential risks relating to future land use planning.

Management Option 6d - Climate Change Adaptation - Surface Water Availability

Ten year implementation cost: \$250,000 (\$100,000 in year 1 and \$50,000 every 4 years)

Key climate change considerations relating to surface water availability are:

- Changes in mean and peak stream and river flows due to increased evaporation and precipitation and changes in run-off resulting in reduced surface water availability and impacts on secure yield of water supplies. This is discussed further in Section 2.2.2;
- Greater competition for existing water sources;
- Changes in customer demand and usage patterns due to warmer temperatures; and
- Increased tidal inundation and salinity in waterways and implications for town water supplies, particularly Bray Park Weir. While not a current issue, the potential for saline intrusion is considered to increase with sea level rise.

The potential reduction in surface water availability and long-term suitability should be addressed as part of the consideration of water supply augmentation strategies (refer Section 4.2.2).

Management Option 6e – Reduction in energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions

Costs are assumed to be covered by Council's broader sustainability initiatives

Increasing levels of service and more stringent licensing requirements such as improved water and wastewater treatment processes, has resulted in increased energy consumption. While operational modifications may have some impact on reducing energy consumption of individual assets, it is likely that the overall energy and consumption will not be significantly affected by these actions and may continue to increase (e.g. with the need for energy-intensive sludge treatment processes to increase beneficial reuse opportunities).

There is a need for corporate level policy and funding to continue implementation of energy saving actions identified by TSC. On-going review, evaluation and improvement of actions will be important to ensure TSC remains up to date with advances in technology and operational best-practice to reduce energy consumption. Approaches that may be relevant include:

- Greater focus on energy efficiency improvements;
- Purchase of renewable energy from energy providers as an alternative to traditional fossil fuel sources which will reduce the overall greenhouse gas emission footprint. Additional broader benefits include increasing the investment in the renewable energy sector in Australia; and
- Greater use of local renewable energy sources such as solar panels for Council assets.

Where reduction targets are appropriate, energy and greenhouse gas emission KPIs should be developed.

This action would be part of TSC's broader sustainability initiatives and is not considered to be unique to the water cycle management program.

Other Potential Options – Level 3

No additional options are identified as part of a TWCM approach.

4.2 Urban Town Water Supply

4.2.1 Water Supply Demand Management

Issues to be addressed:

Issue 10: Improved data collection and reporting procedures would facilitate adaptive forecasting of demand and assist with community education

Issue 11: There is currently no mechanism to promote retrofit of rain water tanks or installation of large rainwater tanks in new development - Council's policy for rainwater tanks in urban areas encourages the installation of rainwater tanks to provide non-potable water for outdoor uses, flushing toilets and washing machines. However there is no incentive to install tanks larger than required by BASIX or to retrofit existing properties. Continuing and expanding the existing rebate program and introduction of innovative education and incentive programs are well supported by the community but will require significant additional investment.

Issue 12: Council's 2013 target for non-revenue water is not likely to be achieved - Council's target of 10% non-revenue water (NRW) by 2013 is not likely to be achieved as the 5 year average is 13.7%. However it is expected that the implementation of projects to reduce leakage and unauthorised use of standpipes will reduce the level of NRW over time. These "real losses" represent a wasted resource, reduce the effective capacity of a water supply system and may result in unnecessary operating costs, and so a long-term water loss reduction program needs to be developed and included in Council budgets.

Issue 19: Council and the community have a desire for increased water recycling but there are significant barriers to implementation of recycled water schemes within the Tweed Shire - Council has a target for 15% of treated effluent to reused by 2013, however, this target is not likely to be met, with between 5% and 9% of wastewater currently being recycled. Increasing regulations, treatment requirements and cost associated with use of recycled water contribute to this issue. With the current Council direction and policy relating to recycled water use, the initiative to implement recycling is left to the developer which provides little incentive for recycling. Nonetheless, future planning and assessment of recycled water schemes must weigh up the high cost to the community.

Current Strategy – Level 1

Management Option 7a - Adopted Demand Management Strategy

The adopted demand management strategy (DMS) currently focuses on the following demand management programs:

- Ongoing communication and education;
- Residential consumption targets – currently 180 L/p/d;
- Assistance to top non-residential water users to reduce consumption;
- Reduction in water losses;
- Effluent reuse schemes (and recycled water target of 15%);
- Residential retrofits and rebates; and
- Rainwater tank policy.

Other state government initiatives such as BASIX and rebates also contribute to water savings in the Shire. All new residential development must comply with the State Government's Building Sustainability Index

(BASIX) which requires 40% reduction in potable water use per household through a combination of rainwater tanks, water efficient appliances, garden design or recycled water use.

Communication and Education

Community education tools include:

- The *Target 180* campaign;
- New water bills (commenced in June 2012) which aim to assist people to avoid wasting water and money, give householders and businesses an easier to understand picture of how much water they are using, what it is costing them and steps to avoid wasting water and money and provide clear information about water use and charges. The bill encourages householders and businesses to monitor their own water usage and have a better understanding of the costs involved;
- A *Meet Your Meter* campaign was launched in November 2012 to further support the residential water saving program; and
- Information provided on TSC’s website including rebate information, water savings tips, instructions on how to read meters, a water calculator to compare water consumption to the target of 180 L/p/day and water efficiency information.

Residential Consumption

Figure 13 shows the KPIs and targets based on the current demand and population estimates. There is a clear downward trend in total demand and residential demand since the early 1990s for the Shire, despite significant population growth. Based on this information, the residential sector demand management activities appear to be successful and the targets appear to be achievable.

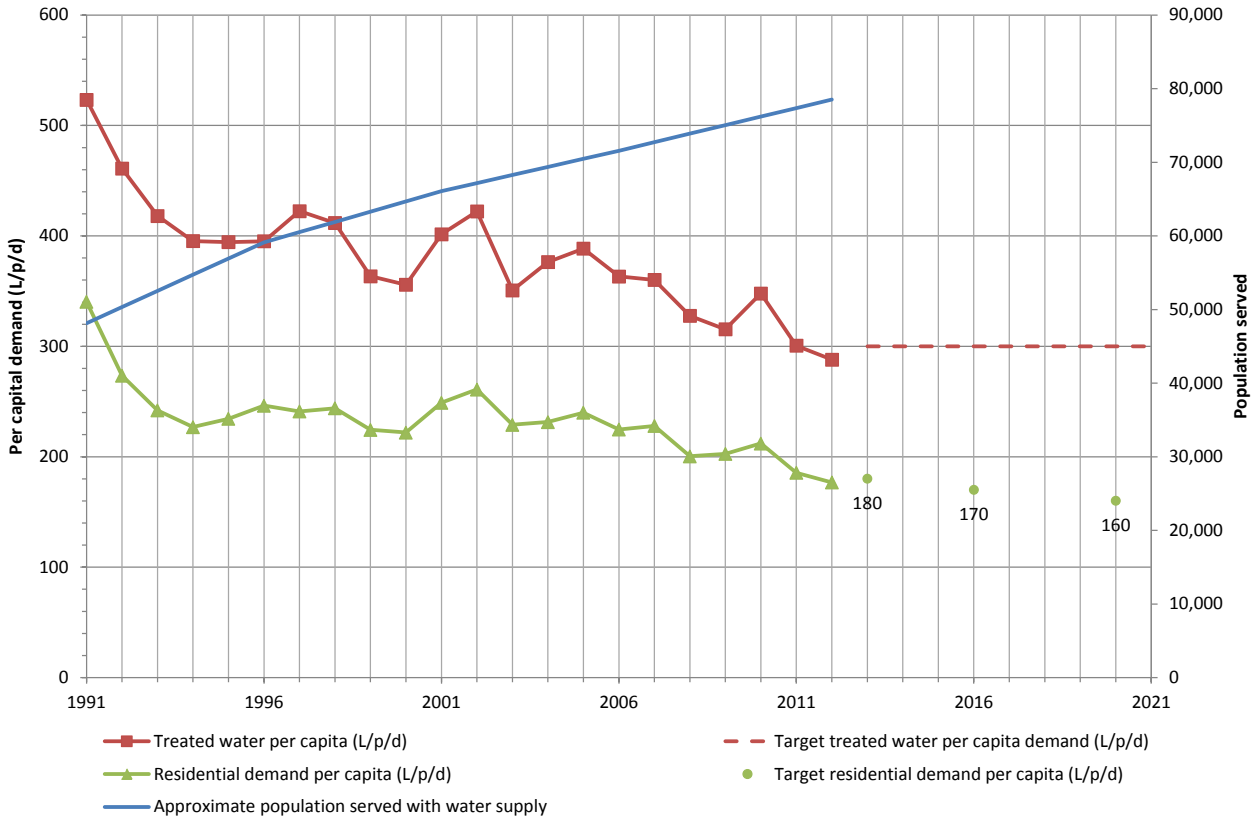


Figure 13: Water Supply Demand KPIs and Targets

Non-Residential Consumption

The parallel target of 300 L/p/d (treated water produced from the WTPs per person) included in the demand management strategy represents the consumption across all customer sectors. The Tweed's Top 20 water users program was completed in early 2013 with all participating businesses completing their water savings projects. The Shire's next top 80 non-residential water users were also invited to participate in the Tweed's Top 100 water saving program launched in July 2012.

The top 20 Council-owned properties using the most water have been identified and meetings have been held with the managers of these sites to progress water audits and ascertain any obvious water saving opportunities.

These programs are expected to result in further reductions in treated water per capita (the red line on Figure 13).

Water Losses

TSC participated in the Water Loss Management Program (WLMP) for Regional NSW Water Utilities between 2006 and 2011. Following the program, a bulk meter installation program has been implemented to enable monitoring of the water balance. A leakage control and pressure management program is currently being developed involving network testing, modelling and leakage investigation using specialised equipment.

The National Performance Reporting Framework classifies water losses in the distribution system as either apparent losses (unauthorised consumption, retail metering errors) or real losses (leakage and overflows from mains, service reservoirs and service connections prior to customer meters). Water losses are also experienced during the process of water treatment. The components of the water balance for the last 4 years (as reported to NSW Office of Water as part of annual performance reporting) are shown in Table 12 and Figure 14.

TSC has adopted a KPI of 10% for NRW (Figure 14) which includes the water lost through unknown leakage, meter inaccuracies, theft, water provided for fire-fighting, known and unavoidable leakage, use of unmetered standpipes plus water lost during emergency and planned maintenance of water mains. This is equivalent to the total treated water less the water sold to customers.

Table 12: Components of Water Supply

Component of Water Balance	2009	2010	2011	2012
Raw water extraction (1)	9,564	10,555	8,938	8,830
Treated water production (2)	8,639	9,674	8,487	8,275
Bulk supply and treatment losses (3) = (1) – (2)	925	881	451	555
% bulk supply and treatment losses = 100 x (3)/(1)	9.7%	8.3%	5.0%	6.3%
Metered consumption (4)	7,582	8,175	7,175	7,134
Distribution system losses (5) = (2) - (4)	1,057	1,499	1,312	1,140
Distribution losses as % of treated water = 100 x (5)/(2)	12.2%	15.5%	15.5%	13.8%
Real losses (leakage) ¹ (6)	518	773	509	496
Meter inaccuracies ² (7)	109	163	103	99
Unauthorised supply (8) = (2) - (4) – (10) – (7) – (6)	377	508	658	504
Apparent losses (unauthorised supply, meter errors) (9) = (7) + (8)	486	671	761	603
Unbilled consumption ³ (10)	53	55	42	41

Component of Water Balance	2009	2010	2011	2012
NRW (11) = (2) - (4)	1,057	1,499	1,312	1,140
NRW (as % of treated water) = 100 x (11)/(2)	12.2%	15.5%	15.5%	13.8%
Total losses (12) = (3) + (11)	1,982	2,380	1,763	1,696
Total losses as % of raw water extraction = 100 x (12)/(1)	20.7%	22.5%	19.7%	19.2%

Source: TSC data reported annually to NSW Office of Water.

1. Estimated as 6.0 % of treated water production (8.0% in 2010).
2. Estimated as 2.0% of residential consumption.
3. Estimated as 0.5% of treated water production.

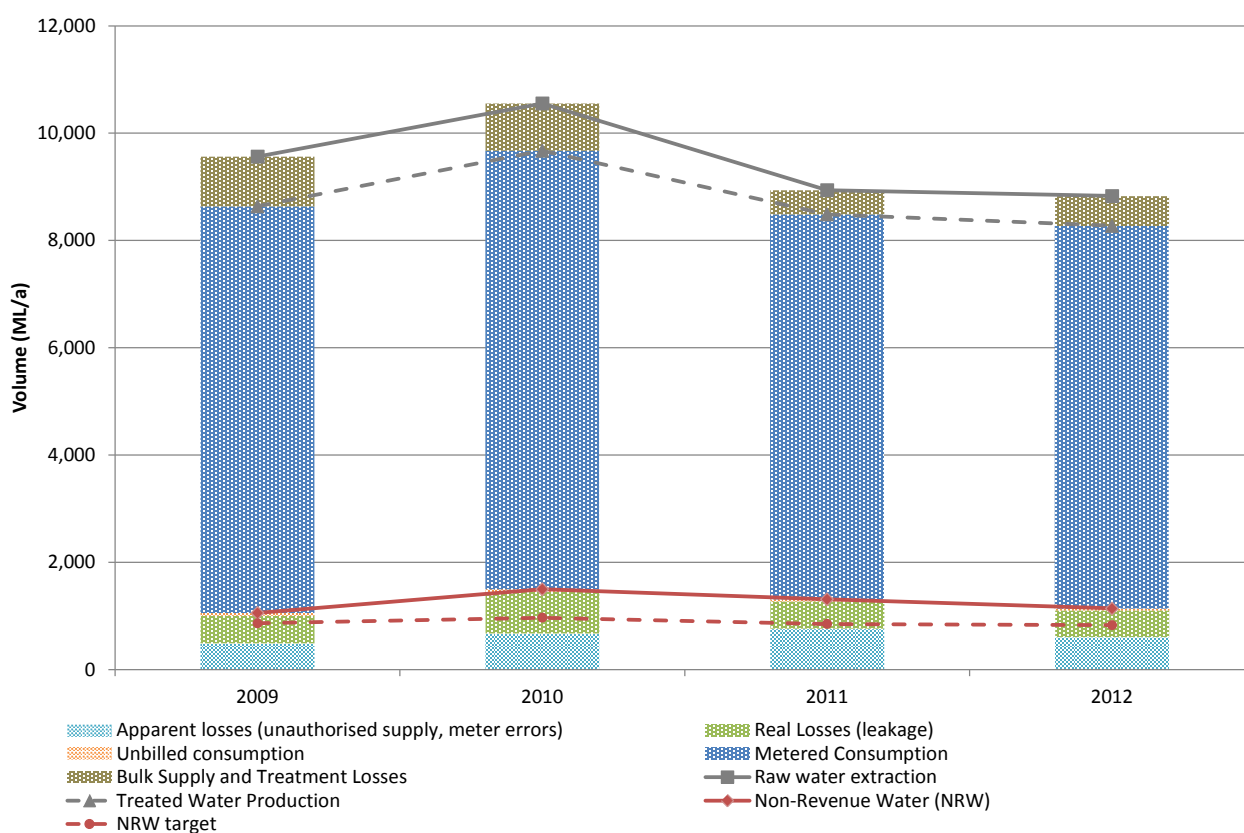


Figure 14: Components of Water Supply 2009 - 2012

The level of bulk supply/treatment losses appears to have decreased since the commissioning of the new Bray Park WTP in April 2010. The major component of treatment losses is assumed to be the wastewater from the sludge dewatering process which is discharged to the sewerage system and it is unlikely that this component of losses can be reduced further.

Real losses (leakage and overflows from mains, service reservoirs and service connections prior to customer meters) represent a wasted resource, reduce the effective capacity of a water supply system, and may result in unnecessary operating costs. Leakage is currently assumed to be 6% - 8% of treated water production in the Tweed Shire. Opportunities for more accurately identifying and reducing real losses are likely to be identified through the proposed leakage control and pressure management program.

Apparent losses (unauthorised consumption, retail metering errors) have historically ranged from 6.0 - 9.0 % of treated water production which is a significant component of the total distribution system losses (12 - 16 %

of treated water production). External bulk water sales are currently difficult to quantify as the data includes water stolen from standpipes, water used for major construction and carting to Tyalgum during droughts.

Effluent Reuse Schemes

TSC has implemented or is developing a number of recycled water schemes for agricultural uses, sugar mill cooling water and irrigation of playing fields and golf courses. Currently, between 5% and 9% of wastewater (400 – 800 ML/a) is recycled. TSC has a recycled water target of 15% of treated effluent reused by 2013. Other recycled water schemes are being progressively investigated and developed.

The DMS assessed options for water and wastewater services for new developments in the Tweed Shire including dual reticulation, direct potable reuse and rainwater tanks. The DMS concluded that the preferred scenarios of BASIX implementation and 5,000 L rainwater tanks would have broader community acceptance than scenarios including recycled water use, achieve the same reductions in water demand and were less expensive than other options considered. Based on the outcomes of the DMS, TSC has adopted the BASIX and rainwater tank option as its preferred policy for new developments.

The DMS also recommended that TSC continues to encourage effluent reuse schemes and other integrated water solutions that are sustainable in the long-term proposed by developers of greenfield sites. Where opportunities are identified by developers, TSC will assess the proposals put forward for reuse and recycling opportunities. A recent example is a proposed private utility scheme including dual reticulation at West Pottsville. The scheme will replace an estimated 53% of total water demand as well as providing recycled water for irrigation supply and fire-fighting. TSC is participating in the development of this strategy as part of the rezoning process

Residential retrofits and rebates

The Residential Water Saving Program is a key component of the DMS Implementation Plan. The program is being staged over a three-year period from 1 July 2011. Key components include a residential rebate for water saving shower heads, aerators and spouts/mixers and a residential rebate for dual flush toilets. The dual flush rebate program was fully taken up at the end of 2012 (6 months earlier than expected) and the showerhead rebate has been extended to June 2014. TSC also plans to conduct research into the feasibility of a retrofit service and a rebate for residential rainwater tanks in future years.

There are currently no State or Federal government rebates applicable to rainwater tanks in the Tweed Shire, however, rebates, guidelines and regulations are continually being reviewed.

Rainwater tank policy

TSC's policy for rainwater tanks in urban areas adopted in 2011 encourages the installation of rainwater tanks to provide non-potable water for outdoor uses, flushing toilets and washing machines. Customers are encouraged to install the largest tank they can. The policy encourages dual supply rainwater tanks in single residential premises to have a minimum storage capacity of 5.0 kL and a minimum roof area catchment of 160 m². For multi-residential dwellings, it is recommended that the rainwater tank volume is maximised with 80% to 90% of the roof area connected. In addition to reducing the consumption of treated potable water, the policy also recognises the benefits of a rainwater tank in reducing the amount, intensity and frequency of downstream stormwater runoff. To provide this benefit, the continuous tank draw down is to be maximised by connecting toilets, washing machines and external taps.

Rainwater tanks provide a potential alternative water source and can reduce the demand on the mains water supply. Community feedback obtained during the IWCM review strongly supports the use of household rainwater tanks as a water saving measure for external and internal use. There are a number of constraints which need to be considered, such as rainfall, roof catchment size, purpose of use and cost, to ensure that the most appropriate sized rainwater tank is installed. Although larger rainwater tanks provide a greater

capacity for storage and reduce the demand on mains water, they are more expensive, are not refilled in dry times and may be restricted by planning controls and space.

The cost and responsibilities of having rainwater tanks is often not well understood by the community:

- The costs (capital, operating and maintenance costs) are borne by the property owner;
- Energy costs for pump operation are likely to increase as electricity prices increase in future (in fact Council is aware of some instances where pumps have been turned off due to high energy costs with the result being increased potable water use); and
- Adequate maintenance is necessary for water quality and quantity maximisation.

Some feedback from the community suggested that rainwater tanks could provide a large component of future water supply needs for the shire and that Council should be advocating the installation of larger tanks. Because of this feedback, the appropriateness of the current rainwater tank policy was re-assessed for a range of rainwater tank sizes for a number of different water uses in Murwillumbah (refer Appendix 3). The analysis showed that the optimum tank size is 5,000 L and tanks up to 10,000 L may also provide cost-effective water savings when also connected to internal plumbing (toilet flushing and washing machine use). As the appropriate tank size for each property is highly dependent on water uses, costs and local rainfall, the current policy (minimum 5,000 L tank) is still considered appropriate.

Other Potential Options – Level 2

Management Option 7b - Improved Community Understanding of Water Consumption Targets

Ten year implementation cost: \$35,000 (\$10,000 in year 1 and \$5,000 p.a.)

The results of the community surveys suggest that the majority of people believe that their household uses less water than the average household in the Shire. In addition, only 25% of those surveyed could identify the current target for average daily water use by residents in the Tweed Shire (180 L/p/d). While the *Target 180* campaign and the new water bills are relatively new, this suggests that the message about residential consumption is not yet reaching the community. To continue to reinforce the water saving message and targets, it may be necessary to increase efforts in this regard including additional innovative ways to increase involvement and understanding within the community such as the *Meet Your Meter* campaign. Wider promotion of the program within Council would also assist in providing consistent messages during related community engagement programs.

Management Option 7c - Targets for non-residential consumption

Ten year implementation cost: minimal

The current target of 300 L/p/d (treated water produced from the WTPs per person) appears to be easily achievable. It would be appropriate to adopt lower targets for the future similar to the 180/170/160 residential targets. These may be presented as targets for treated water produced from the WTPs per person or as a percentage reduction in the consumption of the top 100 water users relative to an average or baseline.

Management Option 7d - Water Loss Management Program

Ten year implementation cost: \$150,000 (\$50,000 in year 1 to 3)

As shown in Table 12, the water loss components are estimated using industry guidelines. The development and implementation of a Water Loss Management Program would include:

- Identification of areas of water loss although the planned bulk metering program;
- Improved data on customer consumption (Section 4.1.3);
- Selection and reporting of appropriate leakage and water loss indicators - the reporting of leakage and water losses as a percentage of water supplied identifies the significance of these parameters in relation to the total water supplied, however NSW Office of Water considers that it is not helpful in monitoring the effectiveness of a utility's performance in reducing losses and is affected by reductions in water consumption and water restrictions due to drought. In addition, these indicators do not measure the efficient management of leakage in a distribution system because they take no account of multiple properties, density of service connections, length of mains, customer meter location in relation to the property boundary or the operating pressure.

Water loss in L/d per connection is recommended by the International Water Association (IWA) as the best traditional basic technical indicator for real losses, although it does not account for other factors such as length of main or operating pressure. In particular, reductions in operating pressure have been shown to greatly reduce system leakage. The Infrastructure Leakage Index (ILI) has been proposed as an indicator which measures how effectively real losses are being managed at current operating pressure while accounting for other influential factors such as length of mains, number of service connections and customer meter location. The ILI is recommended by the IWA for international comparisons of water utilities. The National Performance Framework has adopted ILI as a measure of leakage and the NSW Office of Water has reported the ILI for each LWU since 2005/06 although accurate data for TSC are not currently available;

- A review of policies and procedures on standpipe use and access to mains water by water carters, Council staff and private individuals to reduce theft, unmeasured usage and inaccuracies in metering; and
- Implementation of a customer meter replacement program to improve measurement of consumption.

Management Option 7e – Review of effectiveness of rainwater tanks

Ten year implementation cost: \$35,000 (\$20,000 in year 1 and \$5,000 p.a. for year 2 to 4)

Prior to promoting any major expenditure on rainwater tanks (by either TSC or property owners), data on the actual water savings and rainwater tank costs are required to demonstrate value for money. Similar projects have been conducted by the Department of Planning and Rous Water as part of the review of the effectiveness of the BASIX rainwater tank program.

Generally, rainwater tanks under 10,000 L do not require Council approval so there are no records of these installations. There is currently has no way of compulsorily requiring households to provide information about the types, volumes and uses of tanks being installed on existing homes and businesses. A voluntary web-based registration system is proposed to commence collection of some data. This should be extended (potentially through the use of a survey) to identify properties with and without rainwater tanks and compare their water consumption patterns. Data to be collected would include:

- Date of installation and size of rainwater tank;
- End-uses and any modifications with time;

- Consumption before and after the installation of the tank, monitored over at least a three-year period; and
- Household composition (dwelling type, occupancy etc.).

Review of these data would assist in verifying the performance of rainwater tanks in the Tweed, identifying any factors that improve performance and developing a rebate program (refer below) based on the findings.

Management Option 7f - Rainwater Tank Rebate

Ten year implementation cost: \$700,000 (\$140,000 p.a. in year 5 to 9)

Rebates encourage residential water consumers, particularly those in pre-BASIX non-efficient houses, to become water efficient houses. While BASIX mandates the inclusion of rainwater tanks in new developments and 5,000L tanks are encouraged as part of TSC's rainwater tank policy, there is no financial incentive for existing customers to install a rainwater tank or for new developments to install a larger tank.

A survey was conducted in May 2012 to provide input to the review of the Residential Water Saving Program including rebates. Results of the survey suggest that continuing and expanding the rebate program and introduction of innovative education and incentive programs are well supported by the community. Similar community feedback was received as part of the IWCM review community surveys.

A range of rainwater tank rebate programs are currently offered in other parts of Australia. The rebate programs are regularly reviewed and modified but some current programs are as follows:

- South Australia - up to \$200 for a new stand-alone rainwater tank with a capacity of 1,000 litres or more which is not connected to household plumbing;
- Victoria - \$850 (2,000L to 3,999L connected to toilet and/or laundry), \$1,300 (4,000L or greater connected to toilet or laundry), \$1500 (4,000L or greater and connected to toilet and laundry) and \$500 for tank to toilet and/or laundry connections;
- Rous Water - Rous Water offers three levels of rebate, based in the first instance on the tank volume (\$100 for 2,000 – 4,499 L, \$400 for 4,500 – 8,999 L and \$500 for 9,000 L or more). Additional rebates are available if rainwater from the tank is supplied for flushing toilets (\$500) and/or to the washing machine (\$500); and
- Queensland - \$1,500 for rainwater tanks installed up to 3,000 L which are internally plumbed to either a toilet or toilets and a laundry cold water tap.

Rous Water estimates that the installation of tanks has reduced average household water use by 50 kL/connection per year (Rous Water, 2012). The cost to Rous Water is estimated at \$9.41/kL saved per year. Similar water savings are predicted by the DWE Rainwater Tank Model (refer Appendix 3) for a 5,000L tank used for external use only with 100 kL/connection per year savings with external use and connection to toilets and washing machine (10,000 L tank).

The rebate structure offered by Rous Water could be appropriate given the target is pre-BASIX connections and additional incentive should be offered for connection to internal plumbing. This would also assist with consistency in demand management programs across the Northern Rivers region. A rebate of \$400 per tank for 1,000 connections with 30% assumed to connect to toilets and washing machines would cost TSC approximately \$700,000 with expected water savings of approximately 65 ML/a (\$10.80 per kL saved per year). As discussed above, a review of the effectiveness of rainwater tanks is recommended prior to any major expenditure.

All rebate programs should be reviewed on an ongoing basis to ensure rebates are effective in achieving water efficiency outcomes. Reviews should include assessment of each rebate program in relation to:

- Value for money in relation to water savings;
- Level of uptake within the community;
- Value in achieving water efficient behaviour change; and
- Appropriateness of technical advice offered in conjunction with rebates.

Management Option 7g - Permanent Water Conservation

Ten year implementation cost: \$30,000 (\$10,000 in year 2 and 3 and \$5,000 every 3 years)

The Best-Practice Guidelines recommend that permanent water saving measures are examined as part of a demand management program to minimise wastage. However, the appropriateness of either voluntary or mandatory permanent water conservation measures has not yet been considered for the Tweed.

A community consultation process was conducted by Rous Water in 2008 to gauge attitudes towards 'Permanent Water Saving Measures'. The survey found "a strong commitment towards permanent and mandatory water conservation measures – regardless of dam levels". This was despite healthy rainfall in the Rous Water catchment area over much of the preceding seven months (Rous Water, 2012). Similar feedback was received from the Tweed community during the IWCM review.

Rous Water and its constituent Councils (Ballina, Byron, Lismore and Richmond Valley) have endorsed a list of permanent water saving measures which are currently voluntary. The NSW government is currently considering legislation that would permit Councils to enforce water saving measures. Mandatory irrigation days and times are a cost-effective demand management measure, however, voluntary measures require less expenditure on enforcement and advertising.

In recognition of the objective of regional approach to demand management (refer Section 2.7.4), permanent voluntary water conservation measures similar to those adopted by Rous Water and its constituent Councils could be appropriate (refer Table 13). Although the resulting water savings have not been determined, there are expected to be secondary effects such as increased water awareness and education, reduction in internal uses and demand hardening potentially impacting on opportunities for demand reductions when drought restrictions are imposed.

Other Potential Options – Level 3

No additional options are identified as part of a TWCM approach.

Table 13: Permanent Water Saving Measures for Rous Water supply area

OUTDOOR WATERING		
<p>Applies to all homes, private and public gardens and sports grounds.</p> <p>Does not apply to commercial market gardens and nurseries.</p>	<p>WATERING TIMES AND DAYS</p> <p>This applies to the use of all types of sprinklers, watering systems, hand-held hoses, watering cans and buckets, topping up swimming pools and outdoor spas.</p> <p>Outdoor watering and water use is permitted between 6am and 10am and between 3pm and 10pm.</p>	
	<p>NEW TURF WATERING</p> <p>Watering of new turf or the beginning of a new lawn is permitted every day for the first fourteen (14) days during the watering times above.</p>	
	<p>HAND-HELD HOSES</p> <p>All hand-held hoses should be fitted with a trigger nozzle.</p>	
	<p>USE LESS WATER</p> <p>When watering lawns or gardens, use the least amount of water necessary. Evidence of puddling or runoff is an indication that too much water has been used.</p> <p>All outdoor watering should be carried out in such a way that no hard surfaces are included in the watered area.</p>	
	<p>CLEANING VEHICLES & BOATS</p>	
	<p>Applies to all private and commercial use.</p>	<p>Vehicles and boats may be washed on any day.</p> <p>Where possible, vehicles and boats should be washed on the lawn or where the water will run off onto the lawn or garden.</p> <p>Hoses should be fitted with a trigger nozzle.</p>
<p>DRIVEWAYS, PATHS & PAVED AREAS</p>		
<p>Applies to all private and commercial premises.</p> <p>Applies to all impervious surfaces such as driveways, paths and paved areas.</p>	<p>Water should not be used to clean driveways, paths, paved areas and other impervious surfaces unless it is necessary as a result of an accident, fire, hazard to health or the environment, or other emergency.</p> <p>High pressure water cleaners may be used.</p>	
<p>CONSTRUCTION & GENERAL CLEANING</p>		
<p>Applies to all private and commercial building, renovation and construction activities, including roof and house cleaning.</p> <p>Applies to all private and commercial cleaning activities.</p>	<p>Cleaning may be carried out on any day.</p> <p>Hoses should be fitted with a trigger nozzle.</p> <p>High pressure water cleaners may be used.</p> <p>USE LESS WATER</p> <p>When using high pressure water cleaners, use the least amount of water necessary to do the job. Avoid puddling or runoff to hard surfaces such as driveways, paved areas and the street.</p> <p>Use only high pressure water cleaners that use no more than ten (10) litres of water per minute.</p>	

4.2.2 Water Supply Availability

Issues to be addressed:

Issue 2 There is a need for informed and transparent decision-making and better management of community expectations

Issue 13: Augmentation of the Tweed District Water Supply will be required in future due to population growth although the timing and additional supply required are unclear – Data on current population growth rates suggest that augmentation of the Tweed district water supply will not be required until approximately 2030 and possibly beyond that time frame. However there are uncertainties regarding future population and demand as well as climate change implications and secure yield, and it is important to continually review available data to optimise the timing of the significant investment that will be required.

Current Strategy – Level 1

Management Option 8a - Future Water Supply Augmentation

The current strategy recognises the need for a major augmentation of the Tweed District water supply in future. While a significant amount of work has been undertaken on the assessment of augmentation strategies for the Tweed water supply system, a preferred option has not been adopted. The current data suggest that:

- For the purpose of an interim secure yield estimate, 13,750ML/a is considered reasonable, although TSC acknowledges that the secure yield estimate needs to be refined to take into account more data on climate change impacts, future environmental flows and future demand. It should be noted that the current secure yield of the Tweed/Bray Park system is at least 13,750 ML/a, however climate change is expected to reduce the secure yield below that before 2060;
- Population growth has not occurred as fast as originally predicted. The Shire's long-term population forecasts are currently being updated by Forecast.ID but the current data indicate that the 2031 connected population will be between 100,000 and 120,000; and
- The trends in customer demand suggest TSC's demand management programs, combined with legislative requirements (BASIX) and rebates are having a positive influence on customer demand.

The future demand and supply forecast is based on the population projections presented in Section 2.3 and assuming the target demand of 300 L/p/d from the WTP will be achieved in the short-term and maintained over the long-term. The current secure yield and the forecast future demand for the Bray Park water supply are shown on Figure 15.

The forecasts predict that augmentation of the Bray Park water supply may be required from 2030. The potential supply deficit at 2060 is predicted to be approximately 6,180 ML/a. However, long-term water supply planning will need to consider a potentially larger supply deficit that may result from climate change impacts.

Given that a new water supply source is not expected to be required for some 17 years, it is considered appropriate to confirm this through updating data on population growth, demand and system secure yield.



Figure 15: Bray Park System (Tweed District and Uki) Future Demand and Supply Forecasts

Information Gaps – Demand Side

As discussed in Section 4.1.3, improvements in data collection and review procedures would result in better understanding of current and future customer numbers and demand as well as facilitate more adaptive responses to new information. The key aim is to provide more confidence in the demand forecast (the dashed line on Figure 15).

Information Gaps – Supply Side

Given that climate and rainfall are highly variable from year to year, it is necessary to estimate the amount of water that can be reliably obtained from the water sources during any year, regardless of climatic conditions. For the past 25 years or so most urban water supply headworks in regional NSW have been sized on the basis of “Security of Supply”. This security of supply basis was developed to cost-effectively provide sufficient dam storage capacity to allow the water utility to effectively manage its water supply in future droughts of greater severity than experienced over the past 100 or more years. ‘Secure Yield’ is the theoretical water demand that can be expected to be supplied with only moderate restrictions during a significantly more severe drought than has been experienced since about 1895 (from when generally reliable rainfall records are available). The required water restrictions must not be too severe, not too frequent, nor of excessive duration (NSW Urban Water Services, 2013).

Secure yield is calculated using historic climate and stream flow data and a set of rules that describe water demand and the long-term effect of water restrictions.

Current Secure Yield

The secure yield of Tweed’s water supplies was determined using the NSW Security of Supply Methodology (the highest annual water demand that can be supplied from a water supply headworks system whilst

meeting the 5/10/20 rule - restrictions no more than 5% of the time with a frequency of no more than 1 in 10 years and on average a 20% reduction in consumption).

There has been a significant reduction in average water use per connection due to increased water awareness within the community and increased use of water efficient fixtures and appliances, as promoted through demand management programs and the BASIX efficient building requirements (refer Section 4.2.1). Increased water efficiency and demand management strategies have reduced or eliminated many of the non-essential uses of water from everyday life, meaning that it is now harder for water restrictions to achieve sustainable long-term reductions in demand (this is termed 'demand hardening'). Future water supply planning in NSW is now based on achieving a 10% reduction in consumption i.e. a "5/10/10 rule", which supersedes the previous "5/20/10 rule" and acknowledges the impact of demand hardening. This new rule dictates that a water supply should be designed to be able to supply a minimum of 90% (instead of 80%) of normal water demand during the worst drought.

Increased confidence is required in the current secure yield of the water supplies. TSC has not yet assessed the impact of demand hardening on its water supplies. The impact of demand hardening is predicted to be a reduction in the secure yield of Rous Water supplies of 800 ML/a or 5.8% (Hydrosphere Consulting, 2013a) and similar reductions may be experienced by TSC.

In addition, the current secure yield needs to be re-assessed considering the environmental flow criteria in the Water Sharing Plan, future demand predictions (normal and restricted demand) and the Drought Restrictions Policy.

Future Secure Yield

The secure yield of Tweed's existing water supplies is expected to be significantly impacted by climate change as discussed in Section 4.1.6. There are no data available on the likely impact of climate change on the secure yield of the Tweed water sources.

The draft NSW *Guidelines on Assuring Future Urban Water Security* (Office of Water, 2013b) has adopted the medium global warming emissions scenario A1B for water supply planning purposes for ~Year 2030 which projects an average global warming rise of 0.9°C from 1990 to ~2030. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has developed 15 global climate models (GCMs) which provide daily rainfall and evapotranspiration data suitable for planning purposes. Studies have not yet reached a consensus on which GCMs are likely to provide reliable future climate projections so the guidelines recommend planning carried out using a wide range of archived GCM simulations (all the 15 models with daily data).

The Rous Water bulk supply system was one of the 11 non-metropolitan water supplies included in a pilot study currently undertaken by NSW Office of Water to provide insights on the impacts of climate changed hydrometeorological data on water security and to develop a suitable methodology and guidelines for application by other NSW water utilities. The pilot study involved hydrological and system modelling to determine the impact of climate change on secure yield. The pilot study incorporated the scientific logic of the CSIRO's Murray Darling Basin Sustainable Yields Project which used daily historical data from 1895 to 2006 and applied the relevant GCMs to provide projected (~2030) climate changed data for each GCM for this period.

The study forecasted the percentage change in year 2030 secure yield due to climate change for each of the 11 water supplies in the pilot study. The pilot study determined that the secure yield after climate change should be considered to be the lesser of:

- Secure yield for the median of the 15 GCMs on the basis of the 5/10/10 rule; and
- Secure yield for the GCM with the lowest secure yield on the basis of a 5/10/25 rule (the 25% severity of restrictions under this rule amounts to being able to 'survive' the least favourable GCM, albeit with relatively harsh water restrictions to cope with the reduced availability of water).

The pilot study found that secure yield at around the Year 2030 under the methodology proposed in these guidelines, is reduced by up to 9% for coastal utilities including Rous Water (Samra and Cloke, 2010).

Subsequent to the NSW Office of Water pilot study in 2010, Rous Water has undertaken further analysis of its system headworks model to determine secure yield currently and allowing for future climate change. The recent work has also provided estimates of future secure yield adjusted for climate change on the basis of warming of 1°C (predicted to occur by about 2032) and 2°C (predicted to occur by about 2060). The reduction in secure yield (17.5 %) for the 1°C warming and 33.7% reduction for 2°C warming is significantly greater than obtained from the Office of Water pilot study. This is apparently due to the different rainfall and runoff assumptions used to generate the input data.

While the Office of Water pilot study suggests that the impact of climate change is system dependent, the main impacts on year 2030 secure yield were found to be no greater than a reduction of 9% for the coastal utilities included in the pilot study and the impact of climate change on the other system located on the northern NSW coast included in the study (Coffs Harbour) is also predicted to be -9%. A study undertaken by Seqwater (QWC, 2010) has adopted a 10% reduction in surface water availability (by 2030) across South-East Queensland for long-term water supply planning. No other studies have predicted the impact of climate change for the longer term (2060).

The NSW Office of Water has suggested the methodology and results of the pilot study should be applied to other NSW LWUs. The NOROC study (Hydrosphere Consulting, 2013a) concluded that is appropriate to consider the impact of a 10% reduction in secure yield of surface water sources in the NOROC region due to climate change by 2030. Beyond 2030, it is considered that the loss in secure yield will be at least 20%. Water supply planning will need to consider the risk of future increased reductions in secure yield and the ability of any adopted options to be able to cater for greater climate change impacts should they occur.

Each NSW local water utility needs to assess the impact of global warming and climate variability on the secure yield of its water supply system in accordance with the Office of Water guidelines. Secure yield assessments form an integral part of the IWCM Strategy. For LWUs with a storage dam or shallow bores, analysis similar to that carried out in the pilot study is generally recommended. Where a utility has sufficient supply capacity to enable it to defer a major capital investment decision for additional surface water supplies for 5 or more years, the Office of Water suggests that improved data on future climate and stream flows should be collected to improve decision-making.

Augmentation Options

The Tweed District Water Supply Augmentation Options Study (MWH, 2009b; MWH, 2010) was undertaken to assist Tweed Shire Council in the determination of a preferred option for the augmentation of its water resources. Initially, a long list of options was developed (MWH, 2009b) with a high level assessment undertaken to enable each to be scored against Triple Bottom Line (environmental, social and economic) criteria to enable a short list to be developed for further, more detailed investigation (MWH, 2010). TSC has not adopted a preferred augmentation option.

TSC's current demand management initiatives have resulted in significant per capita demand reductions. Additional measures recommended in this IWCM Strategy would further assist with demand reduction. The extent that demand management can offset the need for any supply augmentation will depend on the long-term success of the demand measures as well as the future population growth and future secure yield of water supplies. However, it is apparent that demand management options (including potable water substitution such as rainwater tanks or recycled water) will not be sufficient to offset the need for a new supply source.

The key knowledge gaps are the timing of the required supply augmentation and the quantity of additional water that will be needed. Accurate prediction of these depends on the demand projection (refer Section 4.2.1) and the secure yield explained above. Given that water augmentation is not envisaged prior to 2030,

there appears to be sufficient time to fill the identified data gaps and this should be TSC's short-term (1-3 year) focus. This time period will allow TSC to collect data, undertake the required modelling and provide increased confidence that decisions are based on the latest and most reliable information available.

The NOROC Regional Bulk Water Supply Strategy (Section 2.7.4) is currently investigating potential options for regional integration. The findings of this study will be directly relevant to the Tweed IWCM Strategy and should be used along with the results of the Fine Screen Options Study as key considerations in the selection of a preferred augmentation strategy for the Tweed.

As discussed above, the short-term focus should be the monitoring of population growth and review of demand projections as well as confirmation of current and future secure yield. Although there is no need to adopt a preferred augmentation option in the short-term, it is considered appropriate for TSC to continue to participate in regional water sharing initiatives.

Other Potential Options – Level 2

No additional options have been identified as part of an urban water cycle management approach as this is TSC's current focus. The current approach meets the current Office of Water guidelines for IWCM.

Other Potential Options – Level 3

No additional options are identified as part of a TWCM approach.

4.2.3 Drinking Water Quality

Issues to be addressed:

Issue 14: The drinking water catchments are impacted by current and historical land use and development - The catchments for Clarrie Hall Dam and Bray Park Weir are impacted by historical and current agricultural land management practices as well as the impacts of on-site sewerage management systems. While treatment facilities at Bray Park and Tyalgum have been upgraded to provide additional treatment reliability, there are opportunities for improved catchment management activities to control pollution at the source including agricultural land management, urban stormwater quality improvements, riparian management, point source pollution controls, education and catchment development controls.

Issue 15: As a precaution the Uki WTP is shut down during dirty water events - The need for consideration of the adequacy of treatment facilities at Uki was raised in the 2011 review of the IWCM Strategy. However, the appropriate management actions (e.g. operational controls, WTP modifications or upgrade) have not yet been determined.

Issue 24: There is a need for a holistic catchment management strategy for the Shire - There is currently no framework for coordinating catchment management activities across the Shire. Existing estuary management plans and coastal zone management plans for estuaries have been developed through the state government's planning process. While the more recently updated plans have acknowledged the upstream catchment areas as affecting the health of estuaries, the main focus is on the health of the estuarine reaches. If a total catchment approach to water cycle management is desired, there is a need to strengthen the linkages between existing catchment management, plans for estuary management, agricultural management and IWCM programs and activities.

Current Strategy – Level 1

Management Option 9a - Development of a Drinking Water Quality Management Plan

An assessment of TSC's compliance with the ADWG was undertaken in 2010 and strategies were developed to address the identified gaps (Water Futures and City Water Technology, 2010). TSC adopted the Drinking Water Quality Policy (Version 1.0) in December 2010. The policy formalises TSC's position and commitment to drinking water quality and its management, as recommended in the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (ADWG). TSC's Drinking Water Quality Management Plan (DWQMP) is progressively being developed.

Overall, TSC operates largely in accordance with the intent of the ADWG framework and is generally either partially or wholly compliant with the framework. The main improvements recommended following the review are:

- To formalise and reference existing processes to demonstrate compliance to the Framework; and
- To fill gaps where current process are either not in place or not quite up to current good practice levels.

Specific recommendations have also been made regarding the ADWG Framework elements, components and actions that need to be completed relating to (Water Futures, 2011):

- Regulatory and formal requirements for water quality;
- Identification of stakeholders and engagement processes;
- Update of the water quality data, hazard and risk assessment for Tyalgum with completion of the new WTP;
- Development of the Corporate Knowledge Base

- Review and update maintenance management and asset management systems;
- Employee awareness and training;
- Associated documentation preparation and review;
- Long-term evaluation of data; and
- Development of an audit program.

Management Option 9b - Upgraded treatment facilities at Bray Park and Tyalgum

TSC has successfully focussed on the provision of safe drinking water through the upgrade of the Bray Park and Tyalgum WTPs as well as algal and cyanobacterial control through improved mixing and destratification of Clarrie Hall Dam.

Other Potential Options – Level 2

Management Option 9c – Business continuity planning for Uki water supply

Ten year implementation cost: Included in Option 5e

Consideration of the adequacy of treatment facilities at Uki was raised in the 2011 review of the IWCM Strategy. Currently, if raw water quality deteriorates, the Uki WTP is shut down and treated water is carted from the Bray Park system. While this continues to provide safe drinking water to Uki, documentation of the risks and appropriate management actions (operational controls, trigger points and carting procedures) is yet to be included in the business continuity plan. This should be undertaken as part of Option 5e - Review and update water supply and wastewater Business Continuity Plans (refer Section 4.1.5).

Management Option 9d – Drinking water catchment management planning

Ten year implementation cost: \$100,000 (\$50,000 in year 1 and 2)

The risk assessment process carried out for the drinking water quality management plan identified some of the hazards impacting on the drinking water catchments. A catchment management plan should be developed covering the full catchment of Bray Park weir including Clarrie Hall Dam and its catchment (Doon Doon Creek) and all tributaries of the Tweed River upstream of Bray Park weir. A risk-based approach to drinking water quality management would consider:

- Catchment characteristics, condition, land-use and activities;
- Buffer-zone characteristics and condition;
- Waterway characteristics and condition;
- Storage characteristics and operations;
- Weir characteristics and operations;
- Potential future impacts of climate change (sea level rise and increased storminess); and
- Existing catchment management activities.

Key risks include agricultural activities within the catchment, recreational activities within the catchment, waterways and dam, management of public areas, aquatic weeds, riparian vegetation condition, stream bank erosion, blue-green algae, tidal intrusion and thermal stratification. Potential augmentation of Clarrie Hall Dam and the required management measures should also be addressed in the plan. The catchment management plan would need to link to the overall DWQMP including objectives and targets, actions identified to address the risks and a clearly defined implementation strategy.

Other Potential Options – Level 3

As part of the TWCM approach, the drinking water catchment management plan could be undertaken as part of the model described in Section 4.5.1. This would still address the requirements of the ADWG but would also consider risks to waterway health as part of the holistic approach.

4.2.4 Drought and Emergency Management

Issues to be addressed:

Issue 16: Drought contingency and water supply emergency management measures need to be further developed - Given the predicted delay until augmentation of the Tweed District water source is required, it is considered appropriate to reassess the water supply failure scenarios including normal, restricted and emergency demand requirements. This assessment should consider the impacts of water sharing plan rules, potential fish passage requirements, proposed catchment management measures and effectiveness of the upgraded Bray Park WTP. Feasible contingency measures to cater for emergency scenarios (e.g. drought, infrastructure failure, raw water contamination) will also need to be developed.

Current Strategy – Level 1

Management Option 10a - Adopted Drought Management Strategy and Restrictions Policy

The *Tweed Shire Council Drought Management Strategy* (MWH, 2009) was prepared in 2009 and restriction levels and demand targets were subsequently adopted by TSC and reviewed in 2012.

The *Business Continuity Plan (BCP) for Water and Wastewater Services* (TSC, 2011c) addresses the scenario where the level of Clarrie Hall Dam drops to 25% and river flow has previously ceased and only about 6 months of restricted supply remains. This BCP has been compiled to enable a response to source failure due to prolonged drought, and where implementation of level 7 restrictions and planned emergency supply arrangements is inadequate.

Other Potential Options – Level 2

Management Option 10b – Review and Update Drought Management Strategy

Ten year implementation cost: \$150,000 (\$50,000 every 4 years)

The Drought Management Strategy should be updated with the findings of previously identified actions including:

- Current demand patterns (Section 4.2.1);
- Security of supply planning based on the 5/10/10 rule, Water Sharing Plan environmental flow and fish passage requirements (Section 4.2.2);
- Emergency supply requirements, scenarios and response feasibility;
- Normal, restricted and emergency demand requirements and the ability to achieve the target demand reductions;
- Blue-green algae management protocols; and
- Catchment planning actions (Section 4.2.3).

Feasible contingency measures to cater for emergency scenarios (such as prolonged drought, infrastructure failure and raw water contamination) will also need to be developed and documented in the BCP (refer Section 4.1.5).

As discussed in Section 2.7.4, the NOROC regional water supply strategy has identified potential regional and local solutions to improve water supply security in the Tweed. Potentially beneficial options include interconnection with the Rous Water supply combined with regional sharing of surface water supplies, a regional desalination facility and local groundwater supplies.

Other Potential Options – Level 3

No additional options are identified as part of a TWCM approach.

4.3 Urban Wastewater Management

4.3.1 Servicing New Developments

Issues to be addressed:

Issue 17: The opportunities for development (urban expansion) outside of the wastewater service areas is limited by the capacity of Council's infrastructure and the environment - Estuary management planning in the Tweed has identified issues relating to the impacts of wastewater discharges and urban runoff and the nutrient assimilation capacity of the waterways. The sustainable servicing of new development areas will require consideration of the sensitivity of the receiving waterways, increasing regulations, treatment requirements and costs as well as the development of policies to translate the IWCM objectives into development controls.

Issue 19: Council and the community have a desire for increased water recycling but there are significant barriers to implementation of recycled water schemes within the Tweed Shire

Current Strategy – Level 1

Management Option 11a – Ongoing water supply and wastewater servicing strategies

TSC's current IWCM strategy with regard to urban wastewater management consists of a number of actions. These are summarised below:

- Banora Point WWTP has being upgraded to increase its capacity from 50,000 EP to 75,000 EP to allow for future growth including improved effluent quality discharged to receiving waters;
- A new WWTP and associated reticulation system has been constructed to service the villages of Burringbar and Mooball;
- TSC has obtained approval to redevelop the decommissioned Tweed Heads WWTP to 10,000 EP with equivalent effluent quality to the upgraded Banora Point WWTP, if and when required;
- Development of infrastructure strategies to concept stage for future developments at Cobaki Lakes and The Rise at Bilambil Heights; and
- An infrastructure strategy to concept stage has also been developed for future development at Kings Forest; and
- Ongoing liaison with private water utilities developing servicing strategies.

Currently, there are urban development projects underway with Part 3A development approval from the Minister of Planning (e.g. Cobaki Lakes, west of Tweed Heads and Kings Forest, south west of Kingscliff). Both developments have adopted the preferred demand management scenario of BASIX implementation and 5,000 L rainwater tanks. The urban areas will be connected to TSC's centralised wastewater treatment systems. The recent upgrade to Banora Point WWTP provides capacity to service the Cobaki Lakes

development while Kingscliff WWTP will require further upgrade to cater for the fully developed Kings Forest site.

Other Potential Options – Level 2

No additional options have been identified as part of an urban water cycle management approach as this is TSC's current focus. The current approach meets the Office of Water guidelines for IWCM.

Other Potential Options – Level 3

Management Option 11b - Integrated Servicing Strategies

Ten year implementation cost: \$160,000 (\$20,000 from year 3)

Further detailed planning is required for service provision for new developments based on population forecasts, land use planning and land/waterway and infrastructure capacity. While major treatment plants are being upgraded to increase capacity and improve effluent quality, the impact of the ultimate pollutant loadings (as a result of servicing new developments) on the receiving environments still needs to be considered.

Recent community consultation has identified a growing level of community support for improved environmental outcomes for the Tweed Shire, particularly in association with the health of the Shire's waterways (refer Section 3.3.2). In responding to the community's desire for protection of waterways, a total water cycle approach would incorporate waterway health considerations as key inputs in the early stages of land use and development planning.

Such an approach aims to ensure decision makers understand the linkages between land use planning and the effect on the overall water cycle. In this case it will be important to identify key links between water supply, wastewater and stormwater servicing proposals and the measured health of the Shire's waterways. For example, if waterways are already showing signs of ecosystem stress, such as elevated nutrient concentrations or pathogen levels, adding further input of pollutants to the system, is likely to result in a greater level of risk to ecosystem values. The total water cycle management approach offers a framework for integrated planning across catchments and consideration of the urban water cycle in the context of waterway health which can be utilised most effectively in early land use planning stages. The proposed framework discussed in Section 4.5.1 (Management Option: 17g – Total water cycle management) uses sub-catchment management plans to identify land use planning constraints on a local scale.

Management Option 11c – Identify opportunities for increased water recycling

Ten year implementation cost: \$250,000 (years 1 to 4)

TSC's current effluent reuse strategy is limited to on-site reuse at WWTPs, irrigation schemes and cooling water for Condong Sugar Mill. The Demand Management Strategy (MWH, 2009a) considered recycled water options for greenfield developments as well as open space irrigation. In addition to demand reduction, MWH noted that the progressive implementation of recycled water will have clear environmental benefits including reduction in nutrient loads and other pollutants currently discharged to the Tweed River but found that the cost of the greenfield development scenarios increased significantly with the inclusion of recycled water components.

Since that time, some large urban developments have been approved by the State Government under Part 3A without the requirement for dual reticulation. Construction of these developments has not yet commenced and sections of the community have raised concerns that dual reticulation should be a requirement. However, Council has no power to require developers to operate outside of the conditions of the Part 3A approval. What is possible is for Council to consider future policy development and opportunities

for increased water recycling as part of the development of the servicing strategies for other greenfield developments. This is a key component of the TWCM approach in this IWCM strategy.

The recent community consultation conducted as part of this IWCM review has indicated that there is continued support for the use of rainwater tanks and local stormwater harvesting options and also a growing community acceptance of recycled water initiatives. Of the people surveyed, 93 % supported using rainwater from residential tanks for toilet, laundry and outdoor taps, while 89 % agreed with the use of locally harvested stormwater, and 66 % were supportive of treated wastewater or sewage for these purposes (refer Appendix 2). The community survey also revealed a strong preference for funding to be allocated to protect natural waterway health, which was the second most preferred option after protection of water supply.

The Demand Management Strategy (MWH, 2009a) estimated that the recycled water options examined reduced effluent flows to the waterways by more than 10%. Community acceptance for recycled water solutions and support for funding of environmental initiatives could provide opportunities to strengthen policy around greater implementation of these initiatives into the future and may allow TSC and the community to justify the additional economic cost of these schemes. A TWCM approach (see Section 4.5.1) provides further support for schemes that provide the best overall outcomes for the community as well as waterway health.

A recent local example of such an approach is the current Urban Water Management Strategy adopted by Ballina Shire Council (BSC). BSC recognised that wastewater discharges were negatively impacting environmental values for the Richmond River, and there was a strong community desire to improve the health of the river. This desired environmental outcome became a primary driver for the decision to upgrade their wastewater treatment facilities to improve the quality of wastewater discharges and reduce the total discharge of wastewater to the environment through increased recycling initiatives (e.g. open space and agricultural irrigation and dual reticulation for new developments).

A TWCM approach should consider water recycling options as part of the integrated servicing strategies (Option 11b) in future development areas that are not yet approved where:

- Receiving environments are sensitive to increased loadings or are showing signs that they are already stressed;
- The development is located far from existing centralised systems and the cost of pumping and transport are high;
- Existing centralised systems are limited in their capacity for upgrades to increase capacity (e.g. Hastings Point WWTP);
- Where new WWTPs are required to service developments and local utility schemes or 'package plants' are recommended as part of land use planning; and
- Recycled water opportunities (apart from domestic use) are available e.g. agricultural irrigation/sports fields etc.

Table 14 and Figure 16 detail the future urban development areas that are either:

- Zoned for urban development, with approval for subdivision (including an approved wastewater service plan); or
- Zoned for urban development, without approval for subdivision; or
- Identified by the *Tweed Urban and Employment Land Release Strategy* (TUELRs, GHD, 2009), or the *Far North Coast Regional Strategy* (DoP, 2006) as potential future urban land, with no approval for subdivision.

The table presents the factors of each site described above and potential opportunities for water recycling initiatives as part of the servicing strategies.

As part of the total water cycle approach and the development of sub-catchment management plans (refer Section 4.5.1), the land-use and development constraints identified would assist in the development of integrated asset management and servicing strategies. This would need to be supported by Council policy and funding to ensure achievement of the required outcomes.

Table 14: Potential urban development sites in the Tweed Shire

Site Name	Land Zoning Status	Approx. max no. dwellings (TUELRS, 2009)	Approx. distance to nearest WWTP (km)	Wastewater service requirements	New WWTP or upgrade required?	Proposed wastewater servicing (by Council)	Approval Status	Opportunity for water recycling initiatives?
East Kielvale (Area 1)	Potential urban area (TUELRS, 2009)	1,500	7.5	Needs new WWTP to service it either package WWTP, or upgrade Murwillumbah WWTP	Yes	nothing proposed	None	Yes – large development > 7km from existing WWTP. New WWTP or upgrade of existing plant likely to require recycling.
West Murwillumbah (Area 2)	Potential urban area (TUELRS, 2009)	500	4	Augmentation of Murwillumbah WWTP required prior to connection	Yes	nothing proposed	None	Possibly – medium size site, approx. 4km from existing WWTP. Opportunity to upgrade existing WWTP to provide for reuse or package plant at site depending on timing of the development.
West Murwillumbah (Area 3)	Potential urban area (TUELRS, 2009)	100	4.5	Close to Murwillumbah WWTP, augmentation of plant required prior to connection	Yes	nothing proposed	None	Possibly – medium size site, approx. 4km from existing WWTP. Opportunity to upgrade existing WWTP to provide for reuse or package plant at site depending on timing of the development.
West Kings Forest (Area 4)	Potential urban area (TUELRS, 2009)	1,000	8	Needs new WWTP or upgrade of Kingscliff WWTP required	Yes	nothing proposed	None	Possibly - large development over 8km from existing WWTP. Opportunity to upgrade existing WWTP to provide for reuse, but distance from WWTP lends itself to possibility of package plant at site. Note the adjoining Kings Forest site is approved to connect to Kingscliff WWTP without recycling.
North Seabreeze estate (Area 5)	Potential urban area (TUELRS, 2009)	140	6	Needs new WWTP to service it - Hastings Point has limited capacity for upgrade	No	Treatment at Hastings Point WWTP	None	Unlikely - small size and immediately adjacent to existing infrastructure means likely to be treated at Hastings Point WWTP when capacity available after Tanglewood development becomes stand-alone.

Site Name	Land Zoning Status	Approx. max no. dwellings (TUELRS, 2009)	Approx. distance to nearest WWTP (km)	Wastewater service requirements	New WWTP or upgrade required?	Proposed wastewater servicing (by Council)	Approval Status	Opportunity for water recycling initiatives?
West Seabreeze estate (Area 6)	Potential urban area (TUELRS, 2009)	30	6.5	Needs new WWTP to service it - Hastings Point has limited capacity for upgrade	No	Treatment at Hastings Point WWTP	None	Unlikely - small size and immediately adjacent to existing infrastructure means likely to be treated at Hastings Point WWTP when capacity available after Tanglewood development becomes stand-alone.
Dunloe Park (Area 7)	Potential urban area (TUELRS, 2009)	1,000	10	Needs new WWTP to service it as Hastings Point WWTP has limited capacity for upgrade	Yes	Private utility scheme with package plant and dual reticulation	Council endorsed feasibility plan from private utility scheme	Yes – Appears feasible for private utility with dual reticulation and other reuse schemes.
Burringbar (Area 8)	Potential urban area (TUELRS, 2009)	50	4	Needs new WWTP to service it - Burringbar WWTP has limited capacity.	No	Treatment at Burringbar/ Mooball WWTP	None	Unlikely - small area likely to be treated at Burringbar facility when capacity available after Mooball Area 9 becomes stand alone.
Mooball (Area 9)	Potential urban area (TUELRS, 2009)	230	2	Needs new WWTP to service it - new Burringbar STP has limited capacity package STP required	Yes	nothing proposed	Council endorsed feasibility plan from private utility scheme	Yes - small –medium size area but new WWTP required as Burringbar facility cannot be upgraded to cater for it. Potential to free-up capacity for Burringbar Area 8 to connect to Burringbar/Mooball WWTP.
Cobaki Lakes	Zoned for residential development (LEP, 2000)	5,500	8.5	Banora Point WWTP has capacity to cater for site.	No – upgrade just completed	BASIX and rainwater tanks 5000L wastewater treatment at Banora Point WWTP.	Part 3A approval of concept plan	Unlikely given capacity available and distance to return recycled water.

Site Name	Land Zoning Status	Approx. max no. dwellings (TUELRS, 2009)	Approx. distance to nearest WWTP (km)	Wastewater service requirements	New WWTP or upgrade required?	Proposed wastewater servicing (by Council)	Approval Status	Opportunity for water recycling initiatives?
Kings Forest	Zoned for residential development (LEP, 2000)	4,500	5.5	Connection to Kingscliff WWTP planned 3 stages based on construction program. Kingscliff WWTP will require upgrade to cater for development.	Yes, upgrade of Kingscliff WWTP required	BASIX and rainwater tanks 5000L wastewater treatment at Kingscliff WWTP.	Part 3A approval of concept plan	Unlikely given capacity available and distance to return recycled water.
Bilambil Heights	Zoned for residential development (LEP, 2000)	2500	10	Large development can be connected to Banora Point WWTP	No	Banora Point WWTP recently upgraded to cater for increase in urban area.	state significant site approval of concept	Unlikely given capacity available and distance to return recycled water although Banora Point EIS identified this site as potential for dual reticulation. No approval to date for wastewater servicing
Terranora Area E	Zoned for residential development (LEP, 2000)	1600	3	Large development can be connected to Banora Point WWTP	No	Banora Point WWTP recently upgraded to cater for increase in urban area.	Application for first 300 lots awaiting Part 3A approval.	Unlikely given capacity available and distance to return recycled water although Banora Point EIS identified this site as potential for dual reticulation. No approval to date for wastewater servicing
West Kingscliff	Zoned for residential development (LEP, 2000)	1375	1.5	Large development can be connected to Kingscliff WWTP	Yes, upgrade of Kingscliff WWTP required	Connection to Kingscliff WWTP	No application to date, no approval for subdivision	Possibly – in close proximity to Kingscliff WWTP. DMS recommended recycled water be made available to future industrial land use areas where demand is identified
Tanglewood	Zoned for residential development (LEP, 2000)	650	2.5	Large development requiring new WWTP to service it - Hastings Point has limited capacity for upgrade(TUELRS, 2009)	Yes	None proposed	No application to date, no approval for subdivision	Yes – large development requiring new WWTP and could be suitable for a package plant with dual reticulation

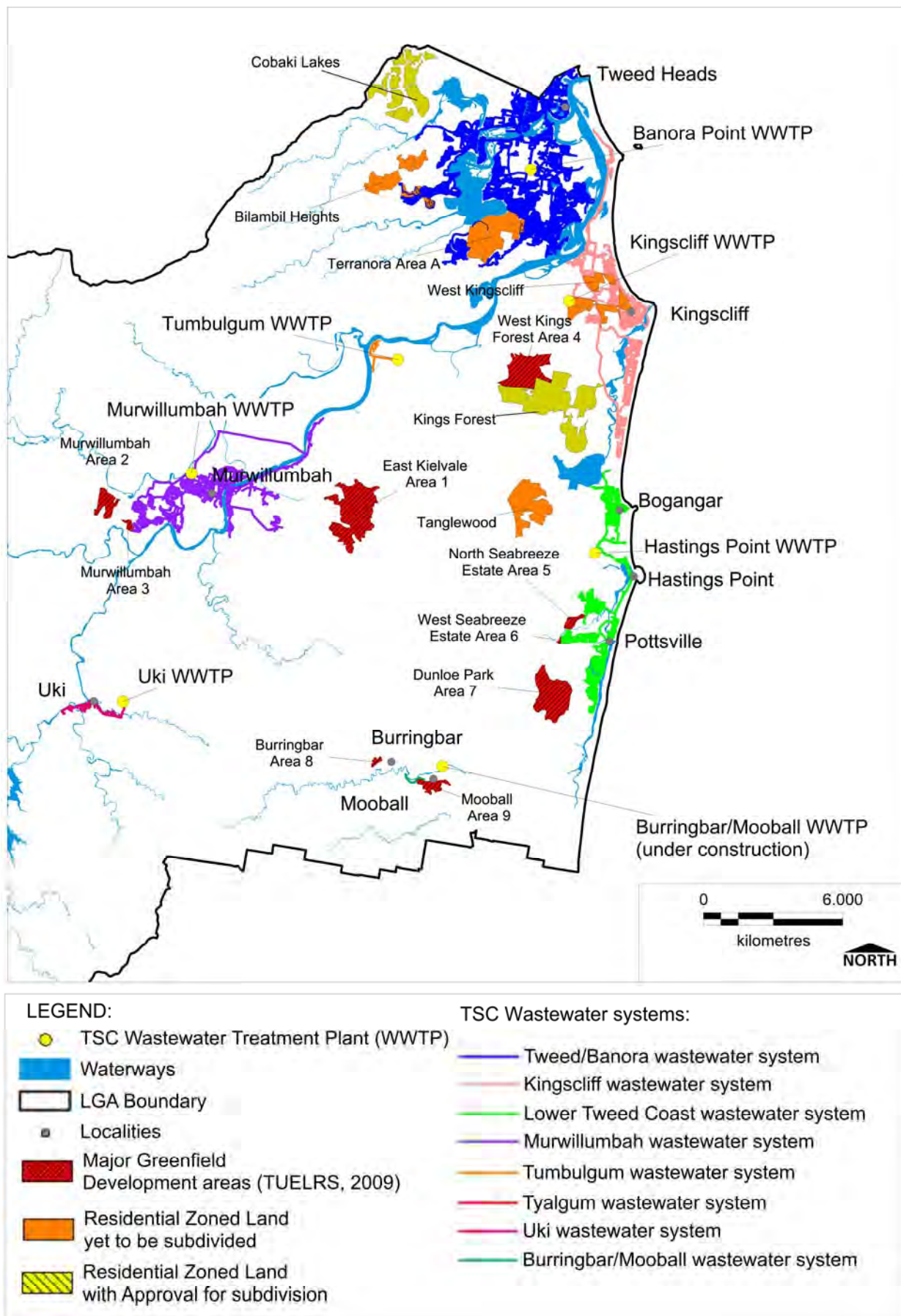


Figure 16: Tweed Shire existing wastewater systems and future development areas

4.3.2 Algal Blooms in Uki Effluent Storage Pond

Issues to be addressed:

Issue 18: Licence requirements for pH and suspended solids at Uki WWTP need to be reviewed - As all effluent is used for irrigation of a koala feed tree eucalyptus plantation, high levels of suspended solids and pH in the irrigation dam are not a concern from an environmental protection point of view. However the environment protection licence requirements are mandatory targets and liaison with the NSW EPA is required to establish more appropriate targets for this situation.

Current Strategy – Level 1

Management Option 12a – Uki WWTP Modifications

To control algal growth and the resulting increase in suspended solids and pH in the licensed effluent discharge from Uki WWTP, TSC has trialled surface aeration, biological additives and maintaining a low water level in the storage pond but these have not been effective in the control of algae. A suite of plant modifications has been designed to improve plant performance, particularly the removal of nutrients from the effluent discharge which would reduce the growth of algae in the pond. Additional modifications may include reducing the size of the effluent pond to enable increased turn-around.

While licence limits for pH and suspended solids are not always achieved due to the algal growth, all effluent is used for irrigation and the high levels of suspended solids and pH in the irrigation dam are not a concern from an environmental protection point of view. However, the success of these modifications will need to be reviewed in accordance with licence conditions. TSC may be able to renegotiate its licence conditions with the NSW EPA to establish more appropriate licence requirements for this situation.

Other Potential Options – Level 2

No additional options have been identified as part of an urban water cycle management approach as this is TSC's current focus. The current approach meets the Office of Water guidelines for IWCM.

Other Potential Options – Level 3

No additional options are identified as part of a TWCM approach.

4.3.3 Biosolids Management

Issues to be addressed:

Issue 20: There is a high cost of sustainable biosolids management - The challenges with biosolids management include the high cost and energy consumption of treatment options for beneficial reuse, odour impacts, potential changes to auditing and regulation requirements and land availability for storage and treatment. There are potential synergies between biosolids reuse and Council's Agriculture Strategy and increased integration between these strategic planning processes may provide additional benefits for farm management as well as wastewater management.

Current Strategy – Level 1

Management Option 13a - Farmland application of biosolids

TSC WWTPs produce approximately 1,500 dry tonnes of biosolids each year. Anaerobic lagoons are used to stabilise biosolids at all TSC's WWTPs except Banora Point WWTP (due to space limitations). Biosolids from Banora Point WWTP (approximately 75% of the total produced) are currently transported to farmland in the Darling Downs. The stabilised biosolids are transported to cane farms in the Tweed Valley.

Other Potential Options – Level 2

Management Option 13b – Biosolids Management Strategy

Ten year implementation cost: \$150,000 (\$50,000 every 4 years)

Council is planning to develop a management plan for future biosolids reuse and disposal. The strategy will depend on issues such as stabilising options for Banora Point WWTP, regulatory requirements, storage requirements, handling and management options. The strategy will identify biosolids quality and quantity, legislative requirements and flexible management options that can cater for future changes to biosolids loadings, reuse options and regulatory requirements. Beneficial use options include agricultural applications, compost/landscaping, capital and operating costs, transport, handling and space requirements as well as social and environmental impacts.

There are potential synergies between biosolids reuse and TSC's Agriculture Strategy (discussed in Section 4.5.1). Increased integration between these strategic planning processes may provide additional benefits for farm management as well as wastewater management. As an example, Tweed Shire Council is currently conducting a composting trial using WWTP biosolids with stabilised compost to be applied to 5 local cane farms. If successful, the production of compost from WWTP biosolids is predicted to result in economic benefits for the shire as well as increased nutrient availability, improved soil physical condition, reduced runoff and waterlogging, reduced fertilisation costs and increased productivity for farmland. Increased carbon sequestration in the compost enriched soils can also reduce net greenhouse gas production.

Biochar is an emerging solution to waste management that presents an opportunity for recycling of organic wastes including biosolids to create green energy, increase soil carbon sequestration and provide beneficial uses as a soil conditioner for agricultural application. The Biochar technology presents a possible alternative option for biosolids management as part of a broader integrated waste management strategy with renewable energy production, carbon sequestration and agricultural land improvement benefits. The disadvantage of this option is the high set up and running costs which has so far prevented its implementation, particularly in comparison to low tech options such as composting that are much more affordable.

Ballina Shire Council has recently received government funding to assist in developing a Biochar plant in Ballina which is expected to be operational by mid-2015. Preliminary indications are that the requirement for biosolids at the plant will be fully supplied by the Ballina wastewater treatment plant. Depending on the final scale of the Ballina plant, and potential expansions there may be future opportunities for use of Tweed Shire biosolids at the Ballina facility at much lower costs to Council than establishing its own plant. Further liaison with Ballina Council is recommended to explore this opportunity. Alternatively, TSC may investigate the suitability for similar integrated waste management solutions in the Tweed Shire.

Other Potential Options – Level 3

No additional options are identified as part of a TWCM approach. Increasing beneficial reuse of biosolids is also appropriate as a component of a total water cycle management approach.

4.4 Urban Stormwater Management

4.4.1 Water Sensitive Urban Design

Issues to be addressed:

Issue 21: Increased emphasis on water sensitive urban design will require more integrated Council responsibilities, increased community education and increased staff capabilities and funding - The draft Tweed Urban Stormwater Quality Management Plan (Australian Wetlands, 2011) has a strong emphasis on achieving water quality objectives for downstream waterways. The Plan refers to guidelines, resources and tools that should be used to implement best-practice stormwater management, many of which have been developed by the Water By Design program for the South East Queensland Health Waterways Partnership. Implementation of the WSUD framework will require significant strategic planning, community education and additional resources to be effective.

Issue 22: Existing Council development controls do not fully address the residual load of urban stormwater on downstream sensitive waterways - For some developments, existing Council development controls (e.g. D7) can be satisfied through design of stormwater pollutant reduction systems yet residual loads may be detrimental to downstream sensitive waterways. In these cases, compensatory activities to offset residual and cumulative impacts of stormwater discharge into waterways may be considered, however, guidelines and policy mechanisms are required to enforce offsets and address the residual impacts.

Current Strategy – Level 1

Management Option 14a – Preliminary development of WSUD Policies

The potable water demand management components of WSUD have been addressed in Sections 4.2 and 4.3.

The *Tweed Urban Stormwater Management Plan* was prepared in 2000 (TSC, 2000) and a 7 year infrastructure program was developed. This Plan has now been superseded by the draft *Tweed Urban Stormwater Quality Management Plan* (USQMP, Australian Wetlands, 2012) which has been prepared based on WSUD philosophies for stormwater management. The draft USQMP has not been adopted by Council to date and sections of the plan are currently under review. TSC's *Development Design Specification D7 – Stormwater* (also currently under review) will complement the draft USQMP by detailing stormwater objectives/standards and prescribed stormwater management measures that comply with the draft USQMP and contemporary best-practice. Issues such as how developments are planned, education of the community and strengthening planning requirements are being considered by Council and incorporated into the updated LEP and future revisions of subdivision and stormwater design specifications.

TSC Planning, Engineering, NRM and Water Unit staff continue to work collaboratively in assessing new developments with a view to promoting sustainable water cycle management options. Stage 1 of the Demand Management Strategy identified demand management actions which are undertaken as part of the implementation of WSUD and ESD principles. TSC staff aim to form a stormwater working group covering activities over the whole asset life cycle (planning, development controls, design, operation, maintenance and renewal) to develop systems and guidelines and ensure resources for each of these phases are adequate.

In relation to the design and management of Stormwater Quality Improvement Devices (SQIDs), the draft USQMP recommends the implementation of a SQID design and management process consistent with the Water by Design program of the South East Queensland Healthy Waterways Partnership. The USQMP refers to the suite of Water by Design documents to ensure stormwater design and maintenance is consistent with current best-practice.

Other Potential Options – Level 2

No additional options have been identified as part of an urban water cycle management approach as this is TSC's current focus.

Other Potential Options – Level 3

While TSC is working towards greater implementation of WSUD principles in all aspects of urban design, development, and operation a number of barriers have been identified to full implementation which are discussed below.

WSUD Asset Management and Maintenance

There is a need for greater integration of TSC stormwater management responsibilities and resourcing to cater for knowledge sharing and improved outcomes for on-ground works. It has been identified that, in general, TSC staff that maintain the stormwater systems have functional/engineering capability but limited knowledge of natural systems/vegetation. Conversely, TSC's Parks and Gardens staff who maintain the vegetated areas have limited stormwater engineering capability.

TSC's *Drainage Assets Management Plan* (TSC, 2010b) is focussed on traditional stormwater assets (e.g. pipes, channels, floodgates). The Plan sets out a framework for asset management in the Shire including levels of service, lifecycle management, asset register (database), financial strategy and a monitoring and improvement program. TSC currently utilises the 'myData' and 'Works & Assets' software systems for Asset Management purposes. The system stores inventory, attribute, condition, financial and historical data (TSC, 2010). However there is only limited consideration of SQIDs such as GPTs, wetlands and sedimentation ponds as well as the natural asset components of the stormwater system. This is discussed further in Section 4.1.5.

The draft USQMP reviewed TSC's current stormwater activities and assets and identified a large resource deficiency with regard to the management of existing stormwater treatment assets, limited maintenance and limited data on condition and performance (Australian Wetlands, 2012). The Plan recommended that existing stormwater quality treatment devices need to be audited and information provided to the asset management planning process to ensure adequate maintenance and rectification of issues. The draft USQMP recommends funding is increased to ensure asset maintenance is carried out at a level that ensures the continued treatment performance of stormwater assets.

Space limitations restricting WSUD

Design of Council roads and stormwater systems does not usually incorporate WSUD due to space restrictions. Swales are typically being replaced with kerb and gutter systems to reduce maintenance and end-of pipe solutions are included in their place. TSC's WSUD objectives are documented in the draft USQMP and incorporate general aspirational targets for waterway health and improved uses such as improved aquatic ecosystems, recreational and commercial values, WSUD retrofit targets for existing urban areas, receiving waterway water quality targets and construction phase objectives. To comply with these objectives, TSC will need to review the process for design of Council roads and stormwater systems to address the space limitations currently identified.

Limited powers to enforce WSUD principles in state significant developments

TSC has limited power to enforce WSUD and ESD principles in developments approved under Part 3A of the EP&A Act (now replaced by State Significant Assessment system). There are two large urban development sites in the Tweed Shire that have been declared State Significant Development (Cobaki and Kings Forest) and the NSW Minister for Planning is the current consent authority for the projects. While TSC is a major stakeholder and has been consulted throughout the process, final approval decisions rest with the Minister. To enable effective communication of Council requirements in these situations, it is important to establish clear and concise Council policy, guidelines and regulation with regard to WSUD as well as establishing water cycle links (particularly between catchment land use activities, stormwater quality and the health of receiving waterways) will assist in achieving TSC's targets, even when TSC is not making the final decisions.

The total water cycle management approach offers a framework for utilising locally derived catchment information collected in sub-catchment management plans to develop land use planning constraints on a local scale. This level of detail, supported by scientific evidence, aims to provide clear guidelines for TSC input into state approval processes and ultimately to achieve the best outcomes for local catchments and waterways. Refer to Section 4.5.1 (Management Option: 17g – Total water cycle management) for further discussion of the proposed framework.

Legacy of existing stormwater controls with little or no water detention or treatment

Many of the existing Tweed Shire urban areas contain traditional stormwater assets, which are designed to quickly convey stormwater from urban areas to receiving waterways, often with no treatment or detention capacity. TSC recognises that many waterways in the Tweed are currently under stress as a result of historical urban development without due consideration of stormwater impacts on receiving environments.

A number of stormwater improvement projects have been undertaken since 2000 as part of implementation of the *Tweed Urban Stormwater Management Plan* (TSC, 2000) however the full program has not been implemented to date due to lack of funding. External grant funding was provided in 2008 for the installation of SQIDs on stormwater outfalls discharging into the Tweed River and Cudgen Creek.

As part of the review of TSC's current stormwater activities and status of assets and, the draft USQMP identified a large resource deficiency with regard to the management of existing stormwater treatment assets, limited maintenance and limited data on condition and performance (Australian Wetlands, 2012). The report recommended that existing stormwater quality treatment devices need to be audited and information provided to the asset management planning process to ensure adequate maintenance and rectification.

Constraints to Urban Development

The *Urban and Employment Land Release Strategy* (TSC, 2009) guides future urban development within the Shire until at least 2031. The strategy identifies water supply and sewerage infrastructure constraints as well as environmental constraints and opportunities to determine land suitability. There are a number of unknowns including the capacity of local waterways to assimilate stormwater flow and changes in quality. The TWCM approach aims to identify the land-use and development constraints and guide future land use planning, growth management and integrated servicing strategies. Refer to Section 4.5.1 (Management Option: 17g – Total water cycle management) for further discussion of the framework.

Management Option 14b - Greater integration of WSUD across Council

Ten year implementation cost: \$500,000 (\$100,000 in year 2 and \$50,000 p.a.)

Strategic planning, education and additional resources focussed on the implementation of the WSUD framework is required to achieve improved urban stormwater management. Improved integration of WSUD into TSC policies and procedures requires the following considerations:

- Review of TSC stormwater design guidelines and specifications (see section 4.4.2 below);
- Review of the *Drainage Assets Management Plan* (TSC, 2010b) to better incorporate WSUD and strengthen linkages between the draft USQMP. The existing framework provided by the *Drainage Assets Management Plan* provides tools to assist in management and on-going maintenance of WSUD assets. Integration with the existing asset management systems will prevent unnecessary duplication of processes within Council. This may require additional outputs from the existing asset database and link with site specific information such as operation and maintenance manuals provided by developers, and relevant monitoring and maintenance checklists. A feedback loop will be important for on-ground works, follow-up assessment and future works scheduling. Feedback from the asset condition and maintenance tracking into the planning and development stages of WSUD will also be important to identify any significant maintenance issues and allow for on-going improvements specific to the local area;

- The Water by Design suite of documents recommended by the draft USQMP provides a number of useful guidelines to assist in stormwater asset handover, maintenance and repairing WSUD assets (refer Figure 17);
- An audit of existing urban stormwater systems and SQIDs is required to identify priority maintenance and/or retrofit sites. Integrating this with a TWCM approach would assist in prioritisation and achieving the 'best bang for buck'. Such an approach would involve:
 - Mapping of stormwater sub-catchments incorporating urban stormwater assets and discharge points;
 - Risk assessment of sub catchments based on physical characteristics (size, slope, land use, age of infrastructure, complaints etc.) for prioritisation;
 - Site audits of stormwater systems noting age and condition, (vegetation/weeds, sedimentation, damage, water quality issues etc.);
 - Review results of previous ecosystem health or water quality studies (EMP/CZMPs etc.) as a preliminary action with targeted additional sampling if required;
 - Recommend priority actions to improve stormwater systems (e.g. maintenance work, re-design, retrofit etc.); and
 - Funding requirements.

Many of the above tasks could be achieved as a subset of a broader TWCM framework (refer Section 4.5.1); and

- There is a need for greater integration of TSC stormwater management responsibilities and resourcing to cater for knowledge sharing and improved outcomes for on-ground works. Staff carrying out works need to be equipped with the tools and experience necessary to maintain WSUD assets or need to have access to staff with that knowledge.

A TWCM approach (refer Section 4.5.1) would assist in identifying and prioritising sites for improvement, identifying data gaps and building a greater knowledge base on which to make informed decisions. TSC has undertaken extensive planning for asset management but on-ground works are limited. A strategic/ TWCM approach with clear priorities would assist decision makers in allocating funding for on-ground works.

An overriding framework for WSUD implementation would assist in greater integration across Council. Figure 17 provides an example of a framework that reflects the documentation required to support the urban development process from planning through to asset maintenance (the full asset lifecycle). Much of the required documentation exists through TSC's current guidelines and can be supplemented by best-practice approaches provided by other government agencies such as Water by Design (South-East Queensland Healthy Waterways Partnership).

TWCM Framework				
Planning and Concept Design	Development Approval	Construction	Establishment	Operation and Maintenance
WSUD Asset Management Plan				
Development Control Plan				
Design and Construction Guidelines				
Deemed to Comply Solutions				
Technical Design Guidelines				
	Erosion and Sediment Control Guidelines			
		Construction and Establishment Guidelines		
		Asset Transfer Guidelines		
				Maintenance Guidelines
			Asset Rectification Guidelines	
			Priority Sub-Catchment Management Actions	

Figure 17: Example Water Sensitive Urban Design Implementation Framework

Adapted from Hydrosphere Consulting (2012b)

4.4.2 Development Controls

Issues to be addressed:

Issue 22: Existing Council development controls do not fully address the residual load of urban stormwater on downstream sensitive waterways

Issue 25: There is limited integration between urban and rural strategic land use planning - There is a need to protect the agricultural values and limit encroachment and cumulative impacts of urban development on farming land. Integration of rural strategic planning with the urban area planning is required to achieve the aims of the IWCM Strategy.

Current Strategy – Level 1

Management Option 15a – Review of Stormwater Development Controls

TSC’s Planning and Infrastructure and Engineering Units are updating *Development Design Specification D7 – Stormwater Quality* (TSC, 2012). The stormwater objectives provided in Council’s D7 specification apply to all new development in the Tweed region unless there is a catchment specific stormwater objective provided in the Tweed USQMP, a catchment management plan or a coastal zone management plan.

Developers can design stormwater pollutant reduction systems that meet existing DCPs (such as D7), but a residual load still occur and be detrimental to downstream sensitive waterways. For some developments, the desired level of protection may not be achievable, even when a range of appropriate measures have been incorporated. For some recent developments, compensatory activities have been proposed to offset residual and cumulative impacts of stormwater discharge into waterways. The draft USQMP includes this new approach of compensatory activities however, the approach has not yet been formalised into Council policy and can therefore not be enforced.

Other Potential Options – Level 2

No additional options have been identified as part of an urban water cycle management approach as this is TSC's current focus.

Other Potential Options – Level 3

Management Option 15b – Develop guidelines for compensatory measures

Ten year implementation cost: \$60,000 (\$30,000 in year 1 then \$10,000 every 3 years)

In order to implement a system of development offsets, TSC need to develop guidelines and policy to formalise the process for addressing the residual impacts of urban developments. Clear rules and regulations are required to ensure the objectives of the policy are achieved.

Where it is determined that the residual discharge from a development will have a detrimental impact on stormwater objectives, Council may consider a Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) via which stormwater impacts on the waterway are offset by rehabilitation, retrofit or compensation measures at another location. The basis of this concept is that the overall ecological health and resilience of the waterway can be improved as a result of the development, despite the potential worsening of local conditions. A VPA can also be a mechanism via which resources are strategically redirected to contribute to catchment wide water quality initiatives, achieving ecological and economic benefits of scale, rather than smaller, localised stormwater devices.

Guidelines need to be developed specifying:

- The accepted application of compensatory measures. TSC needs to document the specific criteria where offsets can be considered and the relationship with the existing development controls to avoid any misinterpretation of requirements;
- The desired hierarchy of potential offset measures e.g. within the same catchment, within a similar habitat or addressing a similar issue in a different location;
- The nature of offsets including minimum criteria in terms of type of works. For example riparian restoration works factors such as buffer width, percentage cover, species composition, weed management and maintenance periods should be specified; and
- The mechanisms for provision of the measures e.g. VPAs.

It is also recommended that a register of potential compensatory activities or sites is developed based on prioritised catchment actions or projects (see Section 4.5.1). Such projects should have adequate scope of works, desired outcomes and defined targets and be ready for on-ground implementation. The priority projects will essentially form a list of preferred offsets for developments.

4.4.3 Erosion and Sediment Control

Issues to be addressed:

Issue 23: Existing subdivision erosion and stormwater controls and resources are not adequate for the rainfall and rate of development experienced in the Tweed - Resources for inspection and/or enforcement of Council's erosion and sediment control requirements for new developments are limited and Council relies on complaints or inspections to highlight inadequacies in control systems.

Current Strategy – Level 1

Management Option 16a – Existing Erosion and Sediment Controls

Construction phase stormwater quality is controlled through Council's *Development Design Specification D7*, Annexure A - "Code of Practice for Soil and Water Management on Construction Works". Works to capture sediment laden water are required to be designed to accommodate a design storm of the ARI 3 month storm (deemed to be 40% of the ARI one year event) and overflow/bypass arrangements are to be designed to accommodate an ARI 100 year storm without erosion, scouring or structural damage to erosion or sediment control devices or re-mobilisation of previously captured sediment. Council's development construction specification (C211) - Control of Erosion and Sedimentation covers the construction of structures and the implementation of measures to control erosion and sedimentation in accordance with the approved Erosion and Sediment Control Plan or Soil and Water Management Plan included in the design plans.

Other Potential Options – Level 2

No additional options have been identified as part of an urban water cycle management approach as this is TSC's current focus.

Other Potential Options – Level 3

Management Option 16b – Review and update erosion and sediment controls and provide increased resources

Ten year implementation cost: \$1,520,000 (\$120,000 in year 1 to 3 then \$200,000 p.a.)

Resources for enforcement of the requirements of D7 and C211 are limited and TSC relies on complaints and follow-up inspections to highlight inadequacies in control systems. A review of the erosion and sediment control regulation process would allow for the identified issues to be addressed. Better coordination of education, inspections and enforcement is needed to resolve some of the issues. Education of developers, contractors and on-ground workers should be the focus of work to improve understanding of the issues and to make the expectations clear. Improvements in the regulation and enforcement of conditions are also required. Both self-regulation (by contractors) and Council regulation should be considered including mandatory inspections of construction sites, especially following rainfall events. A clear system of expected level of performance, education and accountability is required supported by a structured site inspection regime.

An alternative or complimentary option would include an incentive program for sites achieving the requirements. Contractors could receive a rating for their environmental performance based on site management, staff education, self-regulation and Council inspections.

Increased TSC resources would be required to adequately undertake the above actions.

4.5 Catchment Management

4.5.1 Catchment Management Planning

Issues to be addressed:

Issue 4: Uncertainty regarding the preferred Tweed district water supply augmentation option creates confusion regarding land use planning

Issue 14: The drinking water catchments are impacted by current and historical land use and development

Issue 24: There is a need for a holistic catchment management strategy for the Shire

Issue 25: There is limited integration between urban and rural strategic land use planning

Current Strategy – Level 1

Management Option 17a – Management of separate areas of catchments as part of existing local and regional programs undertaken by various stakeholders

Historically, separate elements of the Tweed Shire catchments have been managed by different parts of Council or State Government authorities (e.g. Office of Environment and Heritage and Office of Water) and the responsibilities are continually changing through state government restructure. A range of other stakeholders are also involved in different areas of catchment management and on-ground works. The Tweed River Committee provides direction on initiatives for items such as stream bank protection, planning controls, education and revegetation. Community groups such as Landcare initiatives undertake catchment revegetation and bush regeneration works at various sites in the Shire. Individual landholders in cooperation with Council and with funding from the Water and Sewer Dividend Payment undertake catchment and water quality improvement initiatives within the drinking water supply catchment which includes the upper Tweed River to Bray Park Weir at Murwillumbah (refer below). Catchment rehabilitation works, including riparian restoration and rural and urban stormwater improvement have also been carried out in the Terranora and Cobaki Broadwaters as part of a suite of offsets for the Banora Point WWTP upgrade.

TSC has a number of management plans for different areas of the Tweed catchment. Figure 18 shows the areas of the Tweed Shire covered by existing plans of management and policies related to catchment management and waterway health. There are a range of policies and management plans related to catchment management, agricultural and vegetation strategies, urban stormwater management and estuary health. Some plans and policies have limited areas of application and others have Shire-wide application. Each of the separate planning documents and frameworks has their own defined purpose, objectives and area of application. Details of the various strategies and plans in operation are discussed in the Background Paper (Appendix 1).

The 2006 IWCM strategy provided a framework for the integration of aspects of the water cycle, however this was focussed on the urban water cycle (particularly water and wastewater services) without detailed consideration of whole of Shire water cycle issues and links to the non-urban areas.

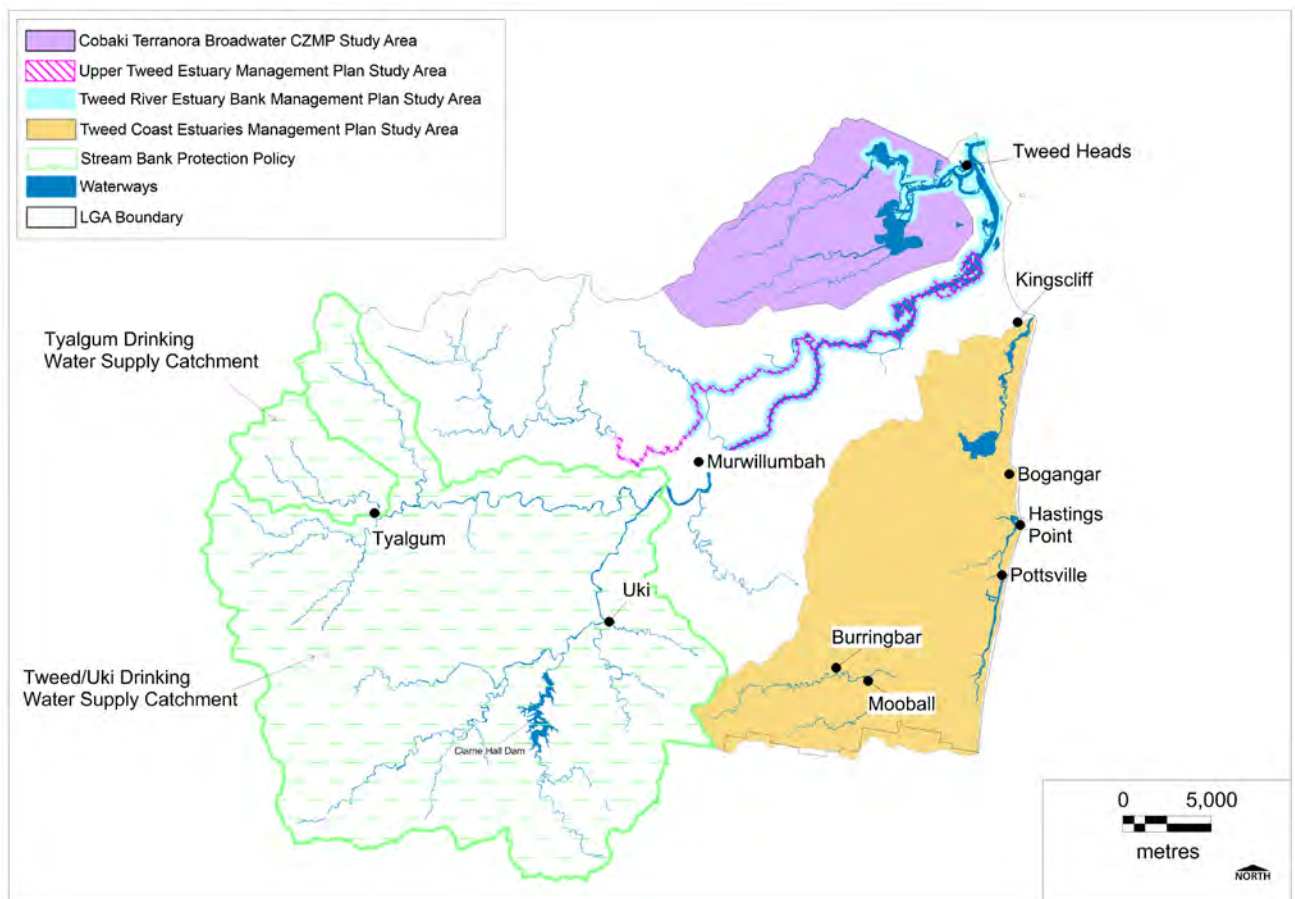


Figure 18: Areas covered by existing management plans or policies related to catchment management in the Tweed Shire

Management Option 17b – Preliminary development of Sustainable Agriculture Strategy

The Tweed Shire Sustainable Agriculture Program aims to foster a viable farming community and improve the environmental capacity of Tweed farmland by working with local landholders with support from the Tweed River Committee, Tweed Coastal Committee and state agencies. Projects undertaken as part of the Sustainable Agriculture Program include:

- Floodgate management - improve tidal flow and fish passage through floodgate modification in drains and creeks on the floodplain (refer below);
- Greenbanks - planting out cane drains with native ground cover and small trees to stabilise the banks, discourage weeds and prevent topsoil runoff;
- Drain modifications - levelling and drain in-filling program to reduce acid sulfate soil runoff to local waterways;
- Compost trials - on-farm trials to compare the benefits of organic compost and manures with conventional fertilisers;
- Soil conservation and erosion control; and
- Research projects.

TSC is preparing a Sustainable Agriculture Strategy to address key challenges in the Tweed area. Progress in developing the strategy is hindered by limited staff resources.

Management Option 17c – Floodplain Management Planning

A review of future development and planning considerations was undertaken as part of the Floodplain Risk Management Study (WBM, BMT, under development) which covered the Tweed Valley floodplain downstream of Byangum (the extent of 'flood prone land'). Substantial parts of future urban areas in the Tweed Shire are low lying and will require filling to a minimum 100 year ARI flood level (including an allowance for climate change). This fill has the potential to impact on flood storage and flood conveyance. The cumulative effects of this fill have been assessed as part of this study to determine the hydraulic constraints to future development and inform appropriate planning recommendations. While the Floodplain Risk Management Study was still under development at the time of writing this document, it is anticipated that once finalised, outcomes of the study will be incorporated into Council Policy.

Management Option 17d – Water Supply Catchment Stream Bank Protection Policy

TSC adopted a *Stream Bank Protection Policy* in 2007 (TSC, 2007b) to support rural land owners in the drinking water supply catchment to manage their stream banks in a manner which protects and enhances the integrity of the raw water supply. Through adoption of the policy, TSC has implemented a River Health Grants program to improve and protect water quality. The Scheme aims to improve water quality with the focus on rehabilitating riparian zones and providing off-stream drinking water for stock. The River Health Grants Program is funded by the TSC Water Unit through the Catchment Water Quality Budget (water and sewer fund tax equivalent dividend payments).

Under the policy, proposals are selected based on merit and TSC staff streamline the application process by visiting landholders to determine requirements directly with them. Successful landholders are required to sign an agreement with TSC confirming their intention to complete and maintain the works, in a certain time frame, for a nominated sum. Funding is generally supplied for purchase of materials, equipment, and design of access and erosion works, weed control and maintenance of sites up to three years after initial works. Labour costs are generally expected to be contributed by landholders. Landholders are expected to maintain their projects in the long-term.

To date, approximately 40 km of stream bank, representing 100 agreements has been treated (with weed management, fencing or revegetation). Combined with work under the Sustainable Agriculture Program approximately 100 km of riparian land has been treated along streams and canals.

Management Option 17e – Environmental monitoring programs

TSC implements a range of environmental monitoring programs across a number of departments and locations which are often driven by specific projects or service requirements with limited integration. The type of monitoring undertaken includes:

- Licence compliance monitoring for wastewater systems required by the POEO Act 1997 Licences;
- Raw water quality at water supply sources including Clarrie Hall Dam, Bray Park Weir, Tyalgum weir, Uki off take on the Tweed River,
- Treated water quality at WTPs, along distribution systems and at customer taps required by the ADWG;
- Waterway health monitoring undertaken at key locations in the Shire to assess on-going trends over time and identify sources of impact. This program includes parameters for the assessment of recreational water quality in estuaries; and
- Project specific environmental monitoring including flora and fauna surveys, ecological health assessments and water quality monitoring.

Other Potential Options – Level 2

No additional options have been identified as part of an urban water cycle management approach as this is TSC's current focus.

Other Potential Options – Level 3

Management Option 17f – Review of Stream Bank Protection Policy and River Health Grants Program

Ten year implementation cost: \$20,000 (year 1)

The Stream Bank Protection Policy and grant program is considered to be a beneficial way to direct funds generated by the water business into improving aspects of the water cycle with flow on effects into other parts of the water cycle. The primary mechanism is in improving water quality through stock fencing and riparian management which will lead to improved outcomes for potable water supply through reduced water treatment requirements and reduced risk of poor water quality events. This is consistent with the aims of the IWCM Strategy and should be encouraged. However, the implementation of this program is limited by the voluntary co-investment by land owners and the available TSC staff resources. The ongoing requirements for maintenance may also be a deterrent for some landholders. The current program is not operating to its full potential and there is a need for review of the program to improve uptake and on-ground implementation.

In early 2013, TSC extended the program to areas outside the water supply catchment to improve uptake of the initiative and provide for social equity in the distribution of funding for natural resource management.

A review of the policy should consider the following as a minimum:

- Ongoing work on public land such as Crown Reserves, community land and TSC land;
- Increased focus on education and provision of extension officers to overcome barriers to take-up and provide assistance in funding applications;
- Taking a strategic approach to identify priority sites for works that will help to focus efforts and target areas likely to achieve the best 'bang for buck'. This would consider site factors such as ecosystem health status, location in the catchment, proximity to existing vegetated areas, habitat corridors and land use;
- Creation of demonstration sites, ideally on public land to allow the community to experience the improvements that can be achieved through the works, not only for improvements in water quality, but in habitat creation and enhancements in biodiversity as well as improved amenity and scenic value;
- Involvement of local community groups such as LandCare in the implementation and maintenance of works;
- Increased promotion and marketing of the scheme via TSC's website, TweedLink and local media;
- Approaches to promoting the program that balance program take-up through improved landholder support (e.g. demonstration or priority projects) with the need for co-investment from the landholder to ensure appropriate long-term commitment and capacity; and
- Possible options for regulation of polluting agricultural activities where landholders refuse or are unable to adopt incentives that result in implementation of best-practice management.

Management Option 17g – Total water cycle management

Ten year implementation cost: \$450,000 (\$350,000 in year 3 to 5 then \$20,000 p.a.)

The National Water Initiative aims to increase the productivity and efficiency of Australia's water use, the need to service rural and urban communities, and to ensure the health of river and groundwater systems by establishing clear pathways to return all systems to environmentally sustainable levels (National Water Commission, 2013). The National Urban Water Planning Principles list a key principle to achieve urban water planning as: *Principle 4: Manage water in the urban context on a whole-of-water-cycle basis.*

TWCM recognises that all elements of the water cycle are interdependent and a decision made in one part of the water cycle impacts other parts of the cycle. All elements of the water cycle should therefore be considered, both separately and in combination. TWCM requires that decision makers understand the linkages between issues and how decisions affect the overall system.

There are existing TWCM programs in place in other parts of Australia. The TWCM planning approach is now mandatory in South-East Queensland (SEQ). Local governments in SEQ are required to develop a TWCM Plan with a 20-year planning horizon to account for long-term patterns and changes. The TWCM Plan Guidelines (Water by Design, 2010) describes the TWCM Plan as a framework which will:

- Be a key strategic document within the local government corporate and operational framework;
- Influence decisions and actions across the organisation, as well as influencing decisions and actions by other stakeholders such as water service providers (where this is separate to local government);
- Provide a central point of reference to investigate existing information about water management and planned activities; and
- Be an endorsed, transparent, accountable, and publicly accessible basis for decisions by local governments and water service providers about all aspects of water management.

The Plans consist of a TWCM Strategy, an Implementation Plan and may include detailed planning reports where necessary.

The recently released Draft *Northern Rivers Catchment Action Plan (CAP2, NRCMA, 2012)* is consistent with an integrated system approach to catchment management. The CAP2 acknowledges a fundamental shift in the approach to natural resource management away from looking at specific issues in isolation to an understanding of whole systems. There are a number of strategic directions (SD) and priority actions proposed by the CAP relevant to water cycle management including:

- SD 2.1 - Integrating natural resource management at all spatial scales to protect, conserve and enhance landscape function;
- SD 2.2 - Identify and address existing and emerging threats to the Region's soil, biodiversity, river, wetland, estuarine, coastal and marine systems;
- SD 3.2 - Addressing existing and emerging threats that influence natural resource productivity and resilience, including land-use/sea-use change, climatic variation and extreme climatic events; and
- SD 5.1 - Developing an integrated framework for adaptive governance and management.

Consistency with the Northern Rivers CAP2 reinforces the argument for a total catchment approach to water cycle management in the Tweed Shire and may present opportunities for TSC to leverage funding for implementation of actions which assist in achieving CAP2 goals.

Developing a total water cycle management framework for the Tweed Shire

A key premise which was confirmed during this IWCM review was a strong desire from both the community and TSC to implement a TWCM approach that integrates all aspects of the water cycle, including urban and non-urban elements. Community feedback received during the course of the strategy development added

further support for this approach. For this to be achieved there is a need to strengthen the linkages between the urban water cycle elements, the non-urban water cycle and planning decisions. It will be important for decision makers to understand how issues and decisions fit into the overall, inter-linked system. Integration of infrastructure planning with land use planning and the related water supply and wastewater services, planning, urban development and broader catchment management, stormwater management and agricultural land use and land management practices is required.

Greater integration of all aspects of the water cycle across the Shire will require a shift away from TSC's current urban-centric approach to water cycle management. To achieve Shire-wide catchment management, an effective overriding framework would need to be established. The key aim will be to illustrate the linkages between natural systems and land use practices and to better manage and influence key water cycle services for the communities and the environment. A TWCM framework would address the identified administrative, planning and asset management issues with key objectives of:

- Improved Council administration and management;
- Increased funding to implement management initiatives;
- Improved direction and guidance for TSC staff and developers regarding water cycle management considerations for:
 - land use planning;
 - development services;
 - asset management;
 - climate change adaptation; and
 - protection of ecosystem health.
- Addressing current information gaps relevant to total water cycle management (e.g. environmental water requirements and impacts on environment and the water cycle due to climate change); and
- Increased community education and understanding.

An example of the type of implementation framework that could guide the total catchment approach is provided in Figure 19. This framework divides the Tweed Shire into sub-catchments for management at local scales. A risk-based approach is recommended where sub-catchments are assessed on their local values and uses and water cycle issues.

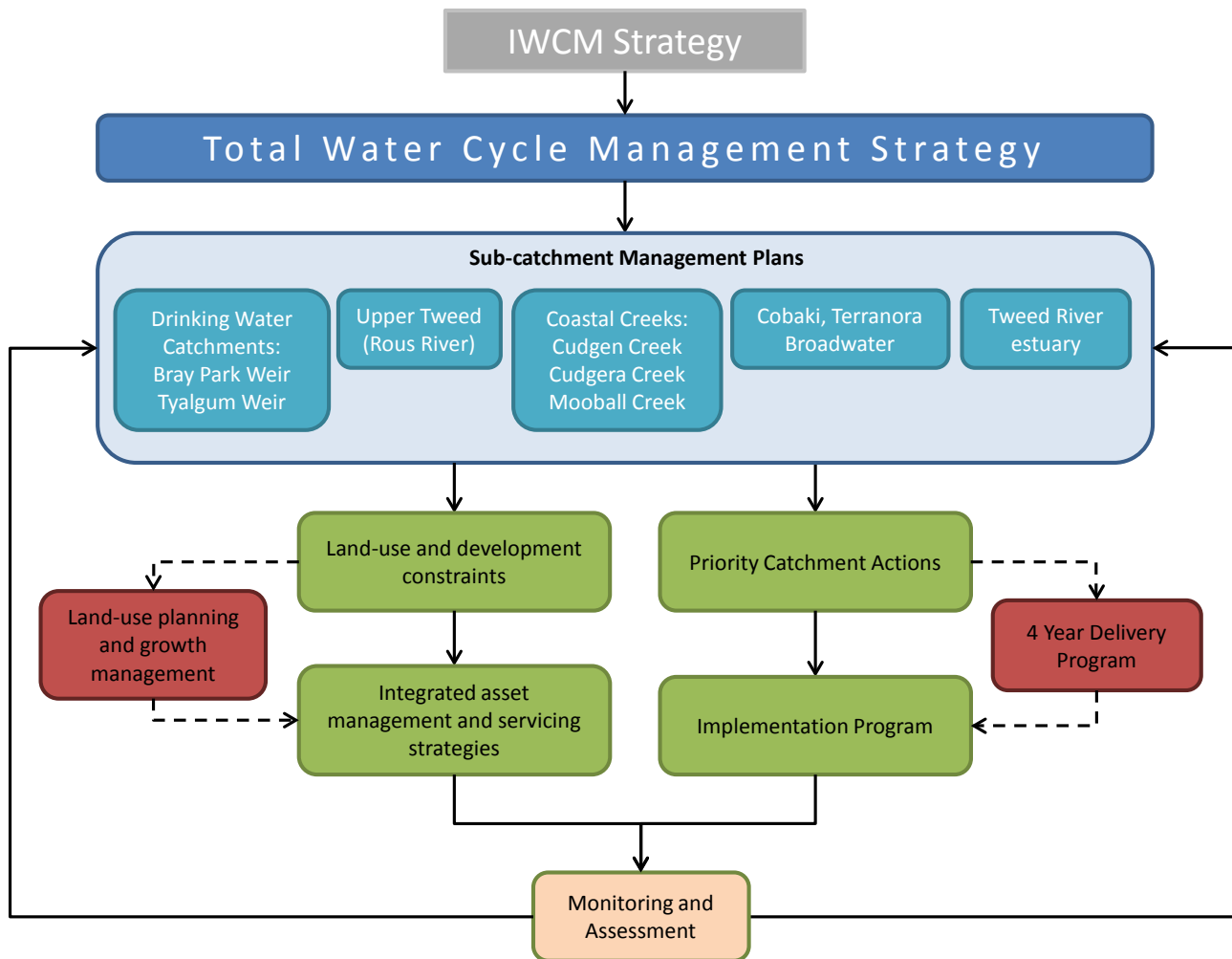


Figure 19: Potential framework for Tweed Shire total water cycle management

Sub-catchment management considerations include:

- Land use planning and growth management (as part of Council's broader responsibilities);
- Development controls (refer Section 4.4.2);
- Climate change impacts (refer Section 4.1.6);
- Floodplain management (refer Section 4.5.1);
- Agriculture and rural land uses (refer Section 4.5.1);
- Drinking water demand, supply and quality (refer Section 4.2);
- Wastewater servicing strategies (refer Section 4.3);
- Urban stormwater (refer Section 4.4);
- On-site sewage management (refer Section 4.5.2);
- Community values (refer Section 3.3.1);
- Broader catchment objectives (e.g. CMA planning);
- Coastal zone/estuary management planning; and
- Regulatory considerations such as Water Sharing Plans.

Other catchment specific considerations may include threatened species habitat and impacts of river flows and dam releases on aquatic habitats, species and groundwater dependent ecosystems.

The framework would need to document where each of the existing plans and policies fit and their purpose and role in TWCM. Documenting how existing plans currently deal with the identified issues and the adequacy of these actions would also be important in identification of gaps in existing policy and information and recommending management actions.

From the sub catchment management plans, a list of priority catchment actions would be produced that provide detailed tasks, targets and an estimate of costs of proposed actions to address the priority issues. This framework proposes that the actions then feed into the TSC Integrated Planning and Reporting System to ensure funding is allocated. The framework will also identify overlaps in water cycle sectors and opportunities for cooperation and shared funding opportunities (e.g. the extension of TSC's Water Supply Catchment Stream Bank Protection Policy discussed above).

Land-use and development constraints would also be identified at the sub-catchment management level, providing key inputs to land-use planning and growth management as well as requirements for integrated asset management and servicing strategies (refer Sections 4.1.5 and 4.3.1).

In addition, the TWCM framework would consolidate the Level 3 options discussed in Section 4 of this document:

- 1b – Integrated Council-Wide IWCM Delivery;
- 2c – Community engagement covering the full water cycle;
- 3c – Increased understanding of total water cycle;
- 4b - Strengthened IWCM Policies (under Water Industry Competition Act);
- 5f – Management of natural assets;
- 11b - Integrated Servicing Strategies;
- 14b - Greater integration of WSUD across Council;
- 15b – Develop guidelines for compensatory measures;
- 16b – Review and update erosion and sediment controls and provide increased resources;
- 17f – Review of Stream Bank Protection Policy and River Health Grants Program; and
- 18c - Integration of OSSM with catchment management.

On-going monitoring will allow feedback about the success of initiatives and follow up risk assessments for sub-catchments. This is discussed further below.

Management Option 17h – Upper catchment floodplain planning

Ten year implementation cost: \$400,000 (\$80,000 p.a. year 3 to 7)

Flood studies and risk management plans need to be developed for the upper areas of the Tweed, Rous and Oxley River valleys. These projects would be undertaken in accordance with technical guidelines provided by the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage. Reliable flooding data can then be applied to dam and water supply management strategies under the IWCM Strategy.

Management Option 17i – Monitoring, evaluation and reporting program

Ten year implementation cost: \$400,000 (\$50,000 p.a. from year 3)

Obtaining feedback on the success of management initiatives is a critical aspect of effective management. Monitoring of the on-going implementation of actions and improvements in environmental variables such as water quality, as well as community opinions should be undertaken to provide a solid information base for future decision making.

All monitoring should seek to capitalise as much as possible on existing information to provide a baseline from which the success of management actions can be measured and effort can be targeted to appropriate actions. Monitoring should be prioritised to address high risk/high priority outcomes and provide robust scientific data while considering the limited human and financial resources available. Success of catchment management actions could be indicated by:

- Stakeholder acceptance or increased support;
- Securing sufficient funds to implement these actions;
- Implementation of actions in an efficient and timely manner;
- Uptake of actions by stakeholders and others;
- Positive stakeholder feedback on improvements; and
- Measured improvements in catchment health such as improved water quality and value of riparian areas.

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) could be developed to provide a target for achievement of the management actions. Major steps in each action should be identified where appropriate for each management action and suitable indicators selected to measure success.

4.5.2 Onsite Sewerage Management

Issues to be addressed:

Issue 14: The drinking water catchments are impacted by current and historical land use and development

Issue 25: There is limited integration between urban and rural strategic land use planning

Issue 26: The effective management of onsite sewerage systems within the Shire is limited by the available resources - Although there are some on-site sewerage (OSS) systems that are failing there is limited opportunity to cost-effectively connect to Council reticulated wastewater systems due to transfer costs and capacity limitations. Additional financial and human resources would be required to adequately regulate, inspect OSS and educate residents.

Current Strategy – Level 1

Management Option 18a – Review of OSSM Strategy

The On-site Sewage Management (OSSM) Strategy details TSC's approach to the supervision of sewage management systems in the Tweed Shire. There are currently approximately 6,000 on-site systems within the Shire with two full-time TSC staff for approvals, inspections, education, regulation and response to complaints. TSC's OSSM Strategy is being reviewed in 2012/13 with further development of policy, procedures and protocols.

The 2006 IWCM identified the unsewered localities of Mooball and Burringbar as critical areas requiring reticulated sewerage. The Mooball and Burringbar sewerage scheme has recently been constructed to connect more than 180 properties to TSC's reticulation network.

Other Potential Options – Level 2

Management Option 18b – Increased Resources for OSSM Regulation

Ten year implementation cost: \$1,400,000 (\$200,000 p.a. from year 4)

It is not practical or cost effective to connect all households to TSC reticulated sewer systems. It will therefore be necessary to improve the performance of on-site sewerage systems to reduce the risk of

contamination from these sources. TSC has a target of 100 inspections per quarter with zero systems failing. While TSC staff are achieving the target number of inspections, the number of failing systems (26%) far exceeds the target. It is therefore apparent that in order to achieve this target, additional financial and human resources are required to adequately regulate, inspect OSSM systems and particularly to educate residents. Given the number of failing systems, further resources should be directed to the upgrading and compliance program aspects detailed in the OSSM Strategy.

Other Potential Options – Level 3

Management Option 18c - Integration of OSSM with catchment management

Ten year implementation cost: Included in Option 17g

As part of the review of the OSSM Strategy, there is an opportunity for increased integration with catchment management planning and IWC and improved long-term direction for OSS systems within the Shire. The TWCM approach and identification of priority catchment areas and risks will assist with allocation of resources and potential increase in resources if required. This could include prioritisation of systems for improvement based on location and identification of potential funding sources from different areas of TSC to assist in system improvements.

5. IWCM SCENARIOS

5.1 Development of IWCM Scenarios

The process used to develop the IWCM scenarios is as follows:

- Consideration of IWCM drivers, community objectives and stakeholder values to develop IWCM management objectives (Section 3.3);
- Review of IWCM targets and management objectives and identification of IWCM issues (Section 3.5);
- Development of a broad range of options to address the issues (Section 4). The options are based on the nature of the problem, its location and extent and consideration of the work that has already been undertaken to address the relevant IWCM issue; and
- The options resolve different issues and are not mutually exclusive. Therefore comparison of the individual options does not provide a meaningful outcome or recommended approach. Instead the options have been bundled together into IWCM scenarios in this section.

This process is illustrated in Figure 20.

A key challenge is to assign priorities to the various scenarios, given internal and external stakeholders have different perspectives and perceptions of the issues and competing demands for funds in an environment where costs need to be fully justified to a broad spectrum of interest groups. The scenarios therefore represent three implementation levels to assist Council in determining the resourcing and funding requirements to achieve IWCM goals and objectives, and in particular to enable the community to understand the limitations and priorities impacting on their successful implementation. These levels are:

- Level 1: Fully funded actions already underway or planned through the existing 2006 IWCM Strategy;
- Level 2: Additional (unfunded) actions that are the minimum required to meet the NSW Office of Water guidelines. These actions are in addition to those identified in the 2006 strategy and are required to address new issues that have arisen since 2006 (e.g. due to changing circumstances, changes in regulation) or are subsequent phases to Level 1 actions; and
- Level 3: Additional (unfunded) actions designed to address wider catchment management objectives and align with Council's broader IWCM responsibilities across the entire Tweed catchment. These actions are outside the traditional Office of Water urban water management guidelines.

Table 15 presents the IWCM Scenarios (bundles of options) and the 26 IWCM issues that they address.

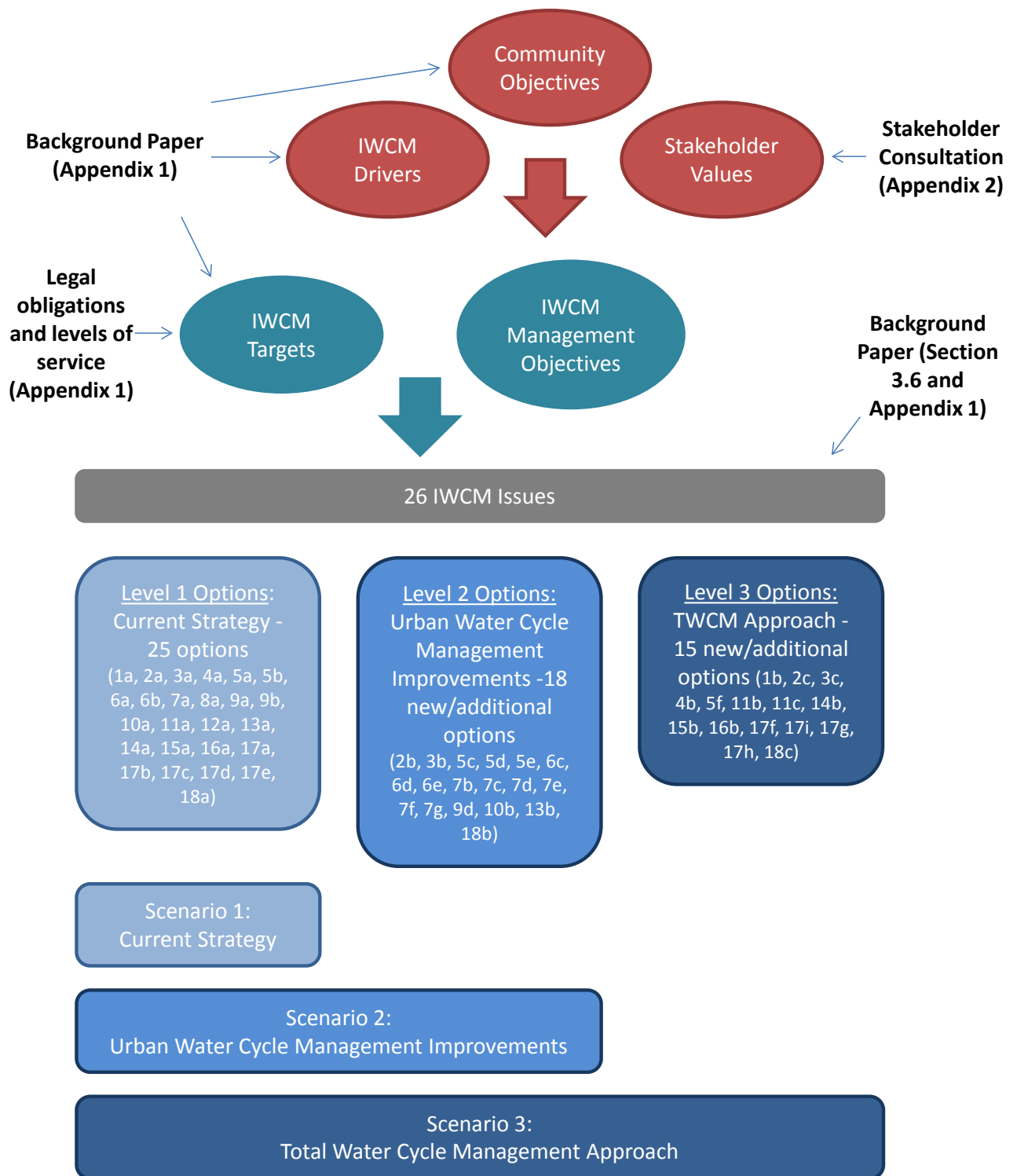


Figure 20: Development of IWCM Scenarios

Table 15: IWCM Options and Scenarios and the 26 IWCM issues that they address

Issue		Current Strategy – Level 1	Level 2 - Urban water cycle management improvements to comply with Office of Water guidelines (additional to the current strategy)	Level 3 - Total water cycle management to fully integrate urban and catchment management (Additional to the current strategy and Level 2)
Scenario Outcome		Continue with current strategy – ongoing strategic planning with progressive implementation of high priority actions	Increased urban water cycle integration to resolve current issues and address urban water related objectives	Total water cycle management and full achievement of all identified objectives over the long-term
Administration and Governance				
1	IWCM principles, responsibilities and priorities are not fully implemented across all Council units	1a – Urban Water Focus: IWCM activities are implemented through the TSC Water Unit with input from other functional areas as required	No additional options identified as part of an urban water cycle management approach as this is TSC's current focus.	1b – Integrated Council-Wide IWCM Delivery: Structural integration to improve the coordination and delivery of water cycle management services and the success of water cycle management initiatives
2	There is a need for informed and transparent decision-making and better management of community expectations	2a – Community engagement in IWCM decision-making: Community engagement as part of the development and ongoing implementation of IWCM Strategy components	2b – Strengthened community engagement process: Future engagement activities are focussed, transparent and appropriately considered. Community expectations are managed, particularly regarding Council funding and resources.	2c – Community engagement covering the full water cycle: 2b is also a key component of this level but would encompass a greater range of topics and issues.
3	There is a need for defensible and robust population forecasts	3a – Ongoing data collection and review: Review of population forecasts	3b – Improved data management: Improved understanding of customer numbers and types, demand, annual review of growth projections, longer-term demand forecasts	3c – Increased understanding of total water cycle: 3b also applies to this level but would consider a broader range of data
4	Uncertainty regarding the preferred Tweed district water supply augmentation option creates confusion regarding land use planning	2a – Community engagement in IWCM decision-making	2b – Strengthened community engagement process	2c – Community engagement covering the full water cycle: 2b is also a key component of this level but would encompass a greater range of topics and issues.

Issue		Current Strategy – Level 1	Level 2 - Urban water cycle management improvements to comply with Office of Water guidelines (additional to the current strategy)	Level 3 - Total water cycle management to fully integrate urban and catchment management (Additional to the current strategy and Level 2)
5	The implications of private industry involvement in town water supply and wastewater management are unclear, particularly with regard to regulation and Council responsibilities	4a - Participate in WIC Act Licensing for Private water utility schemes: Participate in the development of private utility schemes and resolution of the last resort arrangements	No additional options identified as part of an urban water cycle management approach as this is TSC's current focus.	4b - Strengthened IWCM Policies: Application of IWCM objectives for private water utility schemes as part of the total water cycle planning approach
6	Asset management planning	5a - Asset Management planning as part of Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework: Ongoing development and review of asset management plans	5d – Review and Update Sewer Overflow Abatement Strategy: review the actions and update the strategy considering overflow containment targets and procedures for overflows to sensitive environments 5e – Review and update water supply and wastewater Business Continuity Plans: Annual and 4-yearly reviews with consideration of other related strategies	5f – Management of natural assets: Natural assets (land, waterways and vegetation) are considered as part of the asset cycle
7	Climate change implications need to be integrated into urban water services planning	6a – Consideration of SLR Impacts: Coastline management and floodplain management strategies	6c - Climate change adaptation – flooding and tidal inundation: Develop adaptation strategies for increased risk of flooding and tidal inundation 6d - Climate change adaptation – surface water availability: Increase knowledge and develop adaptation strategies for reduced surface water availability	No additional options identified as part of a total water cycle management approach
8	High energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions	6b – Energy Savings Action Plan: existing implementation with limited funding	6e – Reduction in energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions: Through TSC's broader sustainability initiatives	No additional options identified as part of a total water cycle management approach.

Issue		Current Strategy – Level 1	Level 2 - Urban water cycle management improvements to comply with Office of Water guidelines (additional to the current strategy)	Level 3 - Total water cycle management to fully integrate urban and catchment management (Additional to the current strategy and Level 2)
9	Best-Practice Compliance	5b – Substantial compliance with best-practice guidelines	5c – Full compliance with best-practice guidelines: Address requirements for trade waste, strategic business planning, water supply customer metering, non-potable water pricing and development servicing plans	No additional options identified as part of a total water cycle management approach
Urban Town Water Supply				
10	Improved data collection and reporting procedures would facilitate adaptive forecasting of demand and assist with community education	3a – Ongoing data collection and review 7a - Adopted Demand Management Strategy: Ongoing communication and education and <i>Target 180</i> campaign	3b – Improved data management 7b – Improved Community Understanding of Water Consumption Targets: Develop innovative ways to reinforce water saving message and targets 7c - Targets for non-residential consumption: Develop medium-term targets for non-residential sector	The range of demand management measures in Level 2 is also appropriate as a component of a total water cycle management approach
11	There is currently no mechanism to promote retrofit of rain water tanks or installation of large rainwater tanks in new development	7a - Adopted Demand Management Strategy: No rebate for rainwater tanks	7e – Review of effectiveness of rainwater tanks: Prior to promoting any major expenditure on rainwater tanks, data on the actual water savings and rainwater tank costs is required to demonstrate value for money 7f - Rainwater Tank Rebate: Review feasibility of a residential rebate program	Options 7e and 7f are also appropriate as a component of a total water cycle management approach
12	Council's 2013 target for non-revenue water is not likely to be achieved	7a - Adopted Demand Management Strategy (bulk meter program)	7d - Water Loss Management Program	A water loss management program is also appropriate as a component of a total water cycle management approach

Issue		Current Strategy – Level 1	Level 2 - Urban water cycle management improvements to comply with Office of Water guidelines (additional to the current strategy)	Level 3 - Total water cycle management to fully integrate urban and catchment management (Additional to the current strategy and Level 2)
13	Augmentation of the Tweed District Water Supply will be required in future due to population growth although the timing and additional supply required are unclear	3a – Ongoing data collection and review 7a - Adopted Demand Management Strategy 8a - Future Water Supply Augmentation: need for future augmentation is recognised and assessment of options has been undertaken	3b – Improved data management 6d - Climate change adaptation – surface water availability 7b – Improved community understanding of water consumption targets 7c - Targets for non-residential consumption 7d - Water Loss Management Program 7e - Rainwater tank rebate 7g - Permanent water conservation measures: Implement permanent water conservation measures	11c – Identify opportunities for increased water recycling: Implement recycling in future developments supported by servicing strategies and development controls Climate change adaptation programs and demand management measures in Level 2 are also appropriate as a component of a total water cycle management approach
14	The drinking water catchments are impacted by current and historical land use and development	9a - Development of a Drinking Water Quality Management Plan: Continue to develop the plan in accordance with ADWG 9b - Upgraded treatment facilities at Bray Park and Tyalgum: high quality drinking water supply through treatment upgrades	9d - Drinking water catchment planning: Develop a drinking water catchment management plan	17g – Total water cycle management framework and sub-catchment plans: Develop a total water cycle management framework for the Tweed Shire Specific drinking water quality measures would be required to comply with the ADWG
15	As a precaution the Uki WTP is shut down during dirty water events	9a - Development of a Drinking Water Quality Management Plan	9c – Business continuity planning for Uki water supply (as part of Option 5e)	17g – Total water cycle management approach
16	Drought contingency and water supply emergency management measures need to be further developed	10a - Adopted Drought Management Strategy and Restrictions Policy: Strategy developed in 2009 and Restrictions Policy reviewed in 2012	10b – Review and update Drought Management Strategy: Review and update drought management strategy with consideration of increased knowledge and related strategies	No additional options identified as part of a total water cycle management approach

Issue		Current Strategy – Level 1	Level 2 - Urban water cycle management improvements to comply with Office of Water guidelines (additional to the current strategy)	Level 3 - Total water cycle management to fully integrate urban and catchment management (Additional to the current strategy and Level 2)
Urban Wastewater Management				
17	The opportunities for development (urban expansion) outside of the wastewater service areas is limited by the capacity of Council's infrastructure and the environment	11a – Ongoing water supply and wastewater servicing: Develop servicing strategies and upgrade infrastructure as required	No additional options identified as part of an urban water cycle management approach as this is TSC's current focus	11b - Integrated Servicing Strategies: Waterway health considerations in land use planning and servicing strategies 11c – Identify opportunities for increased water recycling
18	Licence requirements for pH and suspended solids at Uki WWTP need to be reviewed	12a – Uki WWTP modifications: Nutrient reduction	No additional options identified as part of an urban water cycle management approach as this is TSC's current focus	No additional options identified as part of a total water cycle management approach
19	Council and the community have a desire for increased water recycling but there are significant barriers to implementation of recycled water schemes within the Tweed Shire	7a - Adopted Demand Management Strategy: Recycled water target of 15% not likely to be achieved	No additional options identified as part of an urban water cycle management approach as this is TSC's current focus	11c – Identify opportunities for increased water recycling
20	There is a high cost of sustainable biosolids management	13a - Farmland application of biosolids: Reuse on farms in Tweed Valley cane farms and Darling Downs	13b – Biosolids Management Strategy: Develop biosolids management strategy to improve water cycle outcomes and reduce costs	Increasing beneficial reuse of biosolids is also appropriate as a component of a total water cycle management approach
Urban Stormwater Management				
21	Increased emphasis on water sensitive urban design will require more integrated Council responsibilities, increased community education and increased staff capabilities and funding	14a – Preliminary development of WSUD Policies: Draft Urban Stormwater Quality Management Plan	No additional options identified as part of an urban water cycle management approach as this is TSC's current focus	14b - Greater integration of WSUD across Council: Develop whole-of Council framework for WSUD covering full asset lifecycle 17g – Total water cycle management

Issue		Current Strategy – Level 1	Level 2 - Urban water cycle management improvements to comply with Office of Water guidelines (additional to the current strategy)	Level 3 - Total water cycle management to fully integrate urban and catchment management (Additional to the current strategy and Level 2)
22	Existing Council development controls do not fully address the residual load of urban stormwater on downstream sensitive waterways	14a - Preliminary development of WSUD Policies 15a - Review of Stormwater Development Controls: Review and update of D7	No additional options identified as part of an urban water cycle management approach as this is TSC's current focus	14b - Greater integration of WSUD across Council 15b - Develop guidelines for compensatory measures – formalise policy for addressing impacts of urban development 17g – Total water cycle management
23	Existing subdivision erosion and stormwater controls and resources are not adequate for the rainfall and rate of development experienced in the Tweed	16a – Existing Erosion and Sediment Controls: D7 and C211	No additional options identified as part of an urban water cycle management approach as this is TSC's current focus	16b – Review and update erosion and sediment controls and provide increased resources: Improved coordination, education and enforcement and increased resources 17g – Total water cycle management
Catchment Management				
24	There is a need for a holistic catchment management strategy for the Shire	17a – Management of separate areas of catchments as part of existing local and regional programs undertaken by various stakeholders 17c – Floodplain Management Planning: Flood studies and floodplain management plans are being prepared 17d – Water Supply Catchment Stream Bank Protection Policy: River health grants scheme 17e – Environmental monitoring programs: various	No additional options identified as part of an urban water cycle management approach	17f – Review of Stream Bank Protection Policy and River Health Grants Program: Improve delivery mechanism 17g – Total water cycle management 17i – Monitoring Evaluation and Reporting program: to support TWCM framework

Issue		Current Strategy – Level 1	Level 2 - Urban water cycle management improvements to comply with Office of Water guidelines (additional to the current strategy)	Level 3 - Total water cycle management to fully integrate urban and catchment management (Additional to the current strategy and Level 2)
25	There is limited integration between urban and rural strategic land use planning	<p>17b – Preliminary development of Sustainable Agriculture Strategy: Development of a strategy to improve the viability and environmental capacity of the Tweed's farmland</p> <p>17c – Floodplain Management Planning: Flood studies and floodplain management plans are being prepared</p>	No additional options identified as part of an urban water cycle management approach	<p>17g – Total water cycle management</p> <p>17h – Upper catchment floodplain planning</p> <p>Sustainable agriculture strategies are also required as part of a total water cycle management approach</p>
26	The effective management of onsite sewerage systems within the Shire is limited by the available resources	18a - Review of OSSM Strategy: Insufficient resources to implement OSSM Strategy	18b – Provide increased resources for OSSM regulation: Identify resource requirements and funding	<p>17g – Total water cycle management</p> <p>18c - Integration of OSSM with water cycle management: Risk-based approach considering catchment values and issues</p>

5.2 Comparison of Scenarios

The IWCM scenarios (bundles of options) were compared and prioritised by considering a number of factors including:

- Cost of implementation;
- Effectiveness of each scenario in addressing the management objectives;
- Expected level of community support and acceptance of the action; and
- Benefits to the water cycle arising from the scenario.

5.2.1 Implementation Costs

Preliminary cost estimates have been developed as incremental increases for each level (i.e. Level 2 costs are additional to the current strategy and Level 3 costs are additional to both Level 1 and Level 2). The options involve expenditure to undertake investigations, develop strategies or provide additional human resources. Major capital works expenditure has not been identified for the next 10 years, however, the strategies developed as part of Level 2 and Level 3 may recommend capital expenditure as part of the implementation components. For example, an option to investigate additional recycled water opportunities has been included in the TWCM scenario but cost estimates relate to conceptual development only. As more information is required before recycled water options can be assessed, capital cost estimates have not been provided.

5.2.2 Achievement of Management Objectives

The IWCM objectives (Section 3.3) focus on implementation of a total water cycle management approach and identification and incorporation of community priorities. The options to address each issue provide different outcomes and varying levels of achievement of the objectives with varying costs (i.e. with each scenario level, there is a corresponding increase in achievement of the objectives with an associated increase in cost).

5.2.3 Expected Level of Community Support

Based on the feedback obtained from the community through this IWCM review and previous community engagement programs, the level of community support for each scenario is expected to increase with implementation of Level 1 and Level 2 options.

5.2.4 Expected Environmental Benefits

Based on the aims of the options in each scenario, the water cycle benefits are predicted to increase with implementation of Level 1 and Level 2 options.

5.2.5 Preferred IWCM Scenario

The greatest water cycle benefit and community support are expected to be achieved with Level 3 (the TWCM Scenario). The IWCM guidelines and Office of Water expectations are fully achieved and the scope of an IWCM Strategy is exceeded with Level 3 through inclusion of catchment management initiatives. This scenario would also enable TSC's IWCM objectives (discussed in Section 3.3) to be achieved. For these reasons, Level 3 is the recommended strategy.

However, the TWCM scenario requires significant additional investment (refer Appendix 4). The increased benefits with the Level 3 approach come at significantly increased cost compared to Level 2. Overall

attractiveness of the TWCM scenario is reduced due to this incremental cost particularly in the short-term. For this reason, immediate implementation of all Level 3 options is not supported at this time.

Given the limited funding available to Council and the competing priorities for those funds, it is recommended instead that a TWCM approach is adopted but with progressive implementation of Level 2 and Level 3 actions over time. Implementation of the Level 2 actions will achieve full compliance with Office of Water IWCW guidelines and provides a strong basis for further broadening the scope of Council's decision making to encompass the full water cycle. The aspirational target would be to achieve the TWCM approach over time. However this will not be achieved until funding sources are identified. Implementation requirements including funding requirements are discussed in Section 6.

6. STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION

6.1 Administrative Requirements

Success of the IWCM Strategy relies on the improved administration and coordination of water cycle related activities. The preferred IWCM scenario integration suggests this could be achieved through the introduction of a new IWCM Program Leader role that will facilitate TWCM across TSC (as part of the Level 3 approach). Until this new position is filled, the IWCM Stakeholder Group should continue to coordinate the implementation of the adopted IWCM Strategy. The priority tasks for this position (or group) are the implementation of this IWCM Strategy and integration with TSC's other strategic priorities.

This role/group would have responsibility for:

- Development and ongoing review of a funding strategy (refer below);
- Consultation with TSC staff, developers, the community and consultants;
- Coordination of training to TSC staff, developers and consultants;
- Implementation of priority actions;
- Ongoing coordination of IWCM considerations with other TSC functions; and
- Periodic review of this IWCM Strategy.

6.2 Funding

The major funding and resourcing requirements are:

- Creation of the new permanent position of IWCM Program Leader;
- Other internal staff positions identified;
- On-ground works; and
- External consultancies (as required) to assist with implementation of the IWCM Strategy.

6.2.1 Funding Constraints

The timing for implementation of the proposed IWCM actions is dependent on the availability of financial and human resources. This Strategy assigns priorities with consideration of the limited internal resources available and is designed to remain flexible to access potential sources of external funding which may become available in future.

Potential funding sources are discussed in the following sections.

6.2.2 Existing and Potential Funding Sources

In accordance with the *Local Government Act, 1993*, Councils can obtain income from rates, charges, fees, grants, borrowings and investments.

Council General Fund

General income comes from ordinary rates, special rates and annual charges. The rate at which TSC's general income can be increased each year is set by IPART (currently 3% p.a.). However it is acknowledged there is a finite level of funding and competing demands for Council services. Given current budgetary pressures, it is unlikely that the General Fund will be able to provide significant additional funding for Level 2

or 3 activities. For this to change, innovative integrated solutions that are desired by the community need to be seen as a priority in the provision of services funded through general income.

External Grants

Identification of grants and successful application is an important component of this IWCM Strategy. Council has historically had some success pursuing grant funding in an *ad hoc* manner, however a more strategic and better resourced approach may provide further success, in particular increased TSC staff availability to prepare applications and a more focussed approach to the limited number of relevant funding programs available. The IWCM Program Leader would provide an additional resource to support other TSC business unit in applying for funding.

While lobbying State and Federal governments to increase funding and providing sufficient human resources to access the available grants is essential for successful implementation of the IWCM, this source of funding should only be considered as a supplement to internal Council funding sources. Grants are usually provided on the basis of funding matched by Council.

Urban Stormwater Management Service Charge

In accordance with the State Government guidelines (DLG, 2006), urban residential properties can be levied \$25 p.a. and urban business land can be charged up to \$25 per \$350 m² of land area or part thereof for stormwater management services, based on the expected cost of provision of these services. This is expected to yield approximately \$1 million in revenue each year. The intention to levy a stormwater charge is advertised through the Integrated Planning and Reporting process and income and expenditure are reported through Council's annual report.

A council may only levy the stormwater management service charge after discontinuing any stormwater special rates or charges that are raised either within its general income limit or via a special variation to its general income level. This is to prevent the perception of 'double-charging'. TSC does not currently have in place any special rate variations approved primarily for stormwater management activities.

Application of the funds from the stormwater management service charge should be determined on a priority basis utilising the asset management practices discussed in Section 4.1.5. The income from the charge can be spent on both capital and recurrent expenditure relating to new/additional stormwater management services such as (DLG, 2006):

- Planning, construction and maintenance of drainage systems, including pipes, channels, retarding basins and waterways receiving urban stormwater;
- Planning, construction and maintenance of stormwater treatment measures, including gross pollutant traps and constructed wetlands;
- Planning, construction and maintenance of stormwater harvesting and reuse projects;
- Planning and undertaking of community and industry stormwater pollution education campaigns;
- Inspection of commercial and industrial premises for stormwater pollution prevention;
- Cleaning up of stormwater pollution incidents (charge can fund a proportion);
- Water quality and aquatic ecosystem health monitoring of waterways, to assess the effectiveness of stormwater pollution controls (charge can fund a proportion);
- Monitoring of flows in drains and creeks, to assess the effectiveness for flow management (flooding) controls (charge can fund a proportion); and
- Staff specifically appointed to provide the stormwater management service associated with the charge (e.g. temporary project staff).

Works on Private Land

TSC should also continue to charge the appropriate fee for service for works on private land. Additional mechanisms to enable or enhance landholder responsibilities for asset management and maintenance may also be required to reduce the burden on TSC funds and resources. Other financial instruments such as bonds, contributions and Voluntary Planning Agreements (VPAs) may be appropriate in the case of offsets and maintenance agreements to ensure ongoing liabilities are fully funded.

Section 94 Contributions

Development contributions are payments made by developers to enable Council to provide public amenities and services required for new residents and businesses. TSC currently has 23 active contribution plans, approximately half of these apply to the whole Shire and the rest are area-specific plans. The majority of plans levy contributions on residential and tourist development, while others, like the Road Contribution Plan and Council Admin Facilities Plan also levy contributions for commercial development.

The introduction of Section 94 contributions for stormwater works would ensure the full cost of developments is recovered at the development approval stage. The application of Section 94 contributions would need to be assessed to determine which components are applicable to future development.

In 2010, the NSW Government introduced reforms to increase housing development including a limit on the amount of development contributions (\$20,000 per residential lot for established areas and \$30,000 per lot for greenfield areas) unless exemptions are approved. TSC's current developer contributions average around \$17,000 per dwelling (current dollars). TSC should consider including stormwater works in any future review of the contributions plan or if the cap is raised. There is also the potential to raise higher contributions for greenfield developments.

Section 64 Developer Charges

Developer charges are up-front charges that a LWU can levy under section 64 of the *Local Government Act 1993* to recover part of the infrastructure costs incurred in servicing new development or additions and changes to existing development. Developer charges provide a source of funding for infrastructure and provide signals to the community regarding the cost of urban development. The NSW Office of Water has issued Developer Charges Guidelines for Water Supply, Sewerage and Stormwater, December 2002 pursuant to section 306 (3)(C) of the *Water Management Act 2000*. NSW local water utilities are required to prepare a Development Servicing Plan (DSP) and to levy developer charges in accordance with these guidelines. A DSP documents all the relevant information used to calculate the developer charges per lot.

TSC has adopted DSPs for water supply and sewerage services. The preparation of a DSP for stormwater services would also facilitate recovery of costs associated with stormwater management for new developments. This would replace the need for section 94 stormwater contributions and may provide more flexibility in collection and application of funds.

Dividends from TSC Water and Sewer Funds

Under the best-practice guidelines, a local government LWU is permitted to pay an annual dividend from its water supply or sewerage businesses. The dividend is a 'return on investment' paid to the 'shareholder' which in this case is the local government council responsible for managing and investing in the LWU's water supply and sewerage functions. Council may apply the dividend for any purpose under the *Local Government Act* or any other Act (DWE, 2007).

The dividend is in two parts - a dividend calculated for tax-equivalents and a dividend calculated from the surplus. All LWUs must pay the dividend for tax-equivalents up to a maximum of \$3 per assessment. The dividend from the surplus may only be paid by LWUs which achieve full compliance with best-practice management criteria.

As discussed in Section 4.5.1, the River Health Grants Program is funded through the Catchment Water Quality Budget (water and sewer fund tax equivalent dividend payments). This program provides approximately \$190,000 p.a. (the maximum of \$3 per water supply and sewer assessment) for stream bank protection works on private land. It is recommended that this program is continued and potentially extended or modified to increase its effectiveness following a review of the program.

Once TSC has achieved full compliance with the best-practice guidelines and can generate a surplus from the water supply and sewer dividends, the potential for payment of a dividend from the surplus should be considered. There must be a surplus and the dividend must not exceed 50% of the surplus or \$30 per assessment. If applied, this dividend would require an increase in water supply and sewerage charges in each year of the dividend.

Environmental Levy

Where the community has a capacity and willingness to pay, an environment levy is one way for councils to fund environmental projects. Ratepayers contribute to the levy yearly via their rates. Byron Shire Council introduced an environmental levy in 2008 with funds allocated to a five year works program and budget. Coffs Harbour, Bellingen and Kempsey Councils also have an environmental levy in place with ratepayers contributing an average of \$30 - \$40 per year to the fund through their annual rates. Typical projects funded by the levy include:

- Extension Officers (intermediary between Council and landholders);
- Biodiversity and Sustainability programs;
- Coastal and Estuary programs;
- Bush regeneration projects;
- Weed removal;
- Community and business sustainability workshops; and
- Sustainable schools programs.

Councils wishing to introduce an Environmental Levy as an additional charge over the rate peg must apply to IPART for a Special Rates Variation (SRV). An SRV allows councils to increase general income above the rate peg, under the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1993*. Local councils that are seeking special variations to general income are required to submit applications to IPART for review and assessment. IPART will assess each application based on its merits against the assessment criteria. In doing so, IPART will consider:

- Size of the council;
- Resources of a council;
- Size (both actual \$ and %) of increase requested;
- Current rate levels and previous rate rises;
- Purpose of the special variation; and
- Any other matter considered relevant in the assessment of a special variation application.

The assessment criteria set out in the guidelines are as follows:

- The need for and purpose of a different revenue path (as requested through the special variation) is clearly articulated and identified through the council's Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) documents, including its Delivery Program and Long-term Financial Plan (TSC, 2012). Evidence for this criterion could include evidence of community need/desire for service levels/project and limited

council resourcing alternatives and the Council's financial sustainability conducted by the NSW Treasury Corporation.

- Evidence that the community is aware of the need for and extent of a rate rise. This should be clearly spelt out in IP&R documentation and the council must demonstrate an appropriate variety of engagement methods to ensure opportunity for community awareness/input. The IP&R documentation should canvas alternatives to a rate rise, the impact of any rises upon the community and the council's consideration of the community's capacity and willingness to pay rates.
- The impact on affected ratepayers must be reasonable, having regard to both the current rate levels, existing ratepayer base and the proposed purpose of the variation. TSC's IP&R process should also establish that the proposed rate increases are affordable having regard to the local community's capacity to pay.
- The proposed Delivery Program and Long-term Financial Plan must show evidence of realistic assumptions.
- An explanation of the productivity improvements and cost containment strategies the council has realised in past years, and plans to realise over the proposed special variation period.

The community feedback received through this IWCM Strategy review suggests that the Tweed community supports the priorities identified in this IWCM Strategy and cost-sharing arrangements to implement the priorities. Additional consultation would be required to confirm this as part of the application for the SRV. The competing priorities across Council's areas of responsibility throughout the Shire would also need to be aligned – for example through the process of developing TSC's Environmental Sustainability Strategy (as discussed below).

6.3 Proposed Implementation Program

The management options have been compiled into a proposed ten year implementation program, including cost estimates, timing, TSC responsibilities and potential funding sources (Table 16).

The implementation program identifies existing and new actions that are recommended to achieve the desired IWCM outcomes. Level 1 actions are already funded and being implemented by TSC and these are considered to remain an integral component of the future strategy. The Level 1 strategic planning initiatives that should be continued are:

- 2a – Community engagement;
- 5a - Asset management planning (as part of Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework);
- 5b - Best-practice management (compliance with the NSW Office of Water best-practice guidelines);
- 6a - Coastline management (climate change adaptation);
- 7a - Implementation of the Demand Management Strategy;
- 9a – Drinking water quality management;
- 14a – Development of WSUD Policies (including urban stormwater quality management planning and review of development controls);
- 17c – Floodplain management planning;
- 17d - Water Supply Catchment Stream Bank Protection Policy (River health grants scheme);
- 17b – Development of Sustainable Agriculture Strategy; and
- 18a - Review of On-site Sewerage Management Strategy.

The Level 2 and 3 actions complement the existing actions but broaden the focus to include the TWCM approach.

In this program, it has been assumed that the position of IWCM Program Leader will be filled by 2016/17 (year 3 of the program) and the IWCM Stakeholder Group (or similar) will be responsible for coordination and implementation of the IWCM Strategy prior to then. In this way, the first 2 years of the program would follow the Level 2 approach (urban water cycle management improvements) with transition to Level 3 (TWCM approach) commencing from year 3.

In reality, Level 1 and Level 2 actions that Council is able to fund will form the basis of IWCM actions in the short to medium term. To achieve full IWCM implementation, the remaining unfunded Level 2 and Level 3 actions would be the focus of a medium to longer term program. These actions will also be considered in the development of Council's Environmental Sustainability Strategy (ESS) and the overall resourcing, funding and priorities set by this program. The ESS is in the early stages of development and an initial framework is expected to be completed in 2014. It is envisaged this would allow priorities to be set in 2015, which in turn would provide direction on the feasibility of currently unfunded IWCM Level 2 and Level 3 actions.

To enable ongoing discussion and to ensure identified issues are not lost, this strategy has outlined an implementation program based on prioritised management actions as follows:

- Community engagement and data collection actions are considered to be fundamental to the IWCM program and the enhanced approaches recommended in this Strategy should commence as soon as possible;
- Best-practice compliance actions should also be completed as soon as possible as compliance is a key aim of the Strategy. The required action is an audit of multi-residential water supply connections to increase understanding of water supply demand which would also assist in the data collection actions;
- The preparation of the TWCM framework and sub-catchment management plans and IWCM policies would be more effectively undertaken by the IWCM Program Leader and are therefore logically completed once this position is filled;
- The additional resources for OSSM regulation are a significant cost component and would be more easily justified following the preparation of the sub-catchment priority actions and drinking water quality management plan;
- Similarly, allocation and prioritisation of additional resources for environmental monitoring, evaluation and reporting would logically follow the preparation of the sub-catchment management plans;
- Climate change adaptation actions are considered to be a priority to inform future decision-making. Due to the potential for reduced water supply availability as a result of demand hardening and climate change, there is a need to undertake the security of supply planning actions in the short-term. Similarly, the risks of flooding and tidal inundation on water supply, wastewater and stormwater assets are a key knowledge gap. Business continuity planning and drought management are actions that rely on the findings of the climate change adaptation information;
- The preparation of a drinking water catchment management plan is a key component of the drinking water quality management plan currently being prepared. This would be better informed if the natural assets within the catchment were better understood and hence the action to determine natural asset stock and condition within the drinking water catchments is a priority;
- The Streambank Protection Policy is an important funding source and has the potential to provide significant benefits if used to the maximum potential. The review of the policy and grants program is therefore a priority;
- The implementation of a WSUD framework is considered to be a long-term process that should commence as soon as possible with the development of guidelines and an implementation plan;

- Permanent water conservation measures are considered to be a low-cost and effective demand management measure that is likely to be well supported by the community. The introduction of voluntary measures in the Tweed would also improve consistency across the Northern Rivers region. The action requires initial planning and community engagement as a priority;
- Continued implementation and extension of the water loss management program is also considered to be a priority in reducing water wastage;
- The review of the effectiveness of rainwater tanks is a prerequisite to the introduction of a feasible rainwater tank rebate and is likely to require collection of data over a few years. This should commence as soon as the existing demand management priorities permit;
- The overflow abatement strategy previously recommended priority actions which have not yet been funded. A review of the strategy is therefore required to identify current priorities;
- A review of the biosolids management strategy is also required to identify potential cost savings and increased beneficial applications of biosolids; and
- To achieve TSC's target for recycled water use, additional recycling opportunities need to be identified. This would commence with an assessment benefits to be gained from urban and recreational reuse in future greenfield areas and the subsequent development of integrated servicing strategies.

The proposed ten year implementation program has a total budget cost of \$9.07 million (current dollars) with approximately \$1.97 million required in the first three years.

Table 16: IWCM Strategy Implementation Program

	Options	Action (Levels 1, 2, and 3)	Responsibility	Potential Funding	10 year total (\$'000)	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Administration and Governance	1b	Integrated Council-Wide IWCM Delivery	IWCM Program Leader + other units as required (interim IWCM Stakeholder Group)	C&NR, Env levy	1,200	Committee		150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150
	2a, 2b, 2c, 7b	Community engagement	IWCM Program Leader + other units as required	C&NR	265	40	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25
	3a, 3b, 3c	Data collection	IWCM Program Leader + other units as required	C&NR	360	60	60	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
	4a, 4b	Strengthened IWCM policies (under Water Industry Competition Act)	Water	Water	50			50							
	5b, 5c, 12a	Best-practice compliance	Water	Water	20	10	10								
	9c, 5e	Business Continuity Planning	Water	Water	150		30	10	10	10	30	10	10	10	30
	6b, 6e	Reduction in energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions	Sustainability Coordinator	-	-	Included in Council's broader sustainability initiatives									
Urban Town Water Supply	6d, 8a	Climate change adaptation – surface water availability	IWCM Program Leader + Water, P&I	Water	250	100	50				50				50
	7a, 7c	Targets for non-residential consumption	Water	Water	-	Minimal									
	7g	Permanent water conservation measures	Water	Water	30		10	10			5				5
	7a, 7d	Water Loss Management Program	Water	Water	150	50	50	50							
	7e, 7f	Rainwater tank rebate	Water	Water	735	20	5	5	5	140	140	140	140	140	
	9a, 9b, 9d	Drinking water catchment planning	Water	Water	100		50	50							
	10a, 10b	Review and update Drought Management Strategy	Water	Water	150		50				50				50
Urban Wastewater Management	5d	Review and Update Sewer Overflow Abatement Strategy	Water	Water	50	50									
	13a, 13b	Biosolids Management Strategy	Water	Water	150		50				50				50
	7a, 11a, 11b, 11c	Integrated servicing strategies and recycled water opportunities	IWCM Program Leader + other units as required	C&NR, Env levy, s94, s64	410		50	70	120	70	20	20	20	20	20
Urban Stormwater Management	14a, 14b, 15a, 15b, 16a, 16b	Implement water sensitive urban design framework	IWCM Program Leader + other units as required	C&NR, P&R, E&O, grants, SMSC, s94, s64	2,080	50	150	100	260	250	250	260	250	250	260

Fundamental actions	Priority Actions	Actions relying on prerequisite (priority) actions	Level 3 (TWCM) components
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C&NR – Community and Natural Resources Directorate, P&R – TSC Planning and Regulation Directorate, E&O – TSC Engineering and Operations Directorate, B&EH – TSC Building and Environmental Health Unit, P&I – TSC Planning and Infrastructure Unit, NRM – TSC Natural Resources Management Unit, Water – TSC Water Unit, Env levy – proposed environmental levy, SMSC – proposed stormwater management service charge, s94 – proposed additional developer contributions. Years correspond to end of financial year i.e. 2015 is year 1 (start 1st July 2014, end 30th June 2015), etc.

	Options	Action (Levels 1, 2, and 3)	Responsibility	Potential Funding	10 year total (\$'000)	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Catchment Management	5a, 5f	Natural asset management	NRM, Water	Water, Env levy	100		50	50							
	6a, 6c, 17c	Climate change adaptation – flooding and tidal inundation	IWCM Program Leader + Water, P&I	Water, P&I, grants	150		50				50				50
	17g, 18c, 4b, 5f, 9d, 11b, 11c, 14b	Total water cycle management framework and sub-catchment plans	IWCM Program Leader + other units as required	C&NR, Env levy	450			150	100	100	20	20	20	20	20
	17d, 17f	Review of Streambank Protection Policy	NRM, Water	NRM	20	20									
	17e, 17i	Monitoring, evaluation and reporting	IWCM Program Leader + other units as required	C&NR, Env levy	400			50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	17b, 17h	Upper catchment floodplain planning	P&I	P&I, grants	400			80	80	80	80	80			
	18a, 18b, 18c	On-site sewage management (additional resources)	B&EH	B&EH	1,400				200	200	200	200	200	200	200
Total 10 year IWCM Strategy					9,070	400	690	880	1,030	1,105	1,200	985	895	900	985

Fundamental actions	Priority Actions	Actions relying on prerequisite (priority) actions	Level 3 (TWCM) components
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C&NR – Community and Natural Resources Directorate, P&R – TSC Planning and Regulation Directorate, E&O – TSC Engineering and Operations Directorate, B&EH – TSC Building and Environmental Health Unit, P&I – TSC Planning and Infrastructure Unit, NRM – TSC Natural Resources Management Unit, Water – TSC Water Unit, Env levy – proposed environmental levy, SMSC – proposed stormwater management service charge, s94 – proposed additional developer contributions. Years correspond to end of financial year i.e. 2015 is year 1 (start 1st July 2014, end 30th June 2015), etc.

ABBREVIATIONS

ADWG	Australian Drinking Water Guidelines
ASS	Acid Sulfate Soil
BASIX	Building Sustainability Index
BCP	Business Continuity Plan
BSC	Ballina Shire Council
CAP	Catchment Action Plan
CMA	Catchment Management Authority
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
CSP	Community Strategic Plan
CWG	Community Working Group
CZMP	Coastal Zone Management Plan
DCP	Development Control Plan
DECC	(former) NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change
DECCW	(former) NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water
DNR	(former) NSW Department of Natural Resources
DWQMP	Drinking Water Quality Management Plan
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
EP	Equivalent Persons
EP&A	Environmental Planning and Assessment (Act)
EPA	Environment Protection Authority
ESD	Ecologically Sustainable Development
ESS	Environmental Sustainability Strategy
FSL	Full supply level
GPT	Gross Pollution Trap
GCM	Global Climate Model
HNFY	Historic No Failure Yield
HWA	Hunter Water Australia
IPART	Independent Pricing and Regulation Tribunal
IQQM	Integrated Quantity Quality Model
IWCM	Integrated Water Cycle Management
kL	Kilolitre
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
L	Litre

L/p/d	Litres per person per day
LEP	Local Environmental Plan
LWU	Local water utility
ML	Megalitre
NOROC	Northern Rivers Organisation of Councils
NRCMA	Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority
NRM	Natural Resource Management
NRW	Non-Revenue Water
NWI	National Water Initiative
OEH	Office of Environment and Heritage
OSS	On-Site Sewerage
OSSM	On-Site Sewerage Management
PAC	Powdered Activated Carbon
POEO	Protection of the Environment Operations (Act)
QWC	Queensland Water Commission
REP	Regional Environmental Plan (now deemed SEPP)
RSE	Random Sampling Error
SEPP	State Environmental Planning Policy
SOAS	Sewer Overflow Abatement Strategy
SQID	Stormwater Quality Improvement Device
SRV	Special Rates Variation
SSD	State Significant Development
SSI	State Significant Infrastructure
TSC	Tweed Shire Council
TUELRS	Tweed Urban and Employment Land Release Strategy
TWCM	Total Water Cycle Management
VPA	Voluntary Planning Agreement
WIC	Water Industry Competition (Act)
WSP	Water Sharing Plan
WSUD	Water Sensitive Urban Design
WTP	Water Treatment Plant
WWTP	Wastewater Treatment Plant

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- TSC (2011c) *Business Continuity Plan for Water and Wastewater Services 2011*
- TSC (2012) *Delivery Program 2011/2015 and Operational Plan 2012/2013*
- TSC (2012) *Development Design Specification D7 – Stormwater Quality Version 1.34*
- TSC (undated) *Tweed Shire Council On-site Sewage Management Strategy*. Tweed Shire Council Environment and Health Services Unit
- Umwelt (2005a) *Tweed Shire Coastline Management Study*
- Umwelt (2005b) *Tweed Shire Coastline Management Plan*

Water Futures (2011) *ADWG Framework Review*

Water Futures and City Water Technology (2010) *Implementation of a Drinking Water Quality Management System, Risk Workshop Summary Paper for Tweed Shire Council, Version 3*

WBM (2007) *Tweed Coastline Hazard Definition Study Final Report*

APPENDIX 1: IWCM REVIEW BACKGROUND PAPER

APPENDIX 2: STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

TWEED IWCM STRATEGY - STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Objectives

The objectives of the stakeholder engagement program for the six year IWCM strategy review are:

- Involve the Tweed community in the six year IWCM strategy review;
- Engage with relevant Council units to ensure input into the review and ownership of the adopted strategy;
- Ensure Council staff and Councillors receive quality information representative of the views of the Tweed community using a range of methods, to assist in effective decision making;
- Build a positive reputation for TSC by demonstrating that Council is listening, informing and being informed by the broad Tweed community;
- Incorporate numerous engagement methods to involve people who otherwise would not be able to participate in the review;
- Facilitate involvement in water cycle management decisions.
- Enhance the relationship between Council and the community; and
- Increase community ownership of the adopted strategy.

Key Messages

To Council Units:

- IWCM can provide synergies/efficiencies if a Council-wide approach is taken;
- By being involved from the beginning, you will have maximum influence on the outcomes; and
- The quality of data supplied and accuracy of feedback will determine the quality of the final strategy;

To stakeholders and the community:

- By being involved from the beginning, you will have maximum influence on the outcomes; and
- The IWCM review will confirm if the existing direction is appropriate and identify alternative direction if required.

Key Stakeholders

The key stakeholders for the IWCM review are:

- Tweed Shire residents and ratepayers;
- Businesses – represented by Chambers of Commerce;
- Community/interest groups – civic groups, sporting groups, environmental groups, Landcare groups;
- Aboriginal groups – Native Title claimants, Land Councils, Elders;
- Councillors;
- Council staff; and
- Government agencies and statutory authorities – NSW Office of Water, DPI-Fisheries, CMA.

Community Consultation Tools

- The project webpage on Council's website - (<http://www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/Water/IWCMstrategyReview2012.aspx>) provided information and links to the survey and document downloads.
- Fact sheet (refer attached).
- Promotional material was distributed at the Murwillumbah Pool and shire libraries, Civic offices, the Coolamon Centre, Banora Point Community Centre and Pottsville Beach Neighbourhood Centre.
- Media Releases (attached) and Tweed Link articles (4/12/12 Issue 789, 27/11/12 Issue 788, Issue 785, 6/11/12) were used to promote the project and community involvement.

- Telephone Survey – refer Jetty Research report - *A random telephone survey of Tweed Shire residents regarding the 2013 integrated water cycle management (IWCM) strategy* (Jetty Research, 2013a).
- Online/Hard Copy Survey – refer separate Jetty Research report - *An online and paper survey of Tweed Shire residents regarding the 2013 integrated water cycle management (IWCM) strategy* (Jetty Research, 2013b).
- Youth groups:
 - a covering letter, paper surveys, business posters and business cards were sent to identified contacts at ten Tweed Shire high schools, plus TAFE (Kingscliff and Murwillumbah campuses), Southern Cross University, and Tweed Heads PCYC. This included follow-up phone calls and emails.
 - Distribution (via TSC's youth development officer) of a promotional email and web survey link to approx. 70 local youth groups and service providers;
- Distribution of business card promoters and paper surveys at the Tweed River Festival (November 17 and 18th, 2012).
- Seniors – information and hard copy surveys were made available to seniors through Council staff working at Banora Point Community Centre.
- Aboriginal Groups – presentation to Aboriginal Advisory Committee Meeting 7 December 2012 (attended by representatives from Canowindra, Tweed Wollumbin Aboriginal Education Consultative Group, Tweed Byron Local Aboriginal Land Council, Tweed Aboriginal Corporation for Sport and Tweed Aboriginal Co-Op Society Ltd).
- Targeted correspondence - emails (12/11/12 and 7/12/12) were sent to state government agencies, community groups and members of the Interested Parties Register requesting input into the review.

Table 17: Targeted Correspondence

Stakeholder	Contact	Status/Feedback
Government Agencies and Statutory Authorities		
Office of Water	Chris Hennessy chris.hennessy@water.nsw.gov.au Patrick Pahlow patrick.pahlow@water.nsw.gov.au	Feedback on Background Paper received 7/12/12
DPI-Fisheries	Pat Dwyer patrick.dwyer@industry.nsw.gov.au	No response
Northern Rivers CMA	Peter Boyd Peter.boyd@cma.nsw.gov.au	No response
Community Groups		
Tweed Landcare	chrisrob127@gmail.com; franohara590@gmail.com	No response
Chambers of Commerce – Tweed and Kingscliff	info@kingscliffchamber.com.au; info@tweedchamber.com.au	No response
Tweed Canegrowers Association	Rgquirk@bigpond.com	No response
Tweed River Committee	Tom Alletson talletson@tweed.nsw.gov.au	No response
Tweed Heads Environment Group	rwmy125@tpg.com.au	Submission received 3/12/12 (1)

Stakeholder	Contact	Status/Feedback
Northern Rivers Guardians	info@norallygroup.org	Submission received 12/12/12 (2)
Save Byrriil Creek	savebyrriilcreek@bigpond.com	No response
Caldera Environment Centre	caldera@calderaenvironmentcentre.org	Submission received 12/12/12 (3) ¹
Community Members		
Interested Parties Register	Confidential – online registration, email notifications 12/11/12 and 4/12/12	All responses included below
Other		Submissions Received: Ari Ehrlich, 13/12/12 (4) ¹ Joanna Gardner, Byrriil Creek Landcare, 13/12/12 (5) Menkit Prince, 12/12/12 (6) Kirsten Ealand, 12/12/12 (7) ¹ Eddie Roberts, 12/12/12 (8) ¹ Carolyn Rifello, 12/12/12 (9) ¹ Pam O'Connor, 12/12/12 (10) ¹ Ian Walker, 12/12/12 (11) Peter Conde, 12/12/12 (12) ¹ Malcolm Bailey, 12/12/12 (13) ¹ Suzanne Gray, 12/12/12 (14) ¹ Stephanie Barlow, 12/12/12 (15) ¹ Ray Thorpe, 12/12/12 (16) ¹ Bill Walton, 12/12/12 (17) ¹ Marie Jack, 12/12/12 (18) ¹ Rhonda James, 12/12/12 (19) ¹ Johanna Garnett, 12/12/12 (20) ¹ Anne Whittingham, 12/12/12 (21) ¹ Heather Barnard, 12/12/12 (22) ¹ Paul Taylor, 12/12/12 (23) ¹ Charles Smith, 11/12/12 (24) ¹ Peter Symons, 11/12/12 (25) ¹ Kathleen Green, 11/12/12 (26) ¹ Clover Hart, 11/12/12 (27) ¹ Alexandra Manzi Fe, 11/12/12 (28) ¹

1. Many of the respondents have repeated the submission (either in full or in part) from the Caldera Environment Centre (submission no. 3).

Summary of feedback from Community Groups and Community Members:

Feedback Provided	Submissions	Response/Recommendation for IWCM Review
<i>General</i>		
Request for an independent review of the option selection process, water demand management projections, projected population growth and the impacts of climate change.	1, 2, 3, 5, 6	These considerations will be included in the IWCM Review and further investigation will be recommended if required.
Not enough background information has been provided to the Tweed community to enable them to make an informed response to some on-line survey questions.	1, 6	The survey was designed to capture community opinions. The IWCM Background Paper provided additional information on the survey topics.
Need for updated population forecasts and water consumption rates	1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28	Population and consumption data are reported in the IWCM Review Background Paper. Forecast.ID is currently updating the long-term population forecasts for the Tweed.
The current IWCM Strategy follows a traditional IWCM approach and Council will struggle to identify, assess and implement integrated water management solutions if the various departments keep working in isolation	4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28	Some examples of inter-departmental cooperation are provided in the IWCM Review Background Paper. The IWCM review will determine the extent to which additional integration is required and recommend strategies to implement this.
There is a need for Integrated Water Solutions to Tweed's Water Management	2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28	The IWCM Review will develop future strategies for integrated water management.
Energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions should be considered in selection of options.	1, 5	These considerations will be included in the IWCM Review.
Concern about the effects of climate change	1	Climate change implications will be considered in the IWCM Review.
<i>Potable Water Supply</i>		
The IWCM information provided by the Tweed Shire Council makes little mention of the extensive community consultation of the Tweed District Water Supply Augmentation Project, completed in March 2010.	1	Appendix B of the IWCM Review Background Paper provides a summary of consultation undertaken to date including Community Working Group process and feedback.
Tweed Shire Council vehicles have been observed drawing Tweed drinking water supplies to provide dust reduction on new earthworks. This might be a source of unaccounted water lost.	1	As part of the demand management program, Council plans to review standpipe use and target unauthorised use.

Feedback Provided	Submissions	Response/Recommendation for IWCM Review
Opposed to building of a new dam	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28	The extent to which demand management and source substitution options can meet the predicted supply deficit will be a key consideration in the IWCM Review. Source augmentation and new sources of water will also be considered.
Concerned about sale of water to bottled water companies.	11	Access to water supplies is subject to the Water Sharing Plan and apart from town water supplies is beyond Council's control.
Dirty water events should be defined in relation to Uki WTP	1	This issue is discussed in the IWCM Review Background Paper (Issue 15: manganese, iron, blue-green algae). Drinking water catchment management will be considered in the IWCM Review.
Accuracy of demand management strategy is questionable and independent review needed.	3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28	The IWCM Review Background Paper has provided information on current demand and management measures as well as updated forecasts of future water supply demand (Issue 13) Forecast.ID is currently updating the long-term population forecasts for the Tweed and these will be used in future demand forecasts. The IWCM Review will consider whether other demand management or source substitution measures are appropriate.
Coastal sands groundwater supplies occur on Tweed coast	1	Groundwater supplies will be considered in the IWCM Review.
<i>Waterway/Catchment Management</i>		
Concern about nutrient loads to Terranora and Cobaki Broadwaters.	1, 5, 6	This is being addressed through the coastal zone management planning process. The IWCM review will ensure appropriate synergies between relevant Council programs.
Concern that 2012 Tweed River Health Report has been carried out, but has been not been made available for public scrutiny	1	The report in question is not being prepared by TSC.
Concern about use of pesticides and herbicides near waterways.	3, 6	Catchment management will be considered in the IWCM Review.
Support for LEP controls for drinking water catchments	1, 3, 5	Drinking water catchment management will be considered in the IWCM Review.
Concern about cattle access to waterways within the drinking water catchment	1, 3, 5, 6, 11	Drinking water catchment management will be considered in the IWCM Review.
Concern about camphor laurel trees	11	Catchment management will be considered in the IWCM Review.

Feedback Provided	Submissions	Response/Recommendation for IWCM Review
Concern about protection of fish populations	11	Catchment management will be considered in the IWCM Review.
Need for river bank stabilisation works	11	Catchment management will be considered in the IWCM Review.
Concern about uncontrolled drainage from public roads and private access roads within the drinking water catchment	1	Drinking water catchment management will be considered in the IWCM Review.
High tides overtop the Bray Park weir	1	Saltwater intrusion into Bray Park weir pool is not currently an issue. However, sea level rise implications will be considered in the IWCM Review.
The focus of IWCM programs and activities should continue to be on those areas providing Tweed's drinking water catchment supply to Bray Park Weir and the Tyalgum Water Treatment Plant catchment.	1	Drinking water catchment management will be considered in the IWCM Review.
Support for total catchment approach	5	Catchment management will be considered in the IWCM Review.
<i>Biosolids Management</i>		
More information on costs and biosolids management should be provided to the community.	1	Biosolids management will be considered in the IWCM Review.
<i>New developments</i>		
Support for recycled water in new developments.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28	The feasibility of dual reticulation and future requirements will be considered in the IWCM Review.
A new attitude and emphasis on WSUD and ESD for new developments is a priority by both Planning & Water Department Staff	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28	WSUD and ESD will be key considerations in the IWCM Review.
An independent new cost analysis of recycled water for new urban developments should be commissioned	2, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28	The IWCM review will include information on recycled water schemes from other areas and their costs and recommend additional investigation if required.
There is a need for Council to adopt a new approach in urban design and this could be integrated with storm water capture ponds for reuse, providing recreational garden/lake space, rather than run off into our rivers.	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28	Stormwater management will be a key consideration in the IWCM Review.
5,000L tanks should be mandated in DA approvals. Larger tanks of 10,000L are preferable to 5,000L. Rebates should be considered.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28	Rainwater tanks will be a key consideration in the IWCM Review.

Feedback Provided	Submissions	Response/Recommendation for IWCM Review
With integrated solutions of recycling water and stormwater capture, and tanks this would solve the problem of water supply and contribute to a healthy river ecosystem.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28	The extent to which demand management and source substitution options can meet the predicted supply deficit will be a key consideration in the IWCM Review. Source augmentation and new sources of water will also be considered.

Tweed Integrated Water Cycle Management Review – Fact Sheet



Six Yearly Review of Tweed's Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy

Council has engaged local consultants Hydrosphere Consulting to undertake a review of the Integrated Water Cycle Management (IWCM) Strategy to determine its long-term future direction. Due consideration will be given to the current or emerging challenges facing Council, as well as the community desires for future water cycle management.

The IWCM Strategy adopted by Council in 2006 - and reviewed in 2009 and 2011 - is the strategic plan which has guided and prioritised actions regarding Council's management of the urban water supply, sewerage and stormwater systems for the last six years.

While this independent review is partly driven by current state government guidelines, future challenges and Council's desire to maximise an integrated approach necessitate this major review. Council aims to maximise the benefit of the IWCM process by ensuring the strategy is appropriate and cost-effective, the community is fully engaged and that all aspects of the Shire's water resources are considered. The aim of the review is to ensure that Council policy keeps pace with changing circumstances and new information through a process of continual review.

Current Progress

Hydrosphere Consulting has produced an IWCM Review Background Paper which provides information on the current IWCM Strategy (and its evolution), along with the actions already undertaken and their success. The background paper also discusses current issues and potential future direction for the IWCM Strategy for consideration by the community and other stakeholders.

Copies of the background paper and fact sheets can be viewed at Council Contact Centres or downloaded from Council's website www.tweed.nsw.gov.au (go to "Our Services", then "Water and Wastewater" and then "Integrated Water Cycle Management").

Integrated Water Cycle Management Review - Fact Sheet

Next Steps

Consultation activities to be undertaken as part of this IWCM Review aim to build on the activities already undertaken by Council as part of the IWCM implementation actions. The objectives of the next consultation phase are to engage the wider community in the IWCM review and establish the community priorities for water cycle management. The community engagement activities will focus on:

- Provision of information on the current status of the IWCM Strategy and the issues to be addressed in the IWCM review (the Background Paper);
- Identification of community priorities through a community survey; and
- Promotion of the project and engagement activities to the wider community and interest groups.

The background paper and feedback from the community and other stakeholders will be used to develop water cycle management objectives. These will be used in the IWCM Strategy to prioritise the water cycle management issues and develop strategies to address them. A series of options will be developed to address the issues and then bundled into scenarios that can be compared to the water cycle management objectives and assessed according to their benefits and costs.

Have Your Say

Members of the community are encouraged to get involved in the process, to help guide the creation of the future IWCM Strategy. To provide your views on the IWCM priorities for the Tweed, complete the quick on-line survey (accessed from Council's website). Hard copies of the survey can also be obtained from Council offices and posted to:

Tweed IWCM Strategy Review
Jetty Research
Reply Paid 1555
Coffs Harbour NSW 2450

The survey period closes 12 December 2012.

All survey respondents will go in the draw to win one of two iPads (valued at approx. \$500 each) or their equivalent value in shopping vouchers.

(NSW Lottery Permit Number LTPM/12/00219)

The community will also be invited to provide feedback on the IWCM Strategy during future stages of the project when the IWCM Strategy goes on public exhibition next year.

In parallel to the surveys, Jetty Research is conducting a telephone survey on behalf of Council, and residents may also be contacted and asked to contribute through this process.

Current Timeframe

November/December 2012: Engagement period for community input into development of the Strategy.

January – March 2013: Strategy development by Hydrosphere Consulting.

April – May 2013: Public exhibition of draft IWCM Strategy.

June – July 2013: Finalisation of IWCM Strategy.

August 2013: Council considers IWCM Strategy for adoption and implementation.

August – October 2013: Community roadshows to explain and promote IWCM Strategy outcomes.

Stay informed

If you would like to be kept informed of water updates and progress you may wish to sign up to our Interested Parties Register by emailing a request to waterTSC@tweed.nsw.gov.au.



Monday 12 November 2012

Have your say on Tweed's future water management strategy

Complete the online survey for your chance to win one of two iPads

Tweed Shire Council is inviting residents, businesses and other interested parties to contribute their views to the region's future water strategy – and offering them the chance to win one of two iPads (or \$500 shopping vouchers).

Online, paper and telephone surveys are currently being utilised to explore the community's views in regards to establishing future priorities for the Tweed's long-term water cycle management. The online version of the survey is available now on Council's website.

Council is seeking the feedback as it embarks on a major review of its Integrated Water Cycle Management (IWCM) Strategy.

The community has previously provided valuable input into key water issues for the Tweed. Council's Director Community and Natural Resources, David Oxenham, said that this major review will consider the current or emerging challenges facing Council as well as the community priorities for future water cycle management.

"The future IWCM Strategy will seek to enhance the natural linkages between the water and wastewater businesses and the natural resource and land management responsibilities of Council," Mr Oxenham said.

"This will ensure that the outcomes from this project are highly specific to the local issues, processes and community expectations."

The Integrated Water Cycle Management (IWCM) Strategy adopted by Council in 2006 - and reviewed in 2009 and 2011 - is the strategic plan which has guided and prioritised actions regarding Council's management of the urban water supply, sewerage and stormwater systems for the past six years.

"Council aims to maximise the benefit of the IWCM process by ensuring the strategy is appropriate and cost-effective, the community is engaged, and that all aspects of the Tweed's water resources are considered," Mr Oxenham said.

Hydrosphere Consulting has produced an IWCM Review Background Paper which provides information on the current IWCM Strategy (and its evolution), along with the actions already undertaken and their success. The Background Paper also discusses current issues and potential future direction for the IWCM Strategy for consideration by the community and other stakeholders.

Members of the community are encouraged to get involved in the process to help guide the creation of the future IWCM Strategy by completing a survey to help Council identify community priorities for future water cycle management. A link to the survey is available on the home page of Council's website www.tweed.nsw.gov.au. All survey respondents will go in the draw to win one of two iPADS (valued at approx. \$500 each) or their equivalent value in shopping vouchers.

The survey period closes 12 December 2012.

Further information on the IWCM Review can be viewed at Council's Customer Contact Centres and Council's website www.tweed.nsw.gov.au. Click on 'Our Services', then 'Water and Wastewater' and the 'Integrated Water Cycle Management'.

- ends -

Win an iPad or \$500 in shopping vouchers in time for Christmas

Survey poses the big questions about the Tweed's future water management

Want to win an iPad or \$500 in shopping vouchers for Christmas? Then make sure you fill out the Integrated Water Cycle Management (IWCM) survey, which closes at midnight on Wednesday, 12 December 2012.

Council has two iPads to give away, or their equivalent in \$500 shopping vouchers.

"Council is surveying Tweed residents and businesses about the Tweed Shire's future water cycle management priorities and is hoping for input from as many residents as possible," Mayor of Tweed, Councillor Barry Longland said.

"Here's an opportunity to win an iPad or shopping vouchers in time for Christmas and have your say on the future of water management in the Tweed at the same time.

"The survey poses some big questions about water in the Tweed, querying respondents about their thoughts on water restrictions, water quality, water pricing and the use of recycled water,"

"One very topical question posed in the survey is whether it is more important to reduce water usage or increase water availability.

"Water management is a complex topic, however this survey manages to break it down to simple questions we can all answer by choosing a response from one of the options provided."

Council is seeking the feedback as it embarks on a major review of its IWCM Strategy. This major review will consider the current or emerging challenges facing Council, as well as the community priorities for future water cycle management.

The Integrated Water Cycle Management (IWCM) Strategy adopted by Council in 2006 - and reviewed in 2009 and 2011 - is the strategic plan which has guided and prioritised actions regarding Council's management of the urban water supply, sewerage and stormwater systems for the past six years.

Council aims to maximise the benefit of the IWCM process by ensuring the strategy is appropriate and cost-effective, the community is engaged, and that all aspects of the Tweed's water resources are considered.

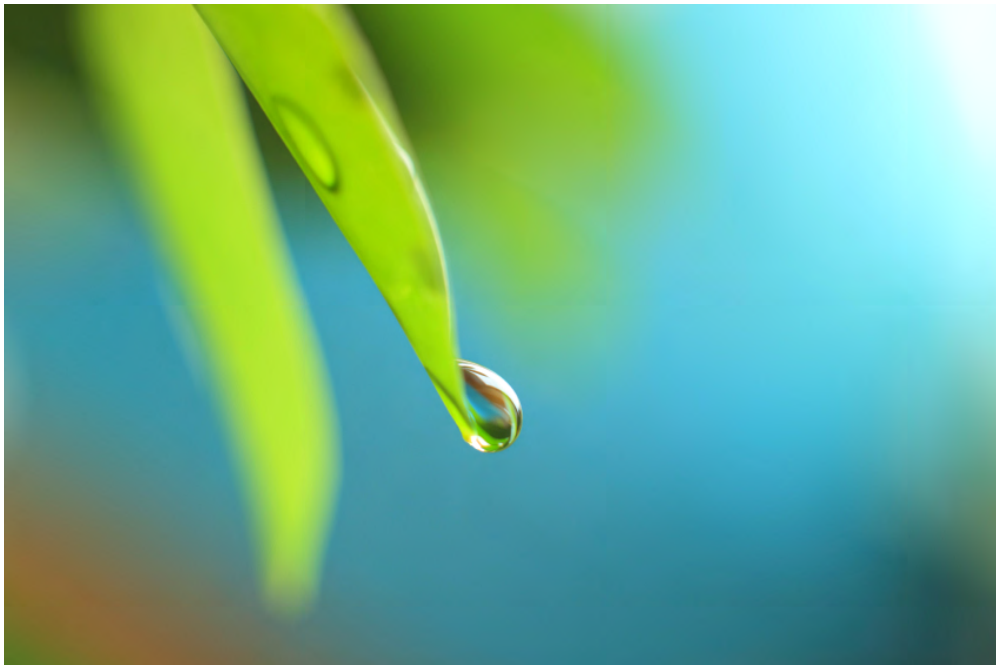
The survey and more information about IWCM is available from the link on the home page of Council's website www.tweed.nsw.gov.au and hard copies are available from Council offices at Murwillumbah and Tweed Heads.

The survey is being conducted by Council's consultants Hydrosphere and Jetty Consulting, who will receive all completed surveys and conduct the iPad draw. An independent phone survey of Tweed residents has already been completed.

- ends -



A random telephone survey of Tweed Shire residents regarding the 2013 integrated water cycle management (IWCM) strategy



A representative fixed line telephone survey of 616 Tweed Shire adult residents conducted by Jetty Research for Hydrosphere Consulting, on behalf of Tweed Shire Council

FINAL REPORT dated February 5th 2013



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Executive summary

A random fixed line telephone survey of Tweed Shire residents was commissioned in late 2012 by Tweed Shire Council (TSC), as part of a broader deliberation process surrounding the shire's integrated water cycle management (IWCM) six-year plan. More specifically, survey questions were designed to seek representative community feedback on issues raised in the "Six Year Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy review" background paper, prepared by Hydrosphere Consulting and dated October 2012. See Appendix 1 for copy of final questionnaire.

The survey, of 616 adult residents, was conducted in November 2012 by Jetty Research using a team of 12 researchers. The survey was entirely random, other than seeking regional quotas to ensure adequate representation from across the shire. See "Methodology" (pages 7-8) for further details.

Random sampling error for a survey of 616 adult residents was +/- 3.9 per cent at the 95 per cent confidence level: this means in effect that were the same random survey to be conducted 20 times, result should be representative of all Tweed Shire adult residents to within +/- 3.9 per cent in 19 of those 20 surveys. (See sampling error, pages 8-9, for further details.)

Among the survey's major conclusions:

1. 30 per cent of respondents were concerned "a lot" about the Tweed Shire's ability to meet its water needs in the medium- to long-term, while a further 31 per cent were concerned "a little". However 59 per cent of respondents agreed that the Tweed community as a whole had made serious efforts over the past three years to reduce daily water use.
2. Some 66 per cent of respondents believed they used less water than the average Tweed Valley household, while just 9 per cent felt they used more. (The balance believed they were about on average.) Only 11 per cent of those surveyed were able to name (unprompted) the 180 litre per person per day target for average daily water use.
3. On the question of whether Council should focus its activities more on reducing water usage or increasing availability, the majority of residents favoured a balanced approach. However the mean score of 4.66 (on a 0-10 scale, with midpoint of 5) suggested a very slight bias towards reducing usage.
4. When asked to nominate which of six water supply factors were most important to them personally, respondents focused firstly on ensuring a continuous supply of drinking water. This was followed by maximizing stormwater and wastewater re-use, then maintaining the natural environment in river and catchment areas, and encouraging households to reduce their water consumption. Encouraging commercial properties and industries to reduce consumption, and protecting waterways for recreational use were deemed of (relatively) less importance.
5. Residents were unequivocal in their belief that even if it could be treated to drinking quality prior to reaching their taps, source water needed to be clean and of high quality. Some 81 per cent felt this was "very important", with a further 16 per cent deeming it "quite important".
6. In terms of how important it was to conserve water when dams were full, respondents came down heavily in support of saving water even in times of plenty. The mean score of 7.53 (again on a 0-10 scale, with zero signifying "use as much water as we like when dams are full" and ten being "save as much water as possible at all times") indicates a strong water conservation ethos.

7. 69 per cent of residents agreed that it was appropriate to introduce water restrictions when dam levels fell to 75 per cent, while 26 per cent believed they should be introduced sooner.
8. Among five possible funding initiatives for Council, protecting the water supply was the most popular choice (nominated by 41 per cent of respondents), followed by protecting natural habitat and water quality (31 per cent) and improving the quality of treated water water/urban stormwater runoff (19 per cent). Conversely, only 4 per cent classed protecting water quality for swimming, boating and fishing as their major funding priority for council.
9. As to which of four prompted water-saving initiatives respondents would prefer to see Council allocate resources towards, opinion was almost evenly divided among: more household rebates for water saving devices; construction of another drinking water supply; greater use of recycled water; and behavioural change/further education.
10. There was widespread support for three prompted alternative water sources. Some 93 per cent supported using rainwater from residential tanks for toilet, laundry and outdoor taps, while 89 per cent agreed with the use of locally harvested stormwater, and 66 per cent were supportive of treated wastewater or sewage for these purposes.
11. Asked whether recycled water supplied to their house should cost more or less than, or the same as the current supply price of \$2.05 per kilolitre, 50 per cent believed it should cost less. A further 37 per cent felt it should cost the same, while only 7 per cent believed it should cost more.
12. 73 per cent of those surveyed believed that farmers and council should share the burden of maintaining the health of rivers and other waterways within rural/agricultural areas of the Tweed shire, while only 25 per cent felt Council (i.e. ratepayers) should pay solely for this.
13. Likewise, 63 per cent agreed that property owners and council should jointly pay for maintaining the health of rivers and other waterways within urban areas, with 32 per cent believing Council/ratepayers should shoulder this burden on their own.
14. 76 per cent of respondents agreed that the current two-tiered system of residential water pricing is fair, while just 22 per cent believed all households should pay the same rate per kilolitre regardless of usage.



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Managing Director
February 5th 2013



Introduction

Background

The 2012 Tweed Shire Council Integrated Water Cycle Management (IWCM) telephone survey, commissioned by managing consultants Hydrosphere Consulting, was a random fixed line telephone poll of 616 Tweed Shire residents aged 18 and above. It was designed to provide representative community input into a review of the shire's IWCM six-year plan.

Council's IWCM strategy (originally adopted in 2006, and then updated in 2009 and 2011) has guided its management of the urban water supply, sewerage and stormwater systems for the past six years. Council is now conducting a major six-year review of the IWCM to ensure its long-term direction remains appropriate. This telephone survey was designed to provide one form of input to that process, by seeking a statistically valid expression of resident views and knowledge relating to different aspects of water cycle management.

Methodology

Survey content was based largely around the "Six Year Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy Review" background paper, written by Hydrosphere Consulting in collaboration with Tweed Shire Council (TSC) and dated October 2012. The intent of the telephone survey was to seek representative community feedback to key issues raised in that background paper, in a format accessible to the general public. See Appendix 1 for actual survey questions.

Sampling frame for the survey was 4,375 valid and randomly generated residential telephone numbers, sourced from all Tweed Shire postcodes. The list was uploaded from Sampleworx, which supplies postcode-specific lists of randomised valid telephone numbers to many market and social research suppliers.

The survey was piloted for length, clarity etc. on the evening of Thursday November 8th 2012, using a team of five researchers.

Following a successful pilot, polling commenced on Monday November 12th. A team of 12 researchers called Tweed Shire residents from 3.30-7.30 pm each afternoon/evening (Monday to Thursday). Surveying was completed on Tuesday, November 20th 2012.

Those completing a survey were eligible to win one of two iPads, or the equivalent value (\$500) in shopping gift cards.

Potential respondents too busy to complete a survey when first contacted were offered specified callback times in order to maximise their willingness and ability to participate. Likewise, numbers that were engaged, not answered or diverted to answering machines were called up to five times at different phases of the afternoon and evening.

The survey sample was entirely random other than ensuring an adequate representation across each of three geographic areas within the Tweed Shire – defined as "Tweed Coast (north of Tweed River)", Tweed Coast (south of Tweed River)" and "Hinterland".



Potential respondents were screened to ensure they were aged 18-plus, and lived within the Tweed Shire. In all 616 interviews were conducted. Interview time ranged from 8 to 29 minutes, with an average of 13.3 minutes.

Of eligible households successfully reached, 41 per cent agreed to complete a survey.

Due to the nature of the survey, not all respondents answered all questions. The number answering each question is marked as “n = XXX” in the graph accompanying the relevant data. Care needs to be taken in extrapolating results from smaller sample sizes due to high levels of random sampling error.

Where differences in this report (e.g. by demographic grouping) are classed as significant, this implies they are statistically significant based on independent sample t-scores or other analysis of variation (or ANOVA) calculations. In statistical terms, significant differences are unlikely to have been caused by chance alone. In tables, statistically significant differences are typically shaded blue (above mean) and pink (below mean).

Where a graph title denotes “prompted”, this means that the respondent was offered a series of prompted options.

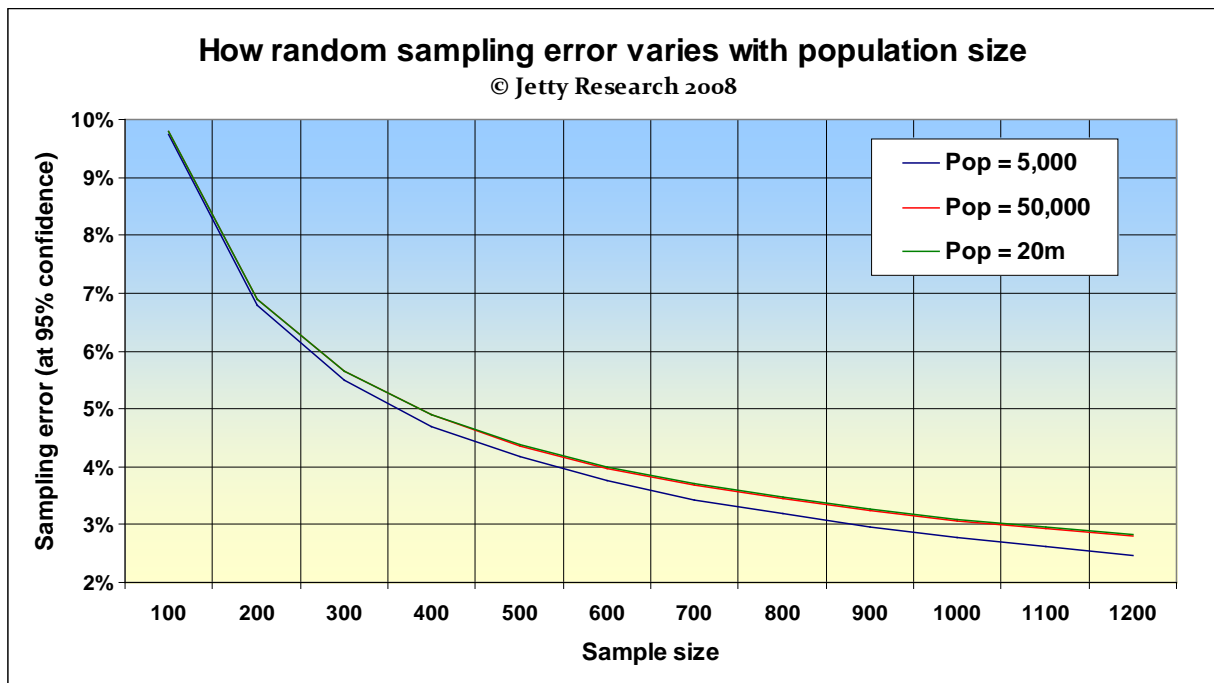
Results have been post-weighted to reflect the demographic breakdown of the Tweed Shire adult population by age and gender (based on ABS 2011 Census data, Usual Resident profile).

Sampling error

There were 33,657 households in the Tweed Shire as at the 2011 ABS Census (Usual Resident Profile). Random sampling error (RSE) for a survey of 616 households is +/- 3.9 per cent at the 95 per cent confidence level. (Effectively this means that were the same random survey to be conducted 20 times, results should be representative of the overall adult Tweed Shire population to within +/- 3.9 per cent in 19 of those 20 surveys.)

Note that sampling error rises as sample sizes fall: see Table i, below. For example, within each of the regional sub-samples (where n = approx. 200), RSE will be +/- 6.9 per cent, again at the 95 per cent confidence level. Care hence needs to be taken in interpreting smaller sample sizes (e.g. those contained within cross-sectional analysis) due to the larger RSE that will apply.

Table i: How sampling error varies with sample and population size



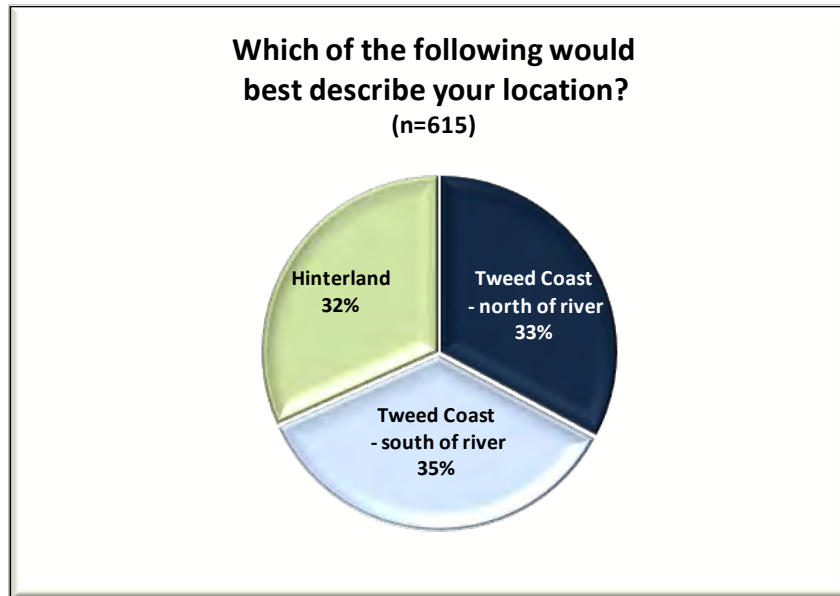
In addition to the random sampling error, above, there may also be some forms of non-random sampling error which may have affected results. These include respondents without fixed line phones, the proportion of non-respondents (refusals, no answers etc.) and/or imperfections in the survey database.

However there is no evidence (at least in terms of significant variances between demographic groups within the survey sample) to suggest that such non-random error has affected the integrity of the following data.

Part 1: Demographics

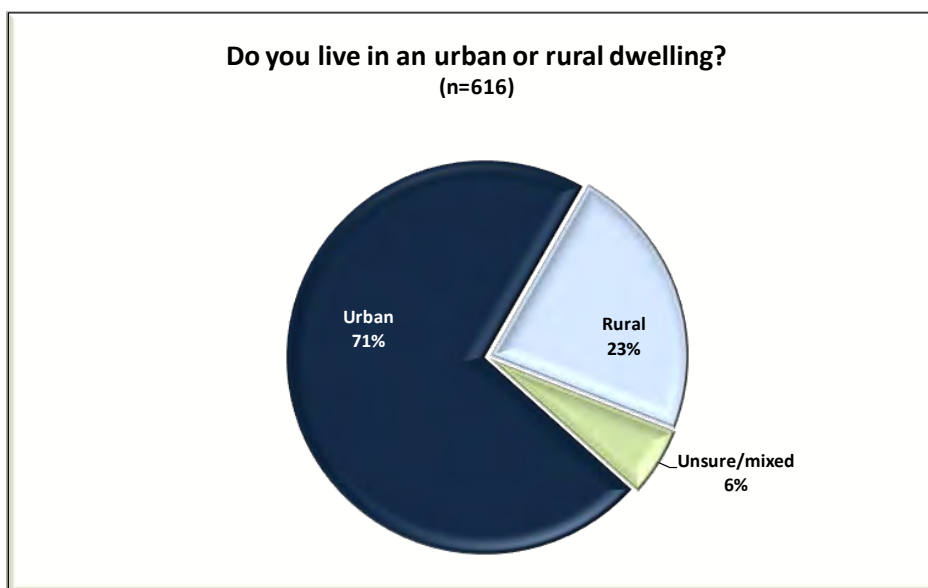
(Note that demographic data is shown in unweighted – i.e. “raw” form – to indicate actual respondent profiles. Data in remaining parts has been weighted by age and gender profiles from the 2011 ABS Census, to reflect the actual population split for Tweed shire residents aged 18 and above. See Appendix 2 for details of weighting process.)

Graph 1.1: Which of the following would best describe your location within the Tweed Shire? (Prompted)



As noted in the introduction, quotas were established during the survey process to ensure an approximately equal representation of respondents from each of three prompted sub-regions.

Graph 1.2: Do you live in an urban or rural environment?



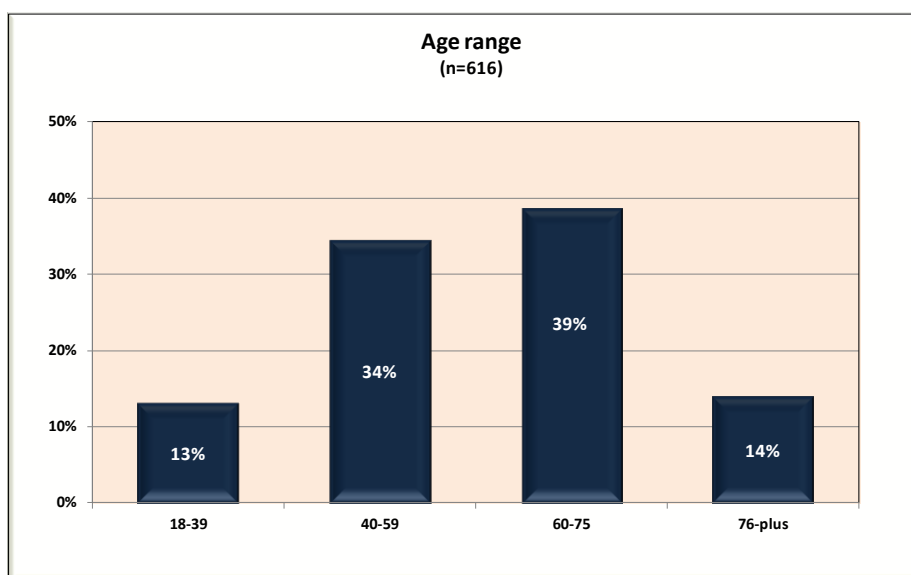
As shown in Graph 1.2, around seven in ten respondents claimed to live in an urban setting. A further 23 per cent resided rurally, with the balance (6 per cent) unsure or in a mixed setting. Breaking this down by location (i.e. sub-region):

Table 1.1: Urban/rural, by location

		Which of the following would best describe your location?			Total
		Tweed Coast - north of river	Tweed Coast - south of river	Hinterland	
Urban/rural setting	Urban	177 87.6%	170 78.0%	93 47.7%	440 71.5%
	Rural	14 6.9%	34 15.6%	92 47.2%	140 22.8%
	Unsure/mixed	11 5.4%	14 6.4%	10 5.1%	35 5.7%
Total		202 100.0%	218 100.0%	195 100.0%	615 100.0%

Half of all respondents classing themselves as “hinterland” lived in a rural setting. This compares with just 7 per cent of those on the Tweed Coast north of the river, and 16 per cent of Tweed Coast/south of river residents.

Graph 1.3: Age range



The survey sample was skewed slightly to older residents, as is common in all random fixed line telephone surveys¹. This bias has been addressed through the post-weighting of data by age and gender to meet the shire’s actual population profile.

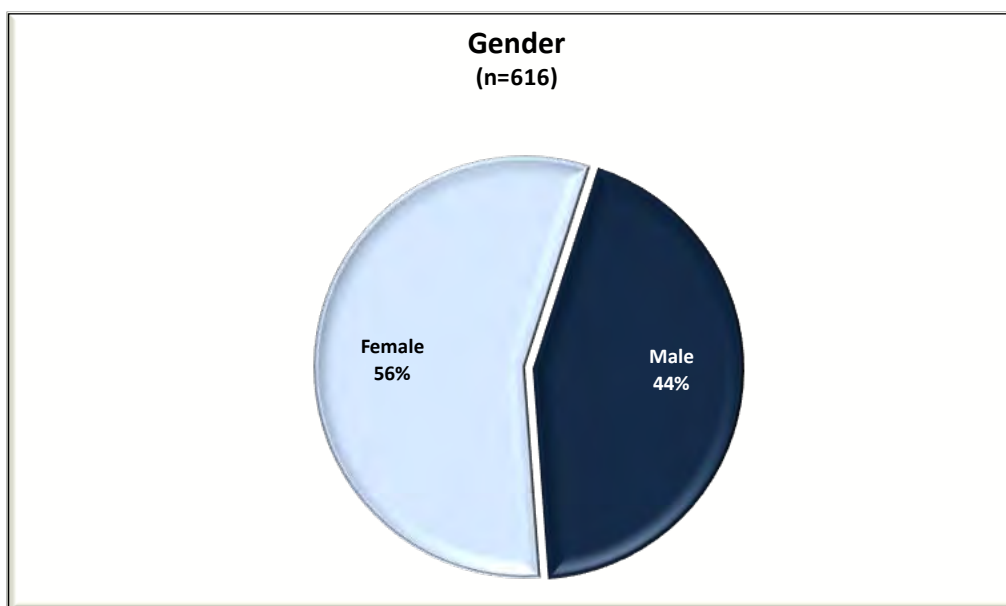
¹ This is due largely to older respondents having (a) a higher incidence of fixed line residential telephones; combined with (b) a greater willingness (in general terms) to undertake community-based surveys.

Table 1.2: Location by age

		Age				Total
		18-39	40-59	60-75	76-plus	
Which of the following would best describe your location?	Tweed Coast - north of river	20 25.0%	56 26.4%	91 38.4%	35 41.2%	202 32.9%
	Tweed Coast - south of river	28 35.0%	74 34.9%	80 33.8%	35 41.2%	217 35.3%
	Hinterland	32 40.0%	82 38.7%	66 27.8%	15 17.6%	195 31.8%
Total		80 100.0%	212 100.0%	237 100.0%	85 100.0%	614 100.0%

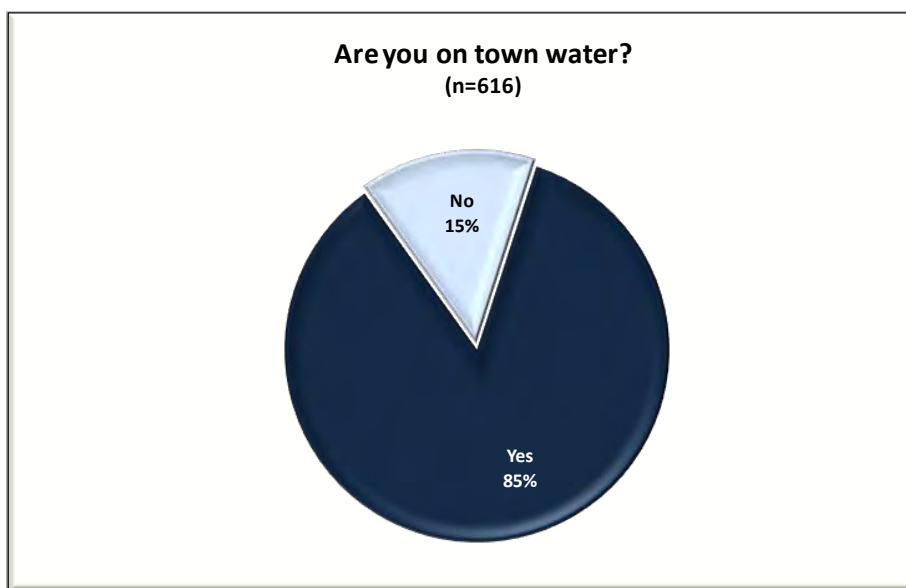
Table 1.2 suggests that older residents were (proportionately) more likely to live on the Tweed Coast, while younger residents (i.e. those aged less than 60) were more likely to be found in the Tweed hinterland.

Graph 1.4: Gender

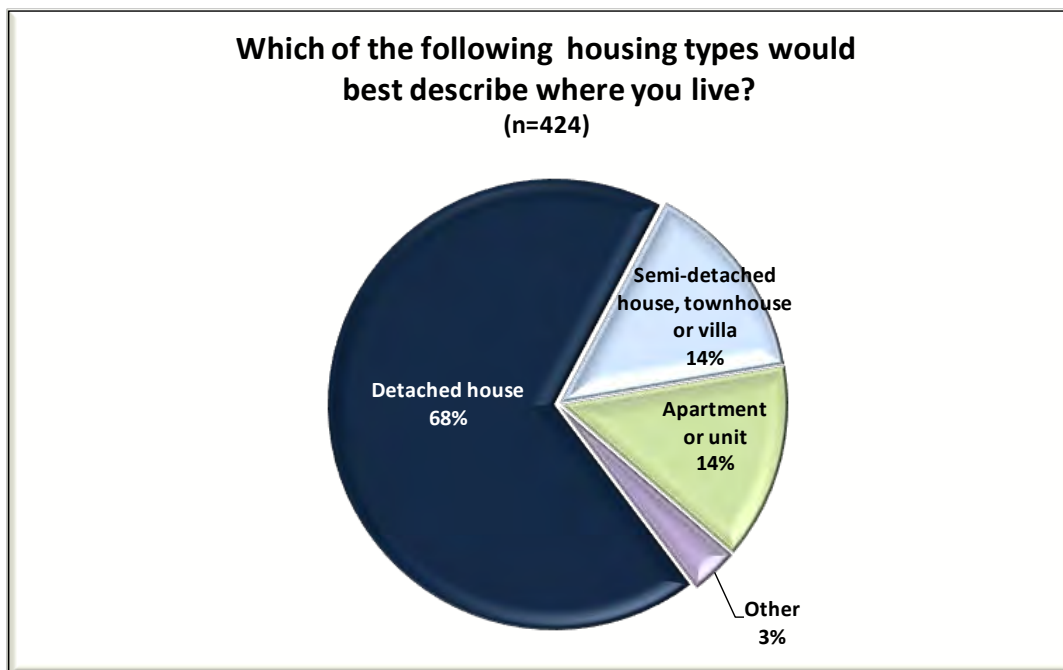


There was a relatively even gender split among respondents, with females making up 56 per cent of the sample.

Graph 1.5: Are you on town water?



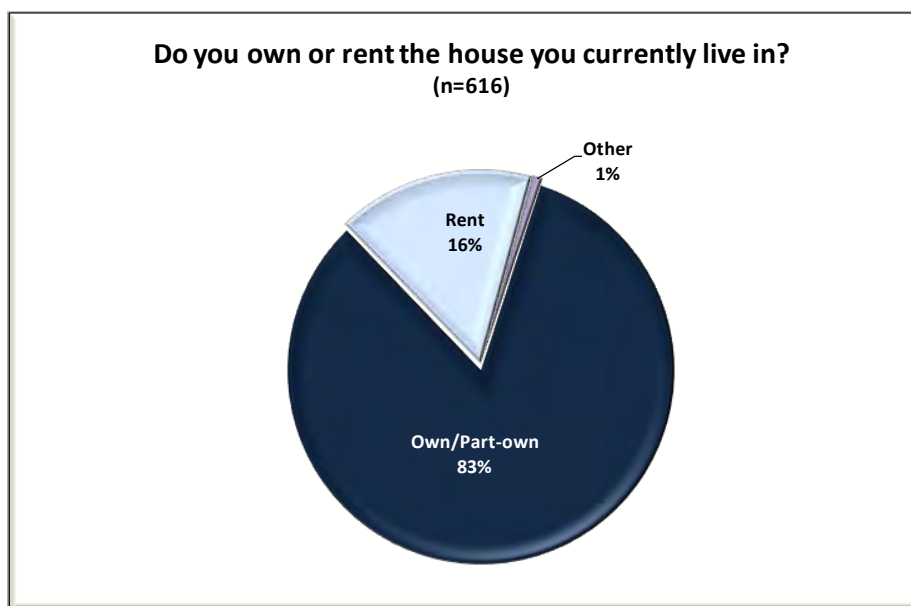
Graph 1.6: Which of the following housing types best describe where you live?



Some 85 per cent of respondents were on town water, which is consistent with the largely urban profile shown in Graph 1.2. Also unsurprisingly, 68 per cent of respondents lived in detached houses (Graph 1.6) with a further 14 per cent each in semi-detached housing or apartments.²

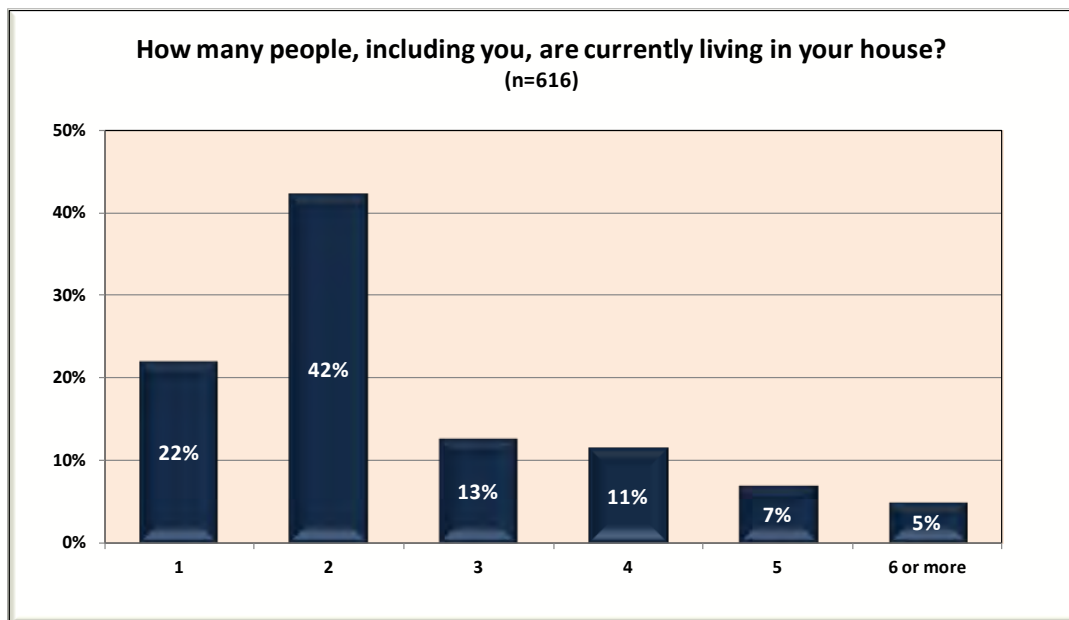
² This compares with 65 per cent of Tweed Shire dwellings being detached housing according to 2011 ABS Census data

Graph 1.7: Do you own or rent the house you live in?



Five in six respondents (83 per cent) owned or part-owned their house, with the balance renting.³

Graph 1.8: How many people, including yourself, live in your house?

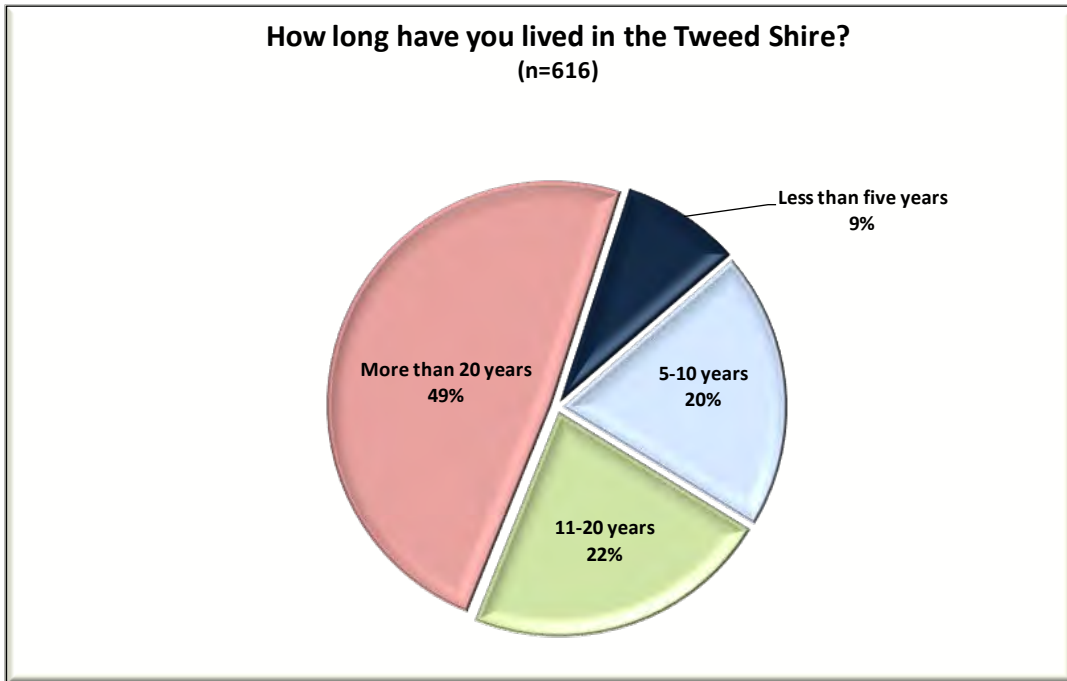


The average number of respondents per household was 2.83, with a median and mode of two residents. Meanwhile 36 per cent of respondent households had three or more residents.⁴

³ This compares with 2011 Census data suggesting that 70 per cent of Tweed shire households are owner-occupied

⁴ Against 33 per cent of Tweed Shire households in 2011 Census data

Graph 1.9: How long have you lived in the Tweed shire?

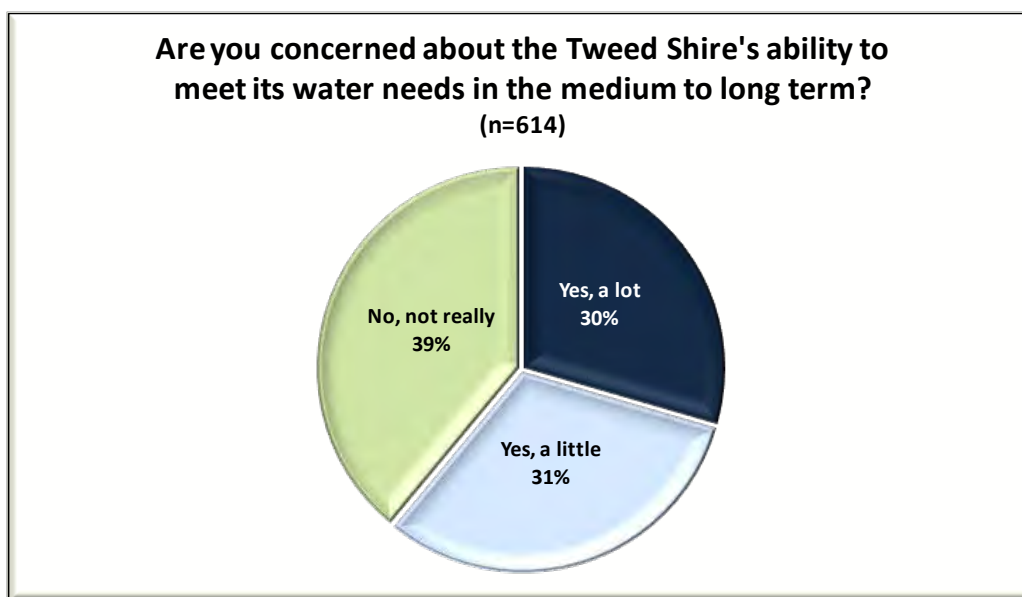


Almost half the sample had lived in the Tweed shire for 20 years or more. While this is not necessarily representative of the overall Tweed shire adult population, it may suggest that many respondents have a longstanding knowledge of - and opinions regarding - past water cycle practices.

Part 2: Introductory attitudes and knowledge

The survey commenced with a series of introductory questions designed to gain a better understanding of respondents' knowledge of, and attitudes regarding a number of water cycle issues:

Graph 2.1: Are you concerned about the Tweed Shire's ability to meet its water needs in the medium to long term? (Prompted)



Three in ten respondents claimed to be very concerned about the Tweed shire's ability to meet its water needs, with a further three in ten slightly concerned.

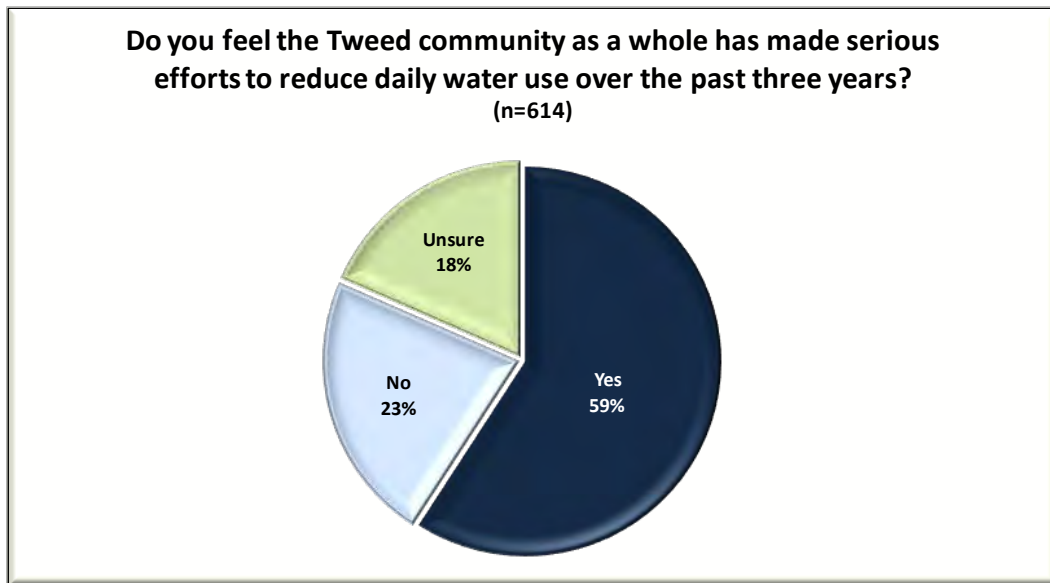
Table 2.1: Concern by age

		Age				Total
		18-39	40-59	60-75	76-plus	
How concerned are you with the shire's ability to meet water needs?	Yes, a lot	31 18.8%	75 34.7%	54 36.2%	20 23.8%	180 29.3%
	Yes, a little	50 30.3%	65 30.1%	51 34.2%	28 33.3%	194 31.6%
	No, not really	84 50.9%	76 35.2%	44 29.5%	36 42.9%	240 39.1%
Total		165 100.0%	216 100.0%	149 100.0%	84 100.0%	614 100.0%

As shown in Table 2.1, concern was highest among those aged 60-75, and lowest among respondents aged 18-39. This may suggest that older residents have longer memories of water supply shortages.

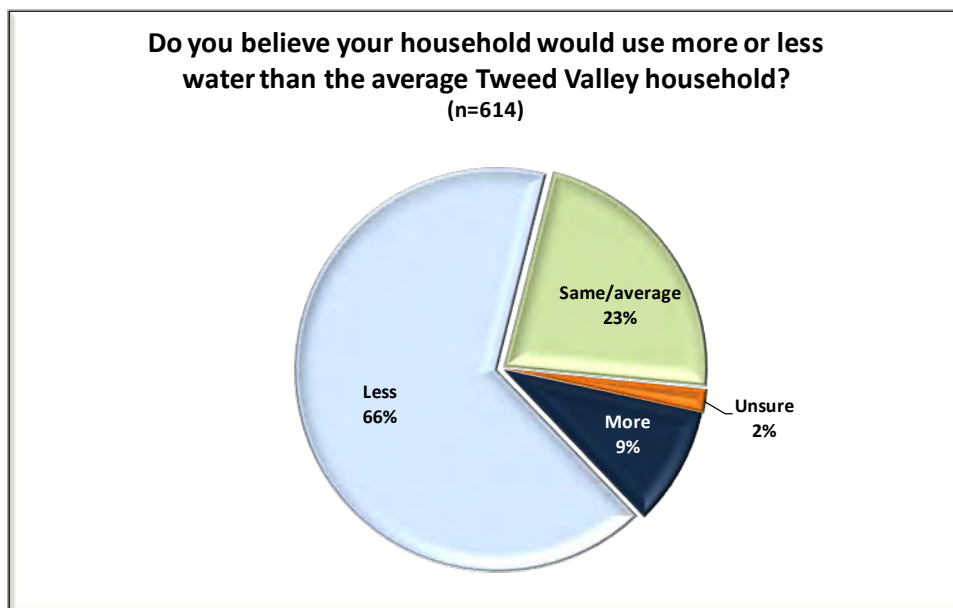
There were no significant differences by gender, location or whether the respondent lived in an urban or rural setting.

Graph 2.2: Do you feel the Tweed community as a whole has made serious efforts to reduce daily water use over the past three years?



The majority of respondents (59 per cent) agreed that the Tweed community had attempted to curtail water usage in recent years. Just 23 per cent felt it had not, with the balance unsure. This result was consistent by most demographic groupings: the exception being that residents living in the shire for 20 or more years were more positive than other respondents about the community’s water-saving efforts.

Graph 2.3: Do you believe your household would use more or less water than the average Tweed Valley household? (Prompted)



Interestingly, two-thirds of respondents believed they used less than the average Tweed shire household, while 23 per cent thought they used about the same. *Only 9 per cent felt they used more average.*

Though this may partially reflect some form of social desirability bias⁵, it also suggests that many households are under-estimating their water consumption – in relative terms at least.

Table 2.3.1: Average household water use by age

		Age				Total
		18-39	40-59	60-75	76-plus	
Do you believe your household uses more or less water than average?	More	25 15.2%	22 10.2%	10 6.7%	2 2.3%	59 9.6%
	Less	94 57.0%	135 62.8%	102 68.5%	74 86.0%	405 65.9%
	Same/average	43 26.1%	54 25.1%	33 22.1%	9 10.5%	139 22.6%
	Unsure	3 1.8%	4 1.9%	4 2.7%	1 1.2%	12 2.0%
Total		165 100.0%	215 100.0%	149 100.0%	86 100.0%	615 100.0%

Table 2.3.1 suggest that younger respondents were most likely to acknowledge that their household used more water than average (albeit at a still modest 15 per cent).

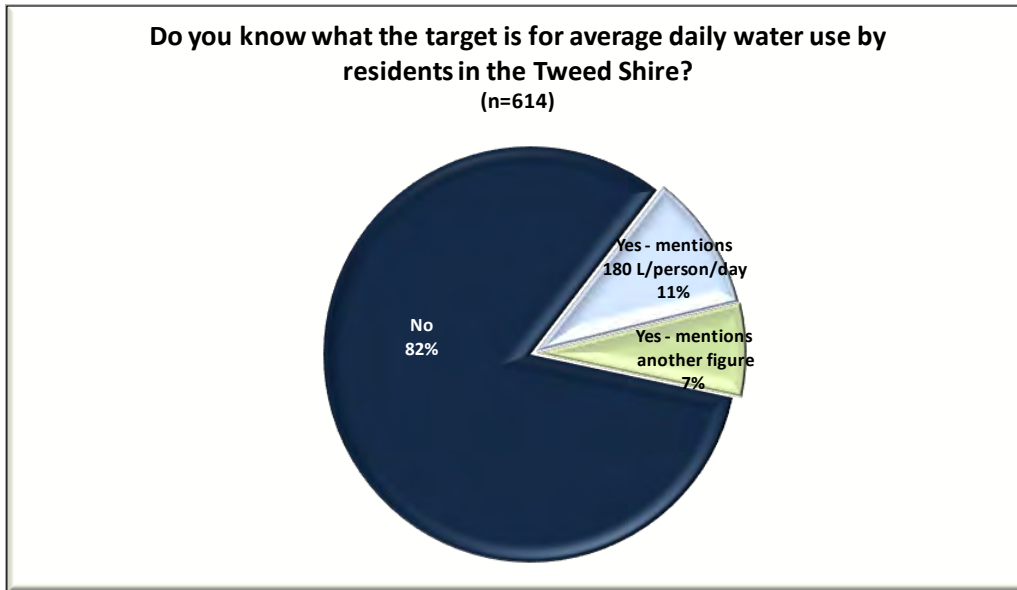
Table 2.3.2: Average household water use by household volume

		Number of residents		Total
		Less than 3 people living in the house	3 or more people living in the house	
Do you believe your household uses more or less water than average?	More	15 4.5%	43 15.2%	58 9.4%
	Less	255 77.0%	151 53.4%	406 66.1%
	Same/average	57 17.2%	82 29.0%	139 22.6%
	Unsure	4 1.2%	7 2.5%	11 1.8%
Total		331 100.0%	283 100.0%	614 100.0%

Intriguingly, over half of respondents living in households with three or more residents still think they use less water than the average household. Only 15 per cent believe they use more.

⁵ By which respondents attempt to impress the interviewer with their answers, and/or portray themselves in the most favourable light.

Graph 2.4: Do you know what the target is for average daily water use by residents in the Tweed Shire? (unprompted)



As suggested in Graph 2.4, there is very little awareness among the community of the 180 litres per person per day target. Over 80 per cent of respondents said they didn't know the target, and just 11 per cent correctly nominated the 180 litre target.

There were no significant differences in knowledge by age, gender or location.

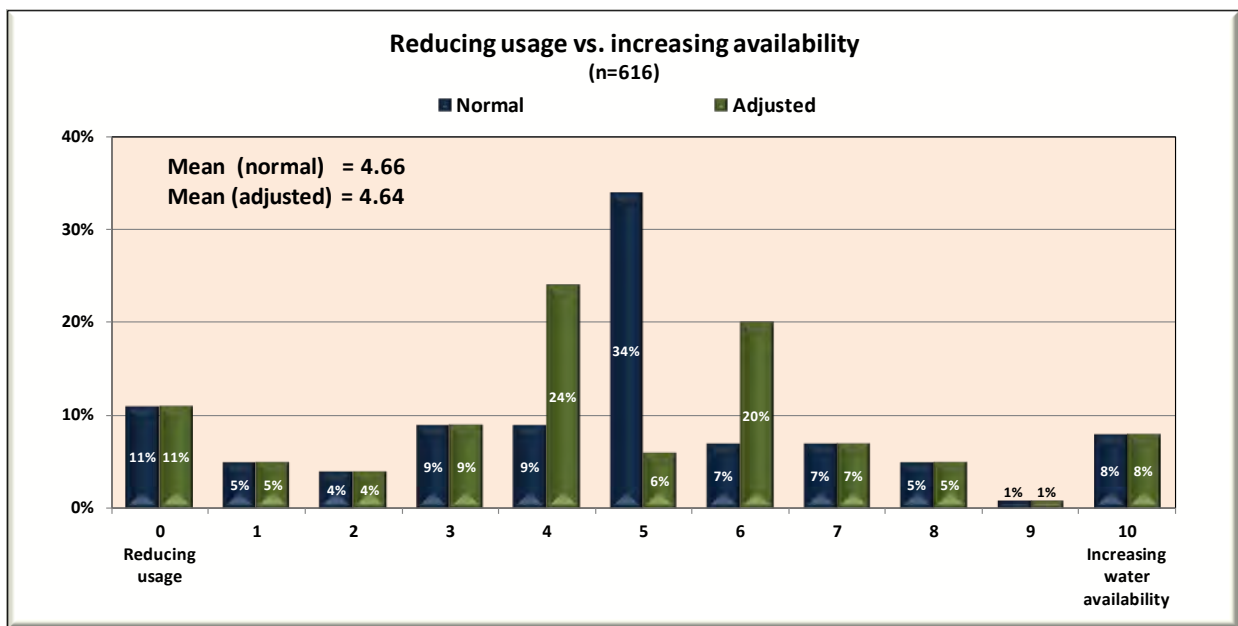
Part 3: Beliefs surrounding water usage and availability issues

The survey included a number of questions designed to test community beliefs surrounding water usage and availability. The first of these asked “Some people believe that ensuring a long-term water supply is mainly about reducing people’s water usage, while others think it’s more about increasing water availability. Where would you sit on a sliding scale of 0-10, where 0 means it should all be about reducing usage, and 10 means it should all be about increasing water availability?”

Those respondents providing a mid-point response (i.e. 5 on the 0-10 scale) were then asked “If you had to come down on one side of the fence or the other, would it be towards reducing usage or increasing water availability?”

The frequency responses are shown in Graph 2.5, below. The “normal” column shows respondents’ initial responses, while the “adjusted” column indicates responses once the mid-point responses were distributed.⁶

Graph 3.1: Where would you sit on a sliding scale of 0-10, where 0 means (focus) should be all about reducing water usage, and 10 means it should be all about increasing water availability?



The findings suggest a wide diversity of views, with the largest proportion of respondents seeking an even balance between supply and demand. Even when asked to fall “one side of the fence or the other”, roughly equal proportions (15 against 13 per cent) fell either side.

Likewise the mean (i.e. average) responses - 4.66 and 4.64 for the normal and adjusted findings respectively – indicate a balanced community view skewed (very) slightly towards reducing usage.

Meanwhile 11 per cent felt the focus should be entirely on reducing consumption, while 8 per cent believed it should be entirely based on increasing supply.

⁶ Note that 6 per cent of respondents providing a mid-point response declined to answer the follow-up question, presumably being unable to decide one way or the other

Table 3.1.1: Reducing usage v increasing availability (mean) by age

Age	Mean	N	Std. Deviation
18-39	4.16	166	2.447
40-59	4.75	216	2.539
60-75	4.93	148	2.980
76-plus	4.90	85	2.890
Total	4.66	615	2.689

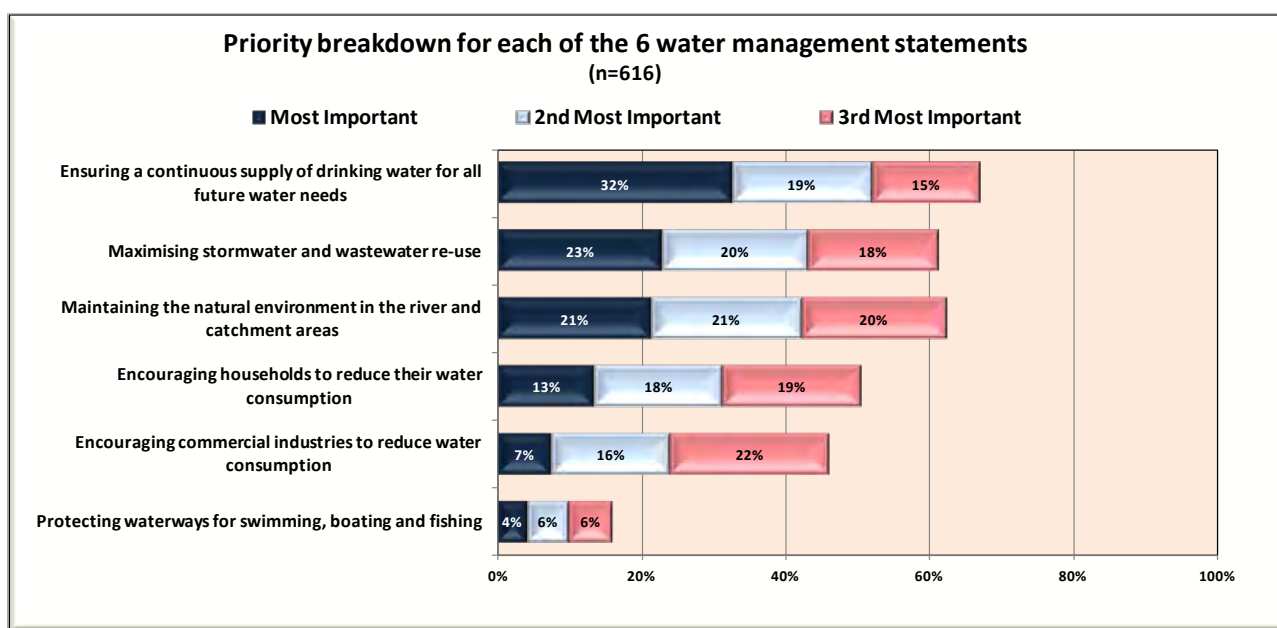
Table 3.1.2: Reducing usage v increasing availability (mean) by location

Location	Mean	N	Std. Deviation
Tweed Coast - north of river	5.14	192	2.827
Tweed Coast - south of river	4.87	217	2.417
Hinterland	4.02	206	2.689
Total	4.66	614	2.679

As shown in Tables 3.1.1 and 3.2.2, there were a number of statistically significant differences in mean score among different demographic groups. In particular, older respondents and those living on the Tweed Coast (north of Tweed River) were most likely to favour increasing availability, while younger residents and those living in the hinterland were more focussed on reducing usage.

In a three-part question, respondents were then read a list of six factors involved in securing a long-term water supply, and asked to progressively nominate which of these were the most, second most and third most important to them personally. The results are shown in Graph 3.2, below:

Graph 3.2: Priority breakdown for each of the six water management factors



Ensuring a continuous supply of drinking water for all future water needs was deemed the most important factor, in both “most important” and overall terms. While maximising stormwater and wastewater re-use ranked second among “most important” factors, maintaining the natural environment in the river and catchment areas was second overall (i.e. in terms of total mentions). Encouraging households to use less water was fourth most popular option, both in terms of first choices and overall nominations.

Table 3.2.1: Priorities by age

	Age				Total
	18-39	40-59	60-75	76-plus	
Ensuring a continuous supply of drinking water for all future water needs	109 66.2%	134 62.4%	112 75.5%	59 69.4%	414
Maintaining the natural environment in the river and catchment areas	105 63.7%	142 65.9%	83 56.0%	51 59.6%	381
Maximising stormwater and wastewater re-use	98 59.5%	126 58.6%	95 63.8%	52 61.7%	371
Protecting waterways for swimming, boating and fishing	31 19.1%	40 18.4%	21 14.2%	12 13.8%	104
Encouraging households to reduce their water consumption	75 45.9%	108 49.9%	75 50.3%	51 59.8%	308
Encouraging commercial properties/industries reduce water consumption	82 49.9%	100 46.2%	63 42.2%	35 41.4%	279
Total	164	216	148	85	613

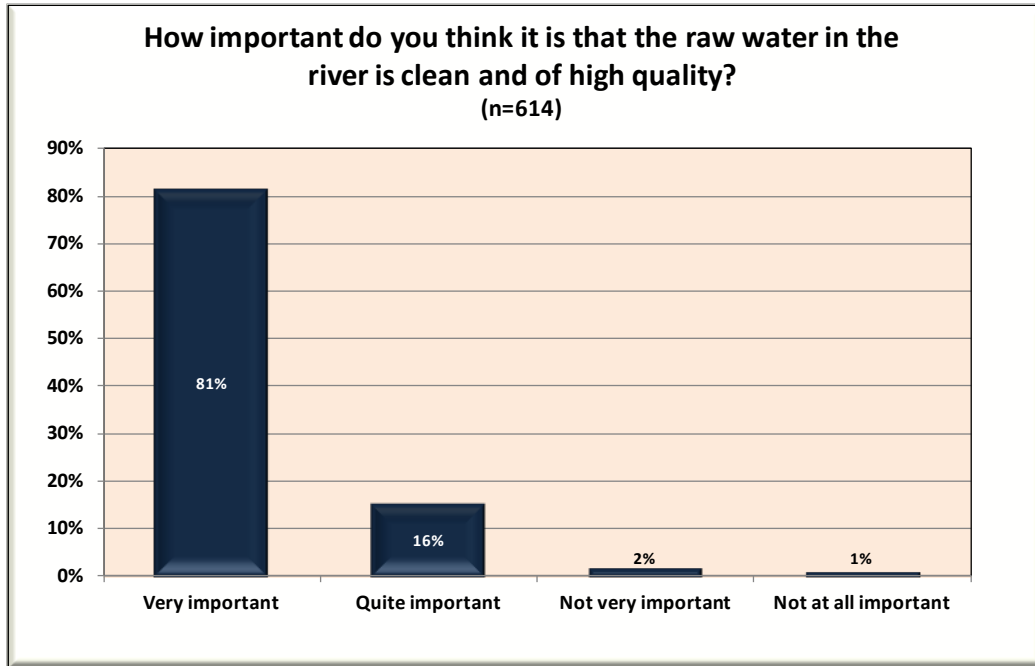
Table 3.2.2: Priorities by rural/urban

	Urban/rural setting			Total
	Urban	Rural	Unsure/ mixed	
Ensuring a continuous supply of drinking water for all future water needs	297 70.3%	92 60.7%	26 64.6%	415
Maintaining the natural environment in the river and catchment areas	255 60.3%	100 65.7%	26 65.3%	381
Maximising stormwater and wastewater re-use	238 56.4%	101 66.3%	32 80.2%	371
Protecting waterways for swimming, boating and fishing	82 19.4%	15 9.8%	7 18.1%	104
Encouraging households to reduce their water consumption	212 50.1%	82 54.0%	16 39.4%	309
Encouraging commercial properties/industries reduce water consumption	197 46.7%	70 46.2%	13 32.5%	280
Total	422	152	40	614

As shown in Table 3.2.1, residents aged 76-plus were more likely to prioritise encouraging households to reduce water consumption than younger age groups. And urban residents were more concerned than their rural counterparts about ensuring a continuous supply of drinking water (Table 3.2.2). Apart from these differences, however, results were remarkably consistent between different groups.

At this point respondents were told that “Water from the Tweed River can be treated to acceptable drinking standard before it reaches your tap”, and asked “However how important do you think it is that the raw water in the river is clean and of high quality?”

Graph 3.3: How important do you think it is that the raw water in the river is clean and of high quality? (prompted)

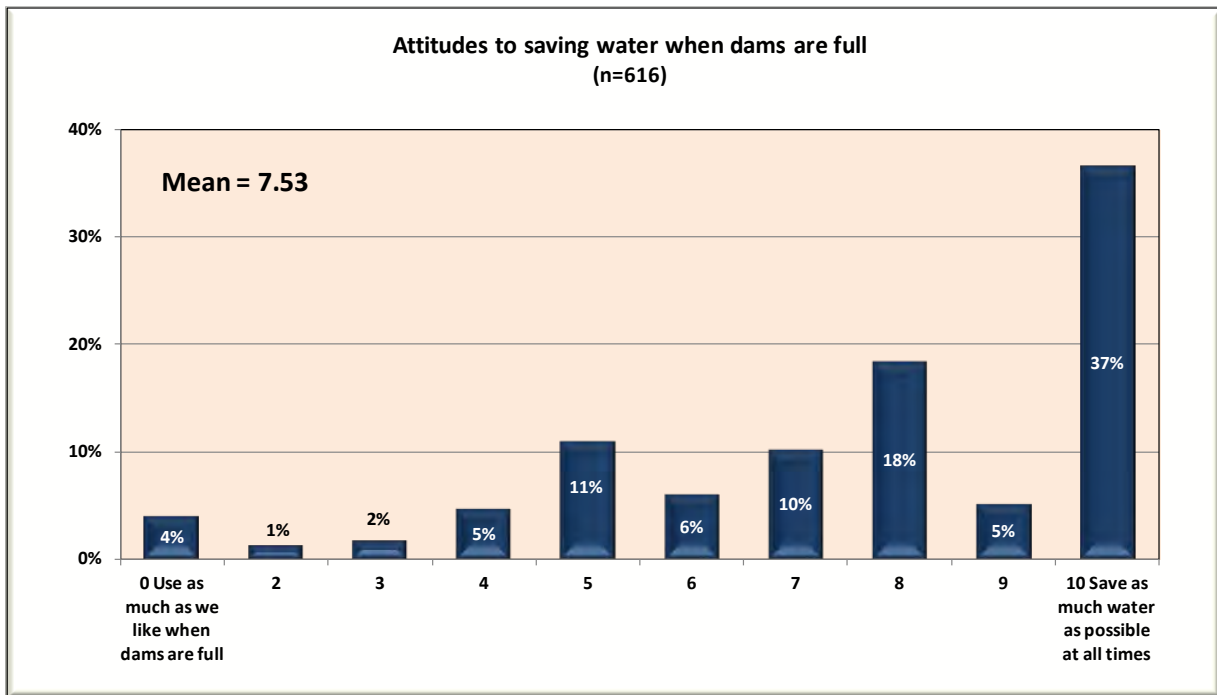


While the question was designed to test the cost-benefit of maintaining a high quality of untreated water, respondents apparently saw only the need to keep river water pure. Over 80 per cent felt it was “very important” that raw water be clean and of high quality, with a further 16 per cent saying it was “quite important”. This left just 3 per cent questioning the value or cost of keeping source water clean.

In a further “forced choice” comparison (i.e. similar to Graph 3,1), respondents were then told that “Some people believe that when dam levels are full we should be able to use as much water as we like, while others believe the community should save as much water as possible at all times. Where would you sit on a sliding scale of 0-10, where 0 means we should be able to use as much water as we like when dams are full, and 10 means we should save as much water as possible at all times?”

The results are shown in Graph 3.4, next page:

Graph 3.4: Where would you sit on a scale of 0-10, where 0 means we should be able to use as much water as we like when dams are full, and 10 means we should save as much water as possible at all times?



The results to this question are unequivocal, with a strong preference to saving water even in times of plenty. Some 37 per cent of respondents scored this as 10/10, while just 12 per cent answered on the “Use as much as we like when dams are full” side of the midpoint. The mean score of 7.53 (out of a possible 10) further highlights a strong water conservation ethos.

Looking at mean ratings by age, gender and location:

Table 3.4.1: Unlimited use vs. saving at all times (when dams are full) by age

Age	Mean	N	Std. Deviation
18-39	6.98	166	2.740
40-59	7.59	216	2.611
60-75	7.66	148	2.599
76-plus	8.18	85	2.499
Total	7.53	615	2.650

Table 3.4.2: Unlimited use vs. saving at all times (when dams are full) by gender

Gender	Mean	N	Std. Deviation
Male	7.15	293	2.876
Female	7.87	323	2.379
Total	7.53	616	2.649

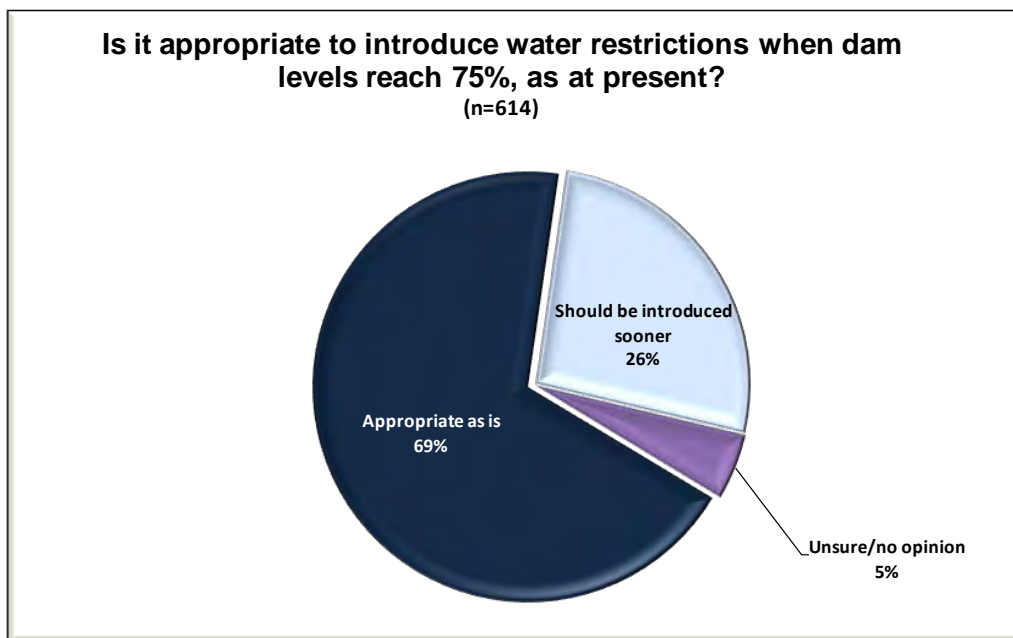
Table 3.4.3: Unlimited use vs. saving at all times (when dams are full) by location

Location	Mean	N	Std. Deviation
Tweed Coast - north of river	7.14	192	2.842
Tweed Coast - south of river	7.75	217	2.545
Hinterland	7.73	206	2.453
Total	7.53	614	2.623

This indicates that older residents, women and those living south of the Tweed River and in the Tweed hinterland were most keen to save water at all times. (However mean scores were well above the midpoint of 5 for all demographic groupings.)

At this stage, respondents were told that “Compulsory water restrictions for the Tweed shire currently come into effect when the dam level is 75 per cent, which last occurred in 2003”. They were then asked if they felt this was appropriate, or whether they believed restrictions should be introduced sooner. The results are shown in Graph 3.5, below:

Graph 3.5: Is it appropriate to introduce water restrictions when dam levels reach 75%, as at present? (prompted)

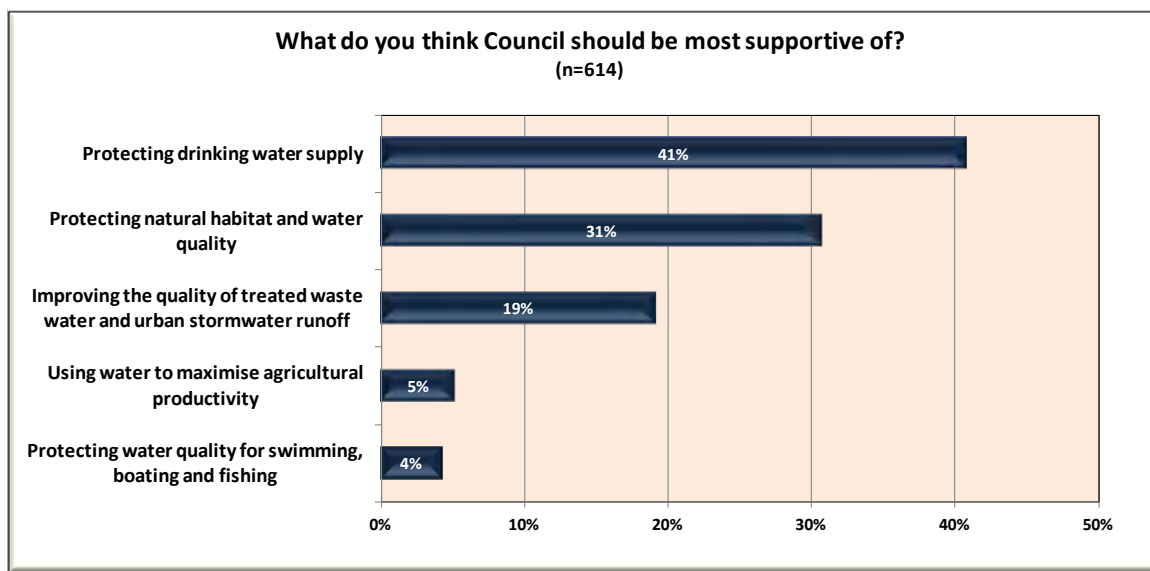


Around seven in ten respondents agreed that 75 per cent capacity was an appropriate time to introduce water restrictions, with just 26 per cent believing they should be introduced sooner. There were no significant differences in this result by age, gender or location.

Part 4: Additional water sources

At this point respondents were asked a series of demand and pricing questions about additional water supply sources. This began by asking which of five potential water uses Council should be *most* supportive of:

Graph 4.1: From the following, what do you think Council should be most supportive of? (prompted)



Protecting the water supply was the most popular choice (nominated by 41 per cent of respondents), followed by protecting natural habitat and water quality (31 per cent) and improving the quality of treated water/urban stormwater runoff (19 per cent). Conversely, only 4 per cent classed protecting water quality for swimming, boating and fishing as their major funding priority for council.

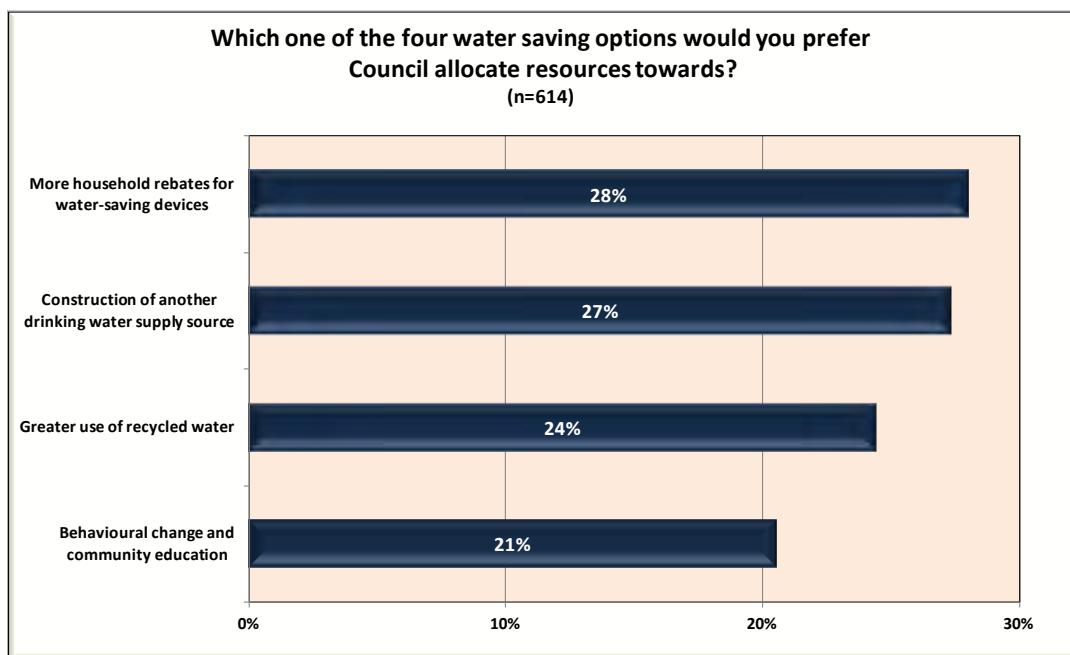
Table 4.1: Potential water priorities, by urban vs. rural

	Urban/rural setting			Total
	Urban	Rural	Unsure/mixed	
Using water to maximise agricultural productivity	17 4.0%	11 7.2%	4 9.8%	32 5.2%
Improving the quality of treated waste water	82 19.4%	30 19.7%	5 12.2%	117 19.0%
Protecting water quality for recreation	12 2.8%	10 6.6%	5 12.2%	27 4.4%
Protecting natural habitat and water quality	118 27.9%	60 39.5%	12 29.3%	190 30.8%
Protecting drinking water supply	194 45.9%	41 27.0%	15 36.6%	250 40.6%
Total	423 100.0%	152 100.0%	41 100.0%	616 100.0%

This indicates that rural residents were significantly more likely than their urban counterparts to prioritise protecting natural habitat and water quality over protecting the drinking water supply.

Respondents were then asked to decide which of four potential water-saving options was the most important for Council to be devoting resources towards. Their responses are shown in Graph 4.2, below

Graph 4.2: Which water saving option would you prefer to see Council allocate resources towards? (prompted)



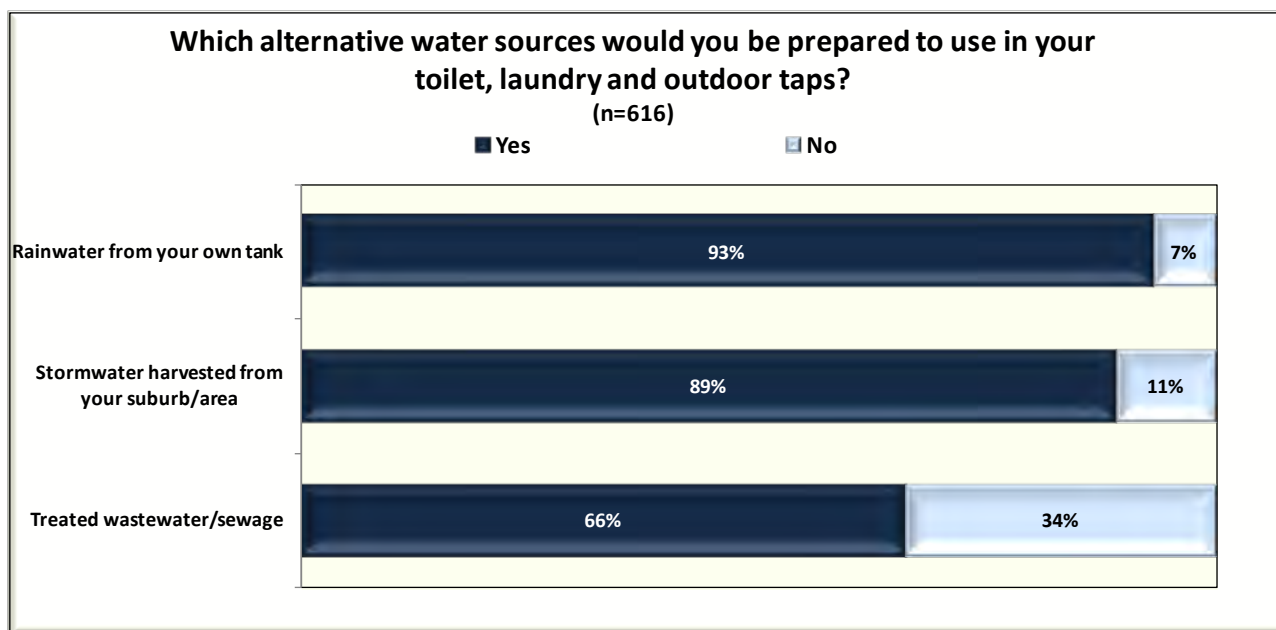
Opinion was evenly divided between the four options offered.

Table 4.2: Priorities for water saving options, by age

	Age				Total
	18-39	40-59	60-75	76-plus	
Greater use of recycled water	46 27.7%	50 23.3%	39 26.4%	15 17.6%	150 24.4%
More household rebates for water-saving devices	64 38.6%	57 26.5%	25 16.9%	23 27.1%	169 27.5%
Construction of another drinking water source	24 14.5%	62 28.8%	56 37.8%	25 29.4%	167 27.2%
Behavioural change and community education	32 19.3%	46 21.4%	27 18.2%	21 24.7%	126 20.5%
Unsure/don't care	0 .0%	0 .0%	1 .7%	1 1.2%	2 .3%
Total	166 100.0%	215 100.0%	148 100.0%	85 100.0%	614 100.0%

It appears that younger respondents (i.e. those aged 18-29) were keenest on Council devoting resources to household rebates for water-saving devices, while older residents were more likely to nominate construction of an additional water source.

Graph 4.3: Which of the following alternative water sources would you be prepared to use in your toilet, laundry and outdoor taps?



Meanwhile there was strong support for rainwater tanks and harvested stormwater (with 93 and 89 per cent respectively saying they would be prepared to use these for non-drinking purposes). And two-thirds of respondents also gave the thumbs-up to treated wastewater and/or sewage.

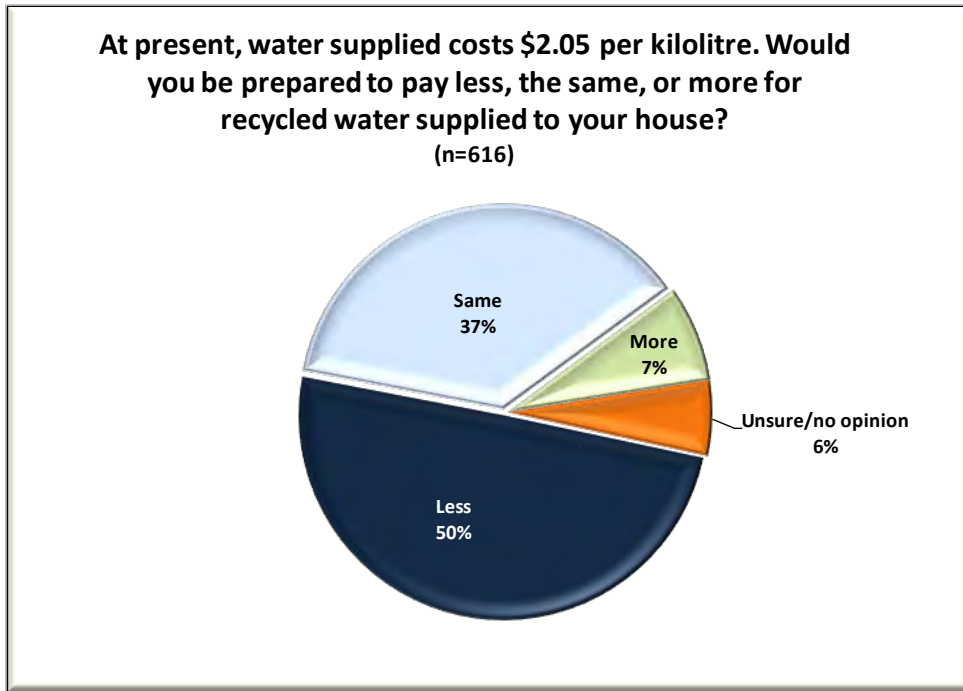
Table 4.3: Alternative water sources (treated wastewater) by age and gender

	Age				Gender		Total
	18-39	40-59	60-75	76-plus	Male	Female	
Yes	124	145	92	42	206	199	403
	74.7%	67.4%	62.2%	49.4%	70.3%	61.6%	65.6%
No	42	70	56	43	87	124	211
	25.3%	32.6%	37.8%	50.6%	29.7%	38.4%	34.4%
Total	166	215	148	85	293	323	614
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

As shown in Table 4.3, acceptance of treated wastewater and sewage was highest among younger respondents and males.

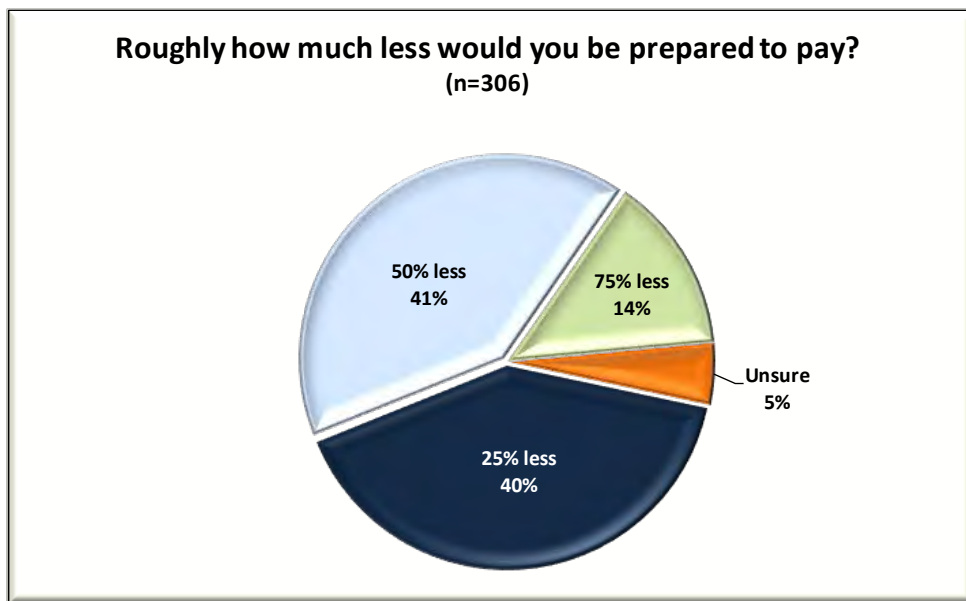
Moving next onto preferred water pricing for recycled water options:

Graph 4.4: At present, water supplied costs \$2.05 per kilolitre. Would you be prepared to pay less, the same, or more for recycled water supplied to your house?

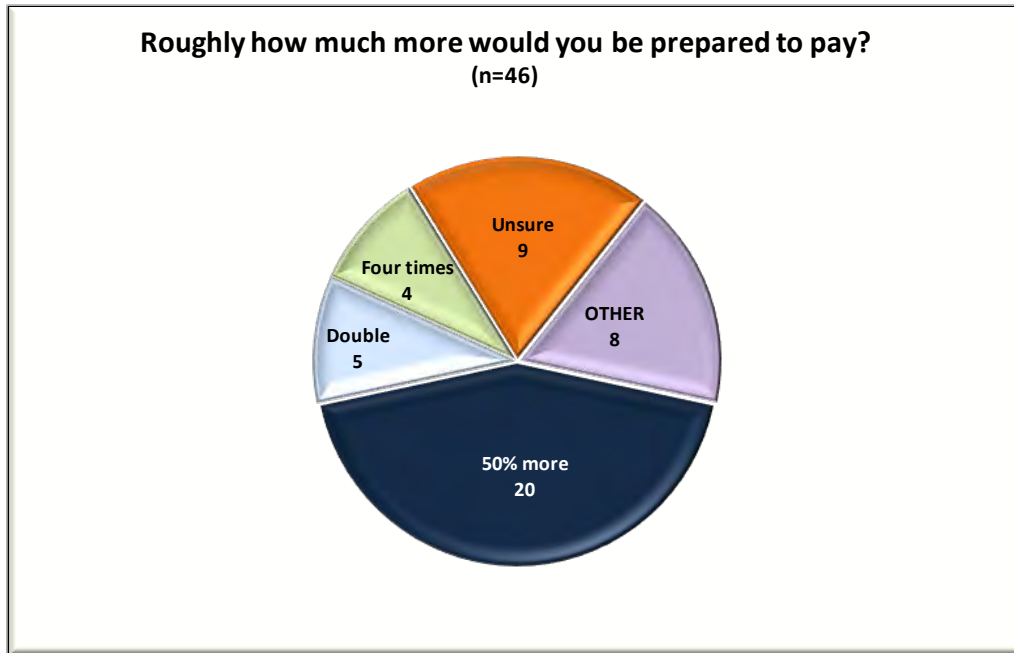


Half the sample felt that recycled water should be less expensive than existing supply. A further 37 per cent believed it should be the same, while just 7 per cent said they would be prepared to pay more.

Graph 4.5a: (For those proposing less) Roughly how much less would you be prepared to pay? (prompted)



Graph 4.5b: (For those proposing more) Roughly how much more would you be prepared to pay? (prompted)



(N.B. Results shown as in numeric rather than percentage format due to small sample size)

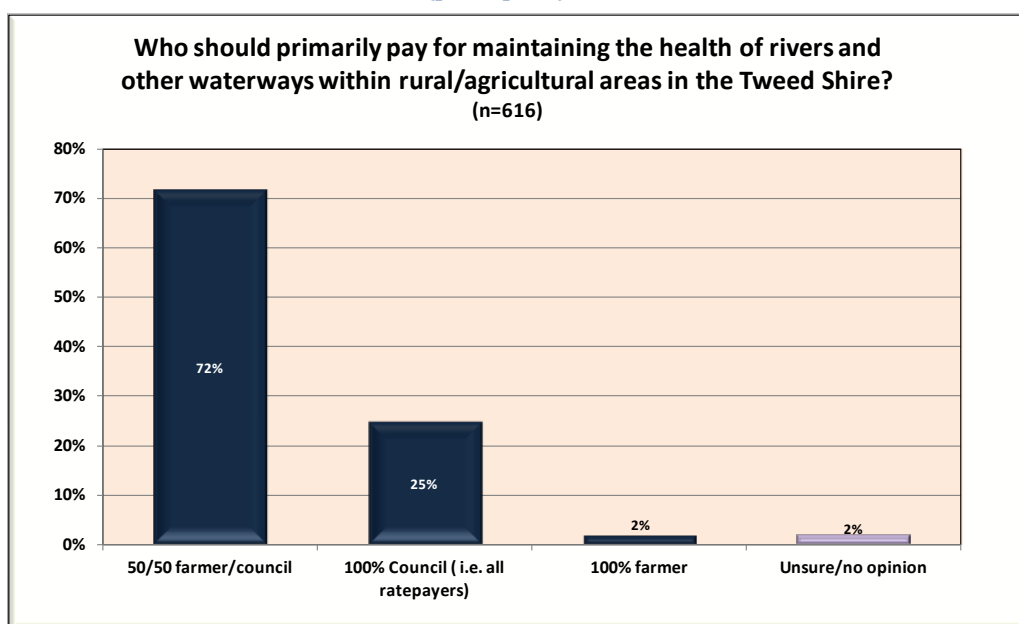
Graphs 4.5a and 4.5b quantify how much less or more residents would be prepared to pay. Of those (306 respondents) proposing less, 41 per cent believed it should cost half as much, while a further 40 per cent felt it should be 25 per cent cheaper. Of the 46 people prepared to pay more, just under half felt 50 per cent more was fair.

However at this stage of community awareness, it seems clear that the majority of residents expect future recycled water to be cheaper than – or at worst priced the same as – existing supply.

Part 5: Sharing the burden

The survey concluded with three questions designed to understand attitudes towards who should pay for maintaining river health in rural and urban areas: adjoining landowners, the community as a whole (i.e. via Council), or a combination of both. Looking first at rural/agricultural areas:

Graph 5.1: Who should primarily pay for maintaining the health of rivers and other waterways within rural/agricultural areas in the Tweed Shire? (prompted)



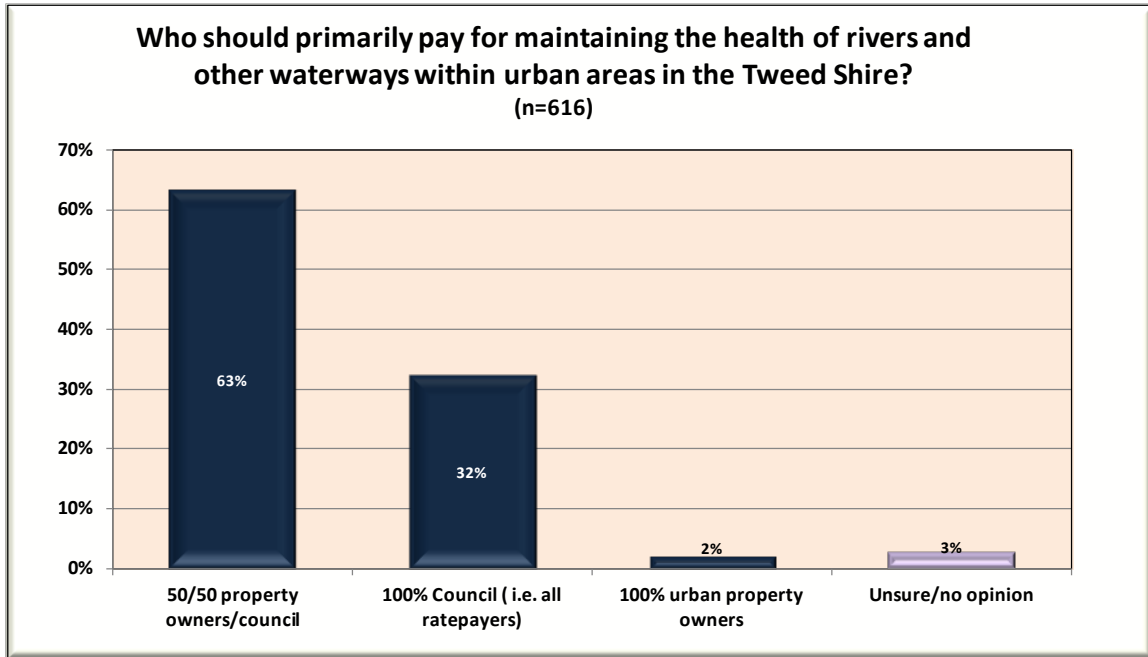
Just under three-quarters of all respondents felt that farmers should bear some of the burden of maintaining river health, while 25 per cent believed it should be solely up to Council.

Table 5.1: Prime payer (within rural areas) by urban/rural.

	Urban/rural setting			Total
	Urban	Rural	Unsure/ mixed	
100% farmer	9 2.1%	0 .0%	0 .0%	9 1.5%
100% Council (i.e. all ratepayers)	91 21.5%	47 30.9%	15 37.5%	153 24.8%
50/50 farmer/council	316 74.5%	101 66.4%	24 60.0%	441 71.6%
Unsure/no opinion	8 1.9%	4 2.6%	1 2.5%	13 2.1%
Total	424 100.0%	152 100.0%	40 100.0%	616 100.0%

As one would expect, rural respondents were more likely than those in urban regions to feel Council should bear the burden of cost for river health. However it is interesting to note that a majority of both groups felt the 50/50 solution to have merit.

Graph 5.2: Who should primarily pay for maintaining the health of rivers and other waterways within urban areas in the Tweed Shire? (prompted)

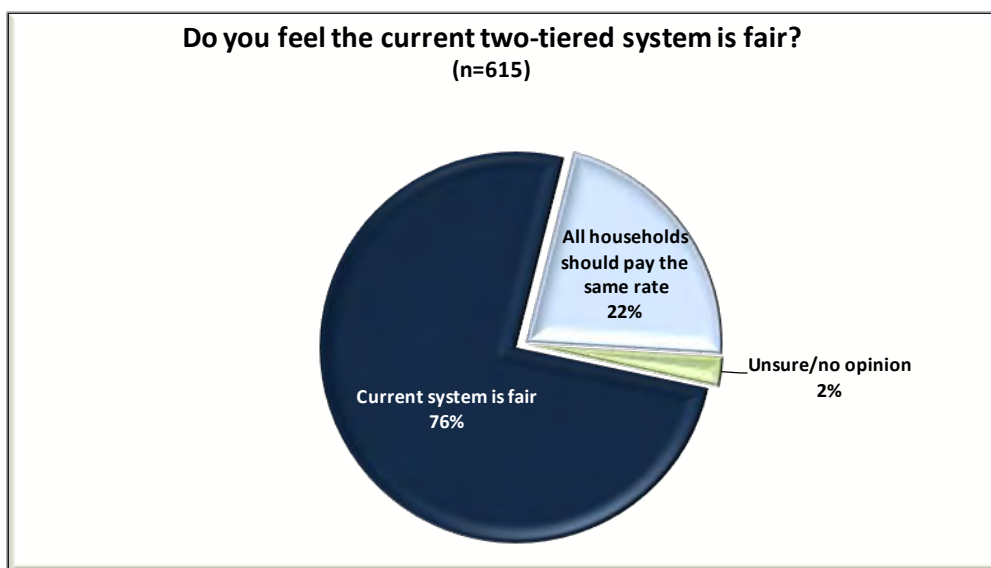


Results were similar in terms of urban areas, suggesting a consistency of “shared burden” belief throughout the Tweed shire. In this instance results were consistent across both urban and rural respondents.

Finally in this section, respondents were asked whether they believed the current two-tier tariff – in which households using a lot of water pay a higher rate per kilolitre for some of their water – was fair, or whether all households should pay the same price per kilolitre regardless of usage:

(Continued next page)

Graph 5.3: Do you feel the current two-tiered system is fair? (prompted)



More than three –quarters of respondents felt that the current system is fair – i.e. that heavy water users should pay a higher rate per kilolitre for their “excess” water use.

Table 5.3: Fairness of current two-tier system, by perception of current consumption

	Believe your household uses more or less water than average?				Total
	More	Less	Same/ average	Unsure	
Current system is fair	37 63.8%	320 78.6%	99 71.2%	8 66.7%	464 75.3%
All households should pay the same rate	20 34.5%	79 19.4%	34 24.5%	3 25.0%	136 22.1%
Unsure/no opinion	1 1.7%	8 2.0%	6 4.3%	1 8.3%	16 2.6%
Total	58 100.0%	407 100.0%	139 100.0%	12 100.0%	616 100.0%

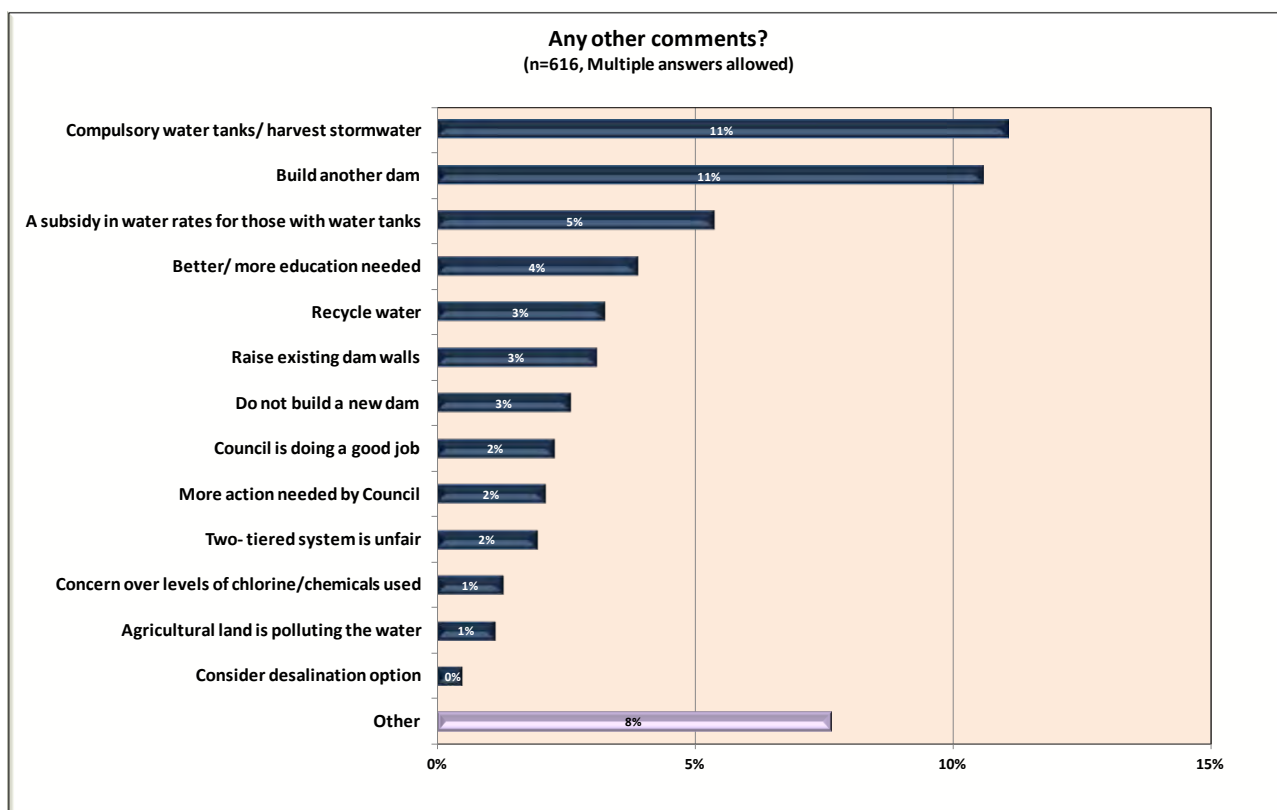
Those who believed their household used less water than average (see Graph 2.3) were significantly more likely to believe the existing system is fair than those claiming to use more than average (at 79 and 64 per cent respectively). However in both instances, a clear majority agreed with the current two-tier pricing model.

Part 6: Other comments

The telephone survey concluded with residents being asked, in an open-ended question, if they had any other thoughts on any aspects of the Tweed’s future water cycle management priorities that they would like to share with council. Some 303 of the 616 respondents chose to provide additional comment.

These comments have been coded (i.e. themed), and the results are shown below. Note that percentages are as a proportion of *all* respondents, not just the 301 who answered this question.

Graph 6.1: Other comments and suggestions



Though there was an expectedly wide diversity in comment, prominent themes included a desired need for improved harvesting of stormwater and/or compulsory water tanks (raised by 11 per cent of respondents), the perceived need for an additional dam (also 11 per cent), the possibility of subsidies for those with water tanks (5 per cent), and the need for more education on water saving techniques (4 per cent).

In light of the “build another dam” result, it’s important to note that 3 per cent of residents specifically noted that they did not want an additional dam built.

A list of all comments is included as Appendix 3 to this report.



Appendix 1: Survey questionnaire

Q1. Good afternoon/evening, my name is (name), and I'm calling from Jetty Research on behalf of Tweed Shire Council. Council is conducting a short resident survey regarding the shire's future water cycle management priorities. It will take less than 15 minutes, any answers you provide are confidential and we are not trying to sell anything. Plus you would go into the draw to win one of two iPad or \$500 shopping vouchers. Would you be able to assist Council by completing a short survey this afternoon/evening?

Offer a CALL BACK if inconvenient time

Yes	1
No	2

Answer If Attribute "No" from Q1 is SELECTED

Q1

Q2. Thank you for your time.

End

Q3. Before we start I just have two quick qualifying questions. Firstly can I confirm you are aged 18 or over?

Yes	1	
No	2	End

Q3

Q4. And do you live in the Tweed Shire?

Yes	1
No	2

Answer If Attribute "No" from Q4 is SELECTED

Q4

Q5. I'm sorry but you must live in the Tweed Shire to qualify for this survey. Thank you for your time.

End

Q6. Thanks so much. Could I have your first name for the survey?

Type NA if not willing to give name

Q6

Q7. Thanks so much [Q6]. Just to let you know that this survey is being conducted according to guidelines established by the Australian Market and Social Research Association, and that all data you supply will be treated confidentially. Firstly, are you concerned about the Tweed Shire's ability to meet its water needs in the medium to long term?

PROMPTED

Yes, a lot	1
Yes, a little	2
No, not really	3

Q7

Q8. And do you feel the Tweed community as a whole has made serious efforts to reduce daily water consumption over, say, the past three years?

UNPROMPTED

Yes	1
No	2
Unsure	666

Q8

Q9. Do you believe your household would use more or less water than the average Tweed Valley household?

PROMPTED- Don't offer UNSURE

More	1
Less	2
Same/average	3
Unsure	666

Q9

Q10. And do you know what the target is for average daily water use by residents in the Tweed Shire?

UNPROMPTED

No	1
Yes - mentions 180 L/person/day	2
Yes - mentions another figure	3

Q10

Q11. Now [Q6], some people believe that ensuring a reliable long-term water supply for the Tweed Shire is mainly about reducing people's water usage, while others think its more about increasing the water availability. Where would you sit on a sliding scale of 0-10, where 0 means it should be all about reducing usage, and 10 means it should all be about increasing water availability?

Confirm rating in correct

0 Reducing usage	0
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5
6	6
7	7
8	8
9	9
10 Increasing water availability	10

Q11

*Q12. If you had to come down on one side of the fence or the other, would it be towards reducing usage or increasing water availability?

Answer If Attribute "5" from Q11 is SELECTED

If person can't decide either way skip to next question

Reducing demand	1
Increasing supply	2

Q12

Q13. Ensuring a secure long-term supply of water involves a trade-off between lots of different factors. I'm going to read out six of these factors, and ask you to rank which of these is the MOST important to you personally?

PROMPTED

	Most important	No	
Ensuring a continuous supply of drinking water for all future water needs	1	2	Q13_1
Maintaining the natural environment in waterways and catchment areas	1	2	Q13_2
Maximising stormwater and wastewater re-use	1	2	Q13_3
Protection of waterways for swimming, boating and fishing	1	2	Q13_4
Encouraging households to reduce their water consumption	1	2	Q13_5
Encouraging commercial properties and industry to reduce water consumption	1	2	Q13_6

Q14. And which of the following would be the second most important?

PROMPTED

	2nd most important	No	
<i>Answer If Attribute "Ensuring a continuous supply of drinking water for all future water needs" from Q13 is Maintaining the natural environment in waterways and catchment areas</i>			
Ensuring a continuous supply of drinking water for all future water needs	1	2	Q14_1
<i>Answer If Attribute "Maintaining the natural environment in waterways and catchment areas" from Q13 is Maintaining the natural environment in waterways and catchment areas</i>			
Maintaining the natural environment in waterways and catchment areas	1	2	Q14_2
<i>Answer If Attribute "Maximising stormwater and wastewater re-use" from Q13 is Maintaining the natural environment in waterways and catchment areas</i>			
Maximising stormwater and wastewater re-use	1	2	Q14_3
<i>Answer If Attribute "Protection of waterways for swimming, boating and fishing" from Q13 is Maintaining the natural environment in waterways and catchment areas</i>			
Protection of waterways for swimming, boating and fishing	1	2	Q14_4
<i>Answer If Attribute "Encouraging households to reduce their water consumption" from Q13 is Maintaining the natural environment in waterways and catchment areas</i>			
Encouraging households to reduce their water consumption	1	2	Q14_5
<i>Answer If Attribute "Encouraging commercial properties and industry to reduce water consumption" from Q13 is Maintaining the natural environment in waterways and catchment areas</i>			
Encouraging commercial properties and industry to reduce water consumption	1	2	Q14_6

Q15. And which would be the third most important?

READ OUT again if necessary

	Third most important	No	
<i>Answer If Attribute "Ensuring a continuous supply of drinking water for all future water needs" from Q14 is No</i>			
Ensuring a continuous supply of drinking water for all future water needs	1	2	Q15_1
<i>Answer If Attribute "Maintaining the natural environment in waterways and catchment areas" from Q14 is No</i>			
Maintaining the natural environment in waterways and catchment areas	1	2	Q15_2
<i>Answer If Attribute "Maximising stormwater and wastewater re-use" from Q14 is No</i>			
Maximising stormwater and wastewater re-use	1	2	Q15_3
<i>Answer If Attribute "Protection of waterways for swimming, boating and fishing" from Q14 is No</i>			
Protection of waterways for swimming, boating and fishing	1	2	Q15_4
<i>Answer If Attribute "Encouraging households to reduce their water consumption" from Q14 is No</i>			
Encouraging households to reduce their water consumption	1	2	Q15_5
<i>Answer If Attribute "Encouraging commercial properties and industry to reduce water consumption" from Q14 is No</i>			
Encouraging commercial properties and industry to reduce water consumption	1	2	Q15_6

Q16. Water from the Tweed River can be treated to acceptable drinking standard before it reaches your tap. However how important do you think it is that the raw water in the river is clean and of high quality?

PROMPTED - Don't read out last option (don't know/care)

Very important	1	
Quite important	2	
Not very important	3	Q16
Not at all important	4	
Don't know/care	5	

Q17. [Q6], some people believe that when dam levels are full we should be able to use as much water as we like, while others believe the community should save as much water as possible at all times. Where would you sit on a sliding scale of 0-10, where 0 means we should be able to use as much water as we like when dams are full, and 10 means we should save as much water as possible at all times?

Confirm correct scale

0 Use as much as we like when dams are full	0
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5
6	6
7	7
8	8
9	9
10 Save as much water as possible at all times	10

Q17

***Q18. If you had to come down on one side of the fence or the other, would it be using as much water as we like when dams are full, or saving as much water as possible at all times?**

Answer If Attribute "5" from Q17 is SELECTED

If unable to answer either way, skip to next question

As much water as we like	1
Saving at all times	2

Q18

Q19. Compulsory residential water restrictions for the Tweed District currently come into effect when the dam level is 75 per cent, which last occurred in 2003. Do you think this is appropriate, or should they be introduced sooner?

PROMPTED - don't offer UNSURE

Appropriate as is	1
Should be introduced sooner	2
Unsure/no opinion	3

Q19

Q20. In terms of the Shire's waterways, what do you think Council should be most concerned about?

PROMPTED. Read list twice if necessary.

Maximising agricultural productivity	1
Improving the quality of treated wastewater and urban stormwater runoff	2
Protecting water quality for swimming, boating and fishing	3
Protecting natural habitat and water quality	4
Protecting drinking water supply	5

Q20

Q21. Now [Q6], providing an additional water supply source is costly. If they could only do one, which of the following three water-saving options would you prefer to see Council allocate resources towards?

PROMPTED - don't offer unsure

Greater use of recycled water	1
More household rebates for water-saving devices	2
Construction of another drinking water supply source	3
Unsure/don't care	4

Q21

Q22. Assuming it was readily available, which alternative water sources would you be prepared to use in your toilet, laundry taps and (if applicable) outdoor taps? Please answer yes or no:

PROMPTED

	Yes	No
Rainwater from your own tank	1	555
Stormwater harvested from your suburb or area	1	555
Treated wastewater/sewage	1	555

Q22_1

Q22_2

Q22_3

Q23. Treated and drinkable water supplied to households currently costs \$2.05 per kilolitre. Would you be prepared to pay less, the same or more than this amount for recycled water supplied to your house for outdoor use, toilet flushing or clothes washing?

PROMPTED

Less	1
Same	2
More	3
Unsure/no opinion	4

Q23

Q24. Roughly how much less would you be prepared to pay for this recycled water?

Answer If Attribute "Less" from Q23 is SELECTED

PROMPTED

25% less	1
50% less	2
75% less	3
Unsure	666

Q24

Go to Q26

Q25. Roughly how much more would you be prepared to pay for this recycled water?

Answer If Attribute "More" from Q23 is SELECTED

PROMPTED

50% more	1
Double	2
Four times	3
Unsure	666

Q25

Q26. [Q6], who should primarily pay for maintaining the health of rivers and other waterways within rural/agricultural areas in the Tweed Shire?

PROMPTED - don't read unsure option

All ratepayers	1
Farmers bordering those waterways	2
Both equally	3
Unsure/no opinion	4

Q26

Q27. And who should be primarily responsible for paying to reduce household stormwater pollution in waterways within urban areas of the shire?

PROMPTED - except unsure

All ratepayers	1
Individual property owners in houses bordering those waterways	2
Both equally	3
Unsure/no opinion	4

Q27

Q28. At the moment there is a two-tier water tariff, which means that households which use a lot of water pay a higher rate than others for some of their water. Do you think this system is fair, or should all households pay the same rate per kilolitre regardless of how much they use?

PROMPTED except unsure

Current system is fair	1
All households should pay the same rate regardless of use	2
Unsure/no opinion	3

Q28

Q29. And did you have any other thoughts on any aspect of the Tweed's future water cycle management priorities that you would like to share with Council?

PROBE for a response

Q29

Q30. Finally [Q6], we just have a few demographic questions to ensure we have a broad range of community views. Firstly, could you tell me into which of the following age ranges you would fall?

PROMPTED

18-39	1
40-59	2
60-75	3
76-plus	4

Q30

Q31. Gender?

Don't ask

Male	1
Female	2

Q31

Q32. Do you live in an urban or rural setting?

Urban-in town. Rural-on a property

Urban	1
Rural	2
Unsure/mixed	3

Q32

Q33. Are you on town water?

Do not answer If Attribute "Urban" from Q32 is SELECTED

Connected to mains water

Yes	1
No	2

Q33

Q34. And which of the following housing types would best describe where you live?

PROMPTED

Detached house	1
Semi-detached house, townhouse or villa	2
Apartment or unit	3

Q34

Q35. And which of the following would best describe your location within the Tweed Shire?

PROMPTED

Tweed Coast - north of river	1
Tweed Coast - south of river	2
Hinterland	3

Q35

Q36. Do you own or rent the house in which you are presently living?

UNPROMPTED

Own/Part-own	1
Rent	2

Q36

Q36

Q37. How many people, including yourself, are currently living permanently or part-time in your home?

UNPROMPTED

1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5
6	6
More than 6	7

Q37

Q38. And finally, how long have you lived in the Tweed Shire?

UNPROMPTED

Less than five years	1
5-10 years	2
11-20 years	3
More than 20 years	4

Q38

Q39. Thanks so much (name), that concludes the survey. Tweed Shire Council greatly appreciates your feedback this afternoon/evening. A summary of results from this will be available on Council's website early in 2013, and may also be reported in local media. As I mentioned at the start of the survey, you will now go into the draw to win one of two iPads, or the equivalent value in shopping vouchers. This competition will be drawn on Tuesday the 8th of January and winners will be notified by phone. The terms and conditions can be found on the Jetty Research website. Did you have any questions about the survey? Thank you again for your time, and have a good afternoon/evening.

Appendix 2: Weighting calculation

It is common in random surveys such as this to weight results by age and gender. This avoids the need to sample by quota (which is far more expensive than purely random sampling), and ensures the data from under- and over-represented groups is adjusted to meet the demographic profile of the survey population.

Population weighting can only occur where the true survey population is known. In this case the population, defined as “adult residents living in the Tweed Shire”, can be accurately measured through the 2011 ABS Census⁷. We can hence weight the survey data by the known population.

To do this we divide the survey sample by gender (male/female) and across four age groups. This divides respondents into one of eight age and gender categories, as shown below:

Survey sample by age and gender		Gender		Total
		Male	Female	
Age	18-39	5.2%	8.0%	13.2%
	40-59	14.1%	20.3%	34.5%
	60-75	17.2%	21.3%	38.5%
	76-plus	7.2%	6.7%	13.8%
Total		43.7%	56.3%	100.0%

Meanwhile ABS data for the adult (18+) population of the Tweed Shire (as per 2011 ABS Census, Usual Resident profile), is shown in the following table:

ABS Census data (2011)			
Age	Gender		Total
	Male	Female	
18-39	13.2%	13.8%	27.0%
40-59	16.6%	18.4%	35.1%
60-75	11.7%	12.4%	24.1%
76+	6.0%	7.8%	13.8%
Total	47.5%	52.5%	100.0%

Dividing the “true” population by the sample population for each age and gender category provides the following weighting factors:

Weighting factor		
Age	Gender	
	Male	Female
18-39	2.529	1.738
40-59	1.176	0.906
60-75	0.678	0.584
76+	0.837	1.176

These weightings are then assigned to each data record based on each respondent’s age/gender profile, and the raw data for each question is adjusted accordingly.

⁷ ABS Census for Tweed Shire, 2011, Usual Resident profile.

Appendix 3: Other comments

ID	Comments
1	I'm rather astounded another dam source hasn't been investigated yet.
6	People who use the waterways should pay more.
7	I think that the storm water should be harvested.
9	Currently I pay the same rates as others but I'm not connected to the town water supply, and the only service I receive for this privilege is a waste collection. I also live on a dirt road with no kerb and channelling or street lights.
10	Think they should look at raising the wall on the Clarrie Hall dam.
12	I think there is a terrible waste of water of showers on the beaches as they wash their boards and shower, and the tap stays on even when they have finished.
13	I think they should put another dam in like they have been planning for a long time.
16	Get some women into Council who know about water, we need more women making decisions.
19	I support a new dam to future proof water supplies for the region.
23	We're pretty luck in the Tweed Shire that we have a good plentiful water supply. We don't seem to have problems although we haven't had rain for a while.
24	Tweed area is built out and over developed.
25	The council seems to waste money left right and centre when they could be allowing people to put tanks in there properties and the council should be paying 50 percent, this would give people greater incentive and show council support. Get the ball rolling and it will help in the long term. Rainwater tanks in a sensible fashion is a good way to go.
27	My only thought is they should maximise storage by building as many dams as possible.
29	A few years ago we had a lot of rain and we were put on restrictions down to only being allowed to use the water 2 hours in the afternoon and if we used it out of these hours we were fined, I just think we could have been able to have maybe 2 hours in the morning also.
31	I'm quite happy with what's happening now.
32	Tweed Shire do an excellent job.
34	It is slightly more unfair with the two tier tariff system for large families that can't help it if they need more water. I would like to see the council help people through encouragement and rebates to have a rain water tank for miscellaneous use around the house - gardens etc. Saves drinking water which is the most important life source.
37	I think that a subsidy for insulation for water or reduction per unit of usage for those who have and use water tanks.
39	It seems a shame not to make more use of water tanks, bio cycle tanks, which means water is recycled through your own systems. Having water tanks makes us more aware and conscious about our water and is much better tasting. I think there should be some sort of rebate on this also just like with the solar panels.
44	The biggest concern is the pumping of water from agricultural land that contain phosphates and affects the growth of weeds in the river and the wild life.
48	I think we need more water storage, either expanding on current storage or creating new storage.

49	I definitely think that the runoff from fertiliser is a pollutant in the river and effects our drinking water. The council needs to do something with the rural landholders to encourage them to plant trees and a legislation be passed that certain areas past their land has to be left clear to protect the waterways. Also planting additional trees on border of properties would prevent fertiliser run off from going into water.
50	Pressure water in the mains.
52	I think council are doing a pretty good job, public awareness.
53	To ensure that the water is the best quality that the Council could provide. I think that the Council does a very good job of looking after our waterways.
54	We should be looking for further inlets for a dam.
55	We do as much as we can to save water and believe that education is important.
59	I haven't really thought about it apart the need for another dam/catchment.
61	I think that they should not listen to the greenies and build another dam as they will have lots of problems when the population increases.
63	I would like to see every new dwelling have a rain water tank and greater rebates for existing homes to get tanks.
64	Area growing so fast it needs people in management who really know what they are doing.
65	If large developments (large subdivision) are going to be approved I would like to see the developers make a substantial contribution towards the ongoing cost of maintaining water infrastructure including future sourcing costs
67	I can't understand why we don't have an efficient river transport system like Brisbane rivercats.
68	With the rates, it depends how many people are living in the house. We cant help it if we have a large family.
69	I'd like to know what Council's going to do about the dam. I think they should extend the dam walls.
70	I don't think there's sufficient money put into stormwater and run off water.
74	Recycled grey water could be used a lot better e.g. water off roofs.
76	I think that a second dam needs to be built at Byrill Creek. The land was purchased over 25 years ago and has been planted over with trees to be harvested. The harvested trees can partially fund the cost of the dam. There is blue green algae in the catchment area, this is a potential health concern for humans and animals, having a second dam would give an alternative water source while the other is treated. This solution also gives an alternative catchment area. Tweed shire Council should hold a referendum at the next state or federal election as the silent majority wants to see the start of the construction of the second dam straight away.
78	I think there is more talk in Council and not a lot of action about strategies to reduce water usage. I think people should be given incentives to put water saving measures in place. People should be encouraged to put in water tanks and not to unnecessarily use and waste water. People should also be made more aware of the different water saving measures.
81	If we could some how set up a system on how to reuse our household wastes and look at water tanks for all houses.
91	I think that the Council is trying their best.
97	I am in a complex of 8 units and two of us have gardens and the others do not. The complaint is that if we get a water bill overdue we all have to pay which is unfair.

98	If the population increases then something needs to be done.
101	There's an abundance of water in the hills and we should be selling it to the Gold Coast.
103	I would like to see where the many creeks in the Tweed should have a 'police system' on the waterways for people who use water from them without licences or proper approval.
104	More education on how to save water especially for the younger generation.
105	I think that it will be difficult for Council to keep up with water demand as the population in the area keeps increasing.
106	I'm not happy with cost of water rates and having to pay for a plumber to investigate my water usage as a single person in a house.
108	A good job done, water is clean.
109	Don't want any fluoride in the water. It reacts to my body I am allergic.
111	I think that there should be rebates for water tanks and all homes should have one.
115	Circumstances change so it all balances out in the end.
118	Nice if they paid for us to use rainwater out of our rainwater tank, not plumbed in at the moment.
119	Very happy with our council.
121	The drainage in my area is substandard, when it rains it always floods. This is a waste of water that we could use.
126	I think most houses should have a rainwater tank.
129	I think they should give us rebates for putting tanks in and more incentives for other water saving devices.
130	For people in areas such as Flamtree Park, is there anything that can be done to prevent flooding in this area such as water management.
132	There has been a lot of discussion but no action on the dam especially raising the dam wall as a possible cost effective solution to future water supply.
133	Improve water capacity by building more dams.
134	Primarily the goal should be sustainability.
135	I would not like to see the same thing happen here like they did in Toowoomba in regards to sewage water usage.
136	There is talk of putting a dam in to Byrrill Creek. I strongly object to this as an option because of the impact on the environment, fauna and flora. I would prefer increasing the capacity of the current dam.
137	How about Council rebates for water tanks in all houses.
140	I would like them to make up their mind about what they are going to do with the dam. I would rather them raise the wall of the existing dam.
141	I believe that our rivers and waterways should be kept as pristine as possible, this is so IMPORTANT!
144	I would not use recycled water at all.
147	The pricing of the multi tiering should be a "use as you pay " system.
151	Council should stop wasting water.
153	We need another water supply as Clarrie Hall Dam is not sufficient. Raising the wall is a good option. A dam at Byrrill Creek is not an option.
156	Against the new damn increase. Current capacity with the present damn is fine.
158	I hope that council keeps on doing the best to conserve water.

161	Council are being very responsible about our water's future.
162	The dam that's been talked about should go ahead.
172	Need to consider population growth in the region and the future water needs.
177	I live in a Community apartment housing unit and the inside residence metres are never read, but instead they read the one out on the road which is not a fair reading on residence water use. Because of this wrong metre reading process the residence are paying high rates for low water use. Alison actually went away for a month but still got charged the same rate even though she used no water during that time. Nobody is doing anything about the residents high cost situation and or the wrong meter practise. She has more than tried to be heard on many occasions and insists this important problem/complaint be passed on to a water managing council member to call her and explain why this unfair unrelated meter reading is currently over charging the residents.
178	I think the Council can learn or monitor what other Councils do to get better insights regarding water use and conservation.
179	Construct another dam so we have a reasonable amount of water.
184	I live on a river and river health should be a priority when considering future development.
185	People should be encouraged to use more rain water via tanks. More individual responsibility.
186	Education is the most important focus.
187	Council should build another dam at Byrrill Creek.
194	I would like to see NSW Waterways contribute to the health and maintenance of the waterways - the money collected from boaties could go towards this upkeep. Every household should be given the option and incentive to have a rainwater tank at their residence.
195	I think it's all pretty good at present.
197	I think if a dam is needed the Clarrie Hall dam should be extended.
198	Means testing for low income earners for water rates.
199	Building another dam is not a good idea. More about incentive to teach people how to use water properly.
202	More incentives for the water saving cost shower heads and should encourage water tanks in every yard with big incentives as well. Put Tweed Council Shire Water Management details on "face book" too encourage the younger age group to get on board with saving water, and reach a wider demographic of people and get them listening!
203	I've been a resident of the area for 12 years and Council should look at clearing gutters of green debris to prevent flooding.
205	I think we should have another dam.
206	Hurry up with Byrrill Creek before we get into the situation like the Gold Coast where we run out of water.
209	What about de-salination for an added water source?
210	I think the run-off water should be stored and used for gardens etc.
212	I think people should be more educated about water saving.
213	I Strongly oppose treated/sewage water for drinking, I am not opposed for it to be used outside. There would have to be a separate tank so we know what water we use for outside and inside areas. If this falls on to home owners this means our rates will be higher and personally ours are too high at the moment.
214	What about Council giving rebates to all homes so that all houses have rain water tanks.

215	Educate people about the importance of saving water and also give them knowledge on how stormwater is recycled as I have no idea about the quality of it, but would like to know.
217	I would like to see rebates for grey water systems used on properties. I would like to see urban water run off treated and used more appropriately to protect the regions future. environment and surroundings
219	I have no complaints with the water system here. Water pressure is very good and we have never ran out. Council have been very good.
220	Maybe when you build new estates it should be compulsory for them to have a rainwater tank and developers could contribute to this cost.
221	We should all be careful of our water usage. Be more aware.
224	It's hard to answer that question as we have a new Council but I have been satisfied up until now.
227	In favour of building the Byrill Creek Dam.
230	I'd like the Council to consider rebates for rain water tanks, and utilise the rain more.
232	As a house owner I'm quite happy with the way it goes.
233	I live in on the river and I find that the commercial fisherman are fishing out the river and making it hard for anyone else fishing here. I think this needs to be looked at and stricter regulations put in place. Also I live along a canal/estuary and there are a lot of boats, water skis etc that do not adhere to the 5Km speed limit. I report this on a regular basis but nothing is ever done. We need to introduce a "No Wave" policy.
234	I think they should build the dam higher and not be supplying water to Queensland.
236	Effective education is the key to informing residents about possible alternative water sources.
238	Farmers should be paying a reduced water rate as they are supplying food for all of us.
240	This survey is a good start and more information from the Council to the residence.
241	I don't know what the cause is but when I fill up a water bottle it has a muddy smell when I first drink it. I would like to see some of the rivers dredged so that there is a better flow in and out of water and that the creeks are kept clearer. I also can see there is a lot of build of silt in the river and they need to be cleaned out.
244	I think Council should concentrate on keeping the waterways healthy. They need to focus on the amount of chemicals and waste that is allowed to run back into the waterways, farming in particularly.
246	We should all have water tanks for old and new houses. How about council rebates.
249	Drains are very overgrown and should be maintained to a better standard.
252	I think the waterways could be a bit cleaner than they are.
253	We should use rainwater more. Rainwater tanks should be subsidised.
254	I would like to see common sense used to solve future water cycle management.
255	Stop the people from building high rise buildings, if we didn't have so much high risers we wouldn't be so congested and there would be a lot more people like me happier.
256	More education about ways to reduce water usage and information about what Council is doing towards this goal.
261	I would like to see the Byrill Creek dam built.
263	I feel sorry for people who live in units where there is one person who is using the water and they all pay for it which is unfair. The council should make it compulsory for new units to have individual water metres. There is also a person who lives behind me who uses grey water which smells pretty bad which is unbearable to be around.

265	There has been a long term plan and understanding that the land purchased and set aside for future construction of a dam if needed. I support the construction of the dam at Byrrell Creek as planned.
266	Need to do something about the catchment of water because of the increasing populated areas.
267	Anyone can put in rain water tanks especially suburban ones. I was in the UK recently and they had a great usage of tanks. I think we could be 50-80 percent self sufficient enough to have water tanks in all houses. Construction of new properties could have a compulsory rain water catchment tank under the drive ways.
270	I would put in a rainwater tank today if the Council had a rebate for it.
271	They should be looking at enlarging the dam or having a back up dam. In saying this, I think the Tweed Shire is better off water wise than most.
272	I really think the second dam should be built at Byrrell Creek as they have already acquired the land but nothing has been done.
273	I think the water rates are far too high, we aren't in a drought stricken area.
275	I'm in support of the Byrrell Creek Dam.
278	Recycling sewage and waste water is the way to go. A de-salination plant is a waste of money.
280	New developed housing areas should have some form of recycling as compulsory . No too the Byrrell Creek Dam.
281	I am concerned about the amount of chlorine that is being used in the water supply which is too often and due to this we have had to pay a lot of money to get filtration systems because of skin allergies.
287	I think that in all new homes it should be mandatory to have a tank put in and more public awareness of saving water. I also think people should be more educated about how important it is to save water.
288	The idea of a desalination plant is not very good and definitely would not consider this option. I think that all steps to saving water are being taken and should be introduced gradually so we can get use to the steps. I think we should have options as to having our own water tanks and I would like the Council take action on Coal Seam Gas or to seriously consider the effects of the water table and water quality this would have.
289	I don't think is really doing anything about water supplies or conservation just hitting us up for levies, rates and so on and not doing anything .
290	The waterways are not just a local system they are part of the national and global system and as such a larger body needs to oversee the health and vitality of river systems. Fence the rivers from cattle and livestock and regenerate riverbanks to allow the natural ecosystem to regenerate. Needs to be some fairness with water tariffs especially for young families who could be penalised for the need to wash nappies etc.
291	I would like to see every dwelling having its own water meter. Duplexes have only one metre shared between both residences.
294	The environment has intrinsic value which therefore translates into economic value. Once the environment is damaged then the cost of recovery would be greater than any benefit arising from the initial such activity. I strongly believe that we should not do any coal seam gas exploration or development within the shire as we do not know the long term consequences. Coal seam gas exploration can cause irreparable damage to the water table and can directly impact on waterways and water quality.

296	Council should be able to remove shopping trolleys and other rubbish from waterways - even every couple of months to maintain a clean environment.
297	They put too much chlorine in the water when I flush the toilet.
298	I could be self sufficient water wise here with water tanks if only the Council would let me connect the water to all parts of the house not just the toilet, laundry and outdoors. If people were encouraged to have rainwater tanks, there would be less or no need to worry about building up existing dam walls or building another dam. Surely this is a more logical answer and would cost less money in the long run.
300	My daughter has caught sigertory from eating fish from the river. The water quality in the Tweed river needs attention urgently.
302	People should be encouraged to catch their own rain water. Council should patrol for leaking taps and toilets that use too much water.
304	When it comes to the household putting in rainwater tanks and recycling grey water we have a lot of elderly pensioners that could do with assistance in implementing these systems. Smaller community areas could share rain and grey water harvesting and benefit people living in estates as a start.
306	I think a free supply of stormwater tanks to residents would be a good idea.
307	They should dredge the Broadwaters and the rivers to stop them from silting up.
308	I've got more to learn - I'm new to the area.
310	I don't believe that having a second dam in the Tweed Shire is the answer. I think Council should allow residents to install rainwater tanks on their properties.
314	The Tugun de-salination plant? What's happening with that? Will we use that water.
316	I think the council should be looking more carefully at what goes into stormwater drains.
317	I'd really like them to reharvest the water more. We lose a lot of stormwater also the irrigation of parks needs to be reduced.
318	I would like to see another dam built as the population is growing and rainfall seems less now than in years previous
319	I'm not to keen on the dam at Byrril Creek. Our current dam should have it's storage capacity extended.
321	Every new house that's built it should be mandatory to have a rainwater tank. Plus I believe there should be a bigger rebate for installing rainwater tanks.
322	I rang up the other day and I am a pensioner but do not qualify for a rebate as I am not a homeowner. I am paying nearly 10 times more for my water than I was paying in Melbourne. Can you tell me why is this so.
323	I think it 'd be a great idea to plan, and subsidise a rainwater tank for every home.
327	I believe that the current dam walls should be raised rather than construct another water storage.
328	Basically the production of water is 9000 litres per year and were throwing away 8500 litres, they could be using this towards roads and agriculture. If the water is not treated to a high standard there is still a nutrient load accumulating in the water. At the moment I am using drinking water on my garden when I should be using grey water but this has not been an option with council. The storm water harvesting idea is good and could be stored locally somewhere.

329	It's not fair for people who live in units to pay a minimum base rate for water and consequently the council is receiving a lot more income from the residents of the units. I have heard that the Tweed Community are in favour of a new dam but the state government seems to be interfering. The head labour leaders are ignoring local labour politicians and community wishes, perhaps there is state and federal interference on this issue. The regulations for farmers to protect the waterways need to be enforced as well as industry and factories.
331	I think there is no point raising the dam wall if there is not enough water in the catchment so the only option is a second dam. All new housing should have a minimum of 20,000 litre rain water tank for use on toilets, gardens and washing.
332	Recreational river use and subsequent bank erosion substantially reduces the quality of the water in Tweed river particularly upstream from Condong. A river usage levy could be introduced for speed boat users to manage the environmental damage.
335	I would like to see a move for water tanks to be encouraged which would give people a better understanding of water usage.
336	I think that they should be considering constructing the dam at Byrril Creek.
338	I'd like to see a second dam built as soon as possible
339	There needs to be some balance in the argument you cant lean towards total conservation and cut down our living standards.
340	I think people need more help in putting in water tanks. I also feel that farmers need more support particularly where dams are concerned on their property.
342	I have concerns about blue-green algae on the water. I hope this is being attended to before it becomes a problem.
343	Raise the Clarrie Hall Dam wall and widen the spillway. Any new developments need to be sustainable with their own water supply. This should include recycling grey water, harvesting rainwater and runoff and processing their own sewage and runoff.
347	My only concern is that a week ago the water tasted very bad and perhaps water testing may need to happen more often.
350	We're rural dwellers and are conscious about what any body puts in our water ways and are strongly opposed of any chemicals being used around rivers or any other waterways. The access of jet skis and speed boats between Condong and Murwillumbah should be limited or banned.
351	Increase the capacity of the Clarrie Hall dam.
353	No dam at Byrill Creek. Raise walls of current dam. Greater use of run off water and stormwater. More education for the public about conserving water. Compost toilets and grey water systems. The worst possible decision would be to allow CSG activities in the region.
354	I am not keen to use recycled water but happy to use a rainwater tank.
355	Under no circumstances is a dam to be built Byrril Creek. Raise level of existing dam and every new house have a rainwater tank.
356	I think people could be encouraged to have drinking water tanks on their properties. We should all be encouraged to use recycled water in our toilets. And not to destroy our precious habitats.
357	I think we all should have rainwater tanks - we are self sufficient with our water and are not connected to the town supply. A lot more education about water conservation and the cost of water supply.
359	I think the Tugun project should be reactivated to provide water for the Tweed Shire.

360	I think they should put another dam in so that they always have a backup in case something goes wrong with the other one.
362	It's something that they have spent too much time talking about water. I have lived on tank water and it did not satisfy my water needs. We should be making sure there is adequate water as we have more of a population. If we can double the capacity of the existing dam that would be sensible. We should not be continually allowing development to be taking place until they have water saving options and put in place during the construction of the development.
364	I think the council should consider the water desalination plant to be put to use in times of water shortage.
367	I think all new houses should have compulsory rain water tanks (plumbed into the toilet system). The rebates for water saving devices didn't work very well.
368	I can't drink any water out of the tap without it being filtered, it's over chlorinated.
370	I think we have to look after the local areas first and supply them with water.
372	My concern really is the too many people are opposing another dam, and it's got to happen regardless.
373	I think that the land has been purchased for the dam so therefore the Council should go ahead and build the dam. There are so many more housing developments going ahead at the moment thus the Council needs to plan for future water demand. Further to this the land developers should also fund future water development needs.
379	I think council needs to support self sufficiency in the provision of water tanks and grey water recycling so we don't impact on the environment any more than what we need to. More restoration of riverbanks and try and get it back to it's natural state, wider riparian zones needed.
380	The pollution from animals such as cattle running in rivers and water ways, this can be easily fixed by fencing off the streams and allocating water troughs. Look at the average rainfall for this area, we have massive rainfall as we are in a very tropical area, this means we have a massive rain fall catchment. If Council subsidised water tanks for all homes we do not have to build another dam we can sustain our own water use by catching the water run off from our roofs into our water tanks.
383	I think more households should have tanks put in to save water.
384	I don't agree with a second dam at this point.
385	Households on rural properties should be allowed to put spears in.
386	I think there's too much waste water going into the river, it should be collected for re-use.
387	With the Tweed being in a high rain fall area and if we could capture this then we could keep it to a reasonable standard for all users maybe not drinking water. A council rebate with water tanks would be good which be less of a burden on the town water supply.
389	Concern they increase population and not the water resources, like building more dams.
391	I have some concerns about chemical spraying that we can smell near Condong and Scotts Island when we pass by. Is Council aware of or monitoring the chemicals being sprayed in this area?
392	People need to be educated how to be water wise.
393	I think that council should extend the walls of the existing dam.
394	Build another dam.
395	I think the council should think carefully about the extent of large new developments, they impact negatively on both water supply and the environment generally.

397	I think re-use and water storage and harvesting is the way to go. It is cost effective, and I think there is a lot of community support for it.
401	If they don't do something soon we'll be in real trouble. All this arguing over new dams we need action now.
403	I think the council should let residents use rainwater where possible - people in the country are already using rainwater where no town supply is available. Collecting rainwater would reduce run-off and waste and would be some assistance to the health of the river by reducing runoff. Everyone would naturally learn about water use and conserving supplies.
404	We need to do more about saving water, use less water and use recycled water rather than build another dam. How about rebates on rainwater tanks for all homes?
405	We have tanks and every year we pay Council a fee to send us a letter so we can get our plumbing checked. I realised this is important but because we put our own tanks in, I feel it is unfair that we should pay this fee. This I believe is discouraging people from putting tanks in and I think Council could do a lot more to encourage people to have tanks put in. Not only do we pay the fee, but we also then pay to have the plumber come out to check the plumbing, so it is annually quite an expense. It did discourage our neighbour from putting the tanks in, as she did a cost analysis and figured out it would be more costly to have them put in place than what she would save.
406	I think the Council do a fairly good job with the resources available to them.
407	I agree that the Byrill Creek Dam should go ahead.
408	Council should be focussing more on how to utilise wastewater better. Should be looking at Kings Forrest development. Where is the water coming from?
410	Rainwater tanks and grey water recycling could go a long way to self sufficiency.
412	The community needs to be confident the we have a secure long term supply of water. I support more storage capacity in the form of an extra dam or increasing the current storage.
413	If the Council could rebate everyone on water tanks that would save a lot of water.
415	I say that everyone around here has short memories as around 8-10 years ago we nearly ran out of water. All efforts must be made to ensure a sufficient water supply for the long term future e.g. another reservoir.
416	I think that it is a shame that the water has to be so heavily treated and that it should be looked after better.
417	Like Council to have a system that encourages people to supply their own water e.g. tanks or runoff catchments
419	I am concerned about the water quality, the water has a strong chlorine odour and smells like a pool.
422	I strongly support the theory that there should be a close relationship between population and the availability of water on occasions of maximum probable drought.
423	Would like to see another dam built.
424	Ultimately I think we do need another source of water but should consider the options for minimising usage and maximising storage.
427	I think that everyone should have rain water tanks.
430	Build a dam on the land bought years ago at Byrill Creek. Planted trees on the land for harvest.
431	Stop procrastinating and build another dam.
433	I think the State Government, local Councils and users need to come into the equation in the planning, maintenance and production of clean water.

434	I think there should be a proper pipeline from the dam to the current water supply, which would be a cleaner supply and less costly as the water supply from the dam as cleaner than from the river.
436	The river is silting up, and I would like to see it dredged to let the fish and wildlife come back into it. Once the silt is dredged, it could then could be sold as fill etc. Obviously this couldn't all take part at once, due to fish breeding etc, but I feel as a whole it would be greatly beneficial to the river and ecosystems within it. Also selling the silt that is dredged would help to offset the expense of the dredging process.
438	I think everybody should have tanks!
439	I think that the Council should make sure that we have adequate clean water supply at a reasonable cost.
440	Could do more to recycle but it is expensive.
443	I think Council should be taking sewerage water and treating it, once it is treated it is perfectly fine to drink.
444	Getting everyone involved and educated at a young age about the importance of water will be good.
445	I think the quality of our water at present is very good.
446	Town water there is a residue of white powder in glass bowl that is eroding away the glass bowl. Chemicals in drinking water is a concern with our health depression.
447	Subsidising water tanks for urban and rural people.
448	If Council didn't pay the General Manager so much for doing very little there would be more money to use for our resources. Why can't I have a water tank in my backyard and drink from it? Yet on rural properties the tank water is used for all purposes including drinking? What is wrong with this system? Why aren't there incentives for grey water systems to reduce water waste even further?
450	I think that if something was brought in such as recycled water I would happy to use it as long as it was 100 percent safe.
453	Living on the Tweed River and around us are some property owners that restrict animals access to the river and we see a much healthier riverbank. Perhaps council could encourage or offer incentives for riverbanks to be fenced to reduce erosion by farm animals.
455	The land for another dam has been purchased for over 25 years - it's there waiting so why doesn't Council build another dam as per original plans. We must do this given growth of population etc.
456	We must have this other dam. Our area is getting bigger and bigger.
457	Proposal for new dams is really bad. More effort put into recycled water. Be sincere with the community.
458	I think an additional dam would be okay as long as water can be released in flood conditions without creating floods.
459	Needs to be more education regarding the Byrill Creek dam to keep people informed.
462	I think we use a lot of water in toilet flushing. I think we need to explore other options further i.e. other countries use composting toilets and the like. I think we just have to research further how to use our water more wisely and educate people about it. We need to studies, do surveys find out more accurate information!
463	See more tanks on houses, more people to take responsibility which is less rates for everyone.

464	I'd like to see a little more care with the boating on rivers washing away banks. I don't think skiing should be allowed in some places. I'd like to see more education and policing of the waterways and illegal rubbish disposal.
465	Too much development makes too much demand on our water, and the developers walk away. The development at Kings Forest near Kings Cliff is too big and next to the last ban of koalas and dogs kill moving objects/koalas, Council have done their best to curb this development but I think the koalas will loose out.
466	The water always tastes beautiful.
467	I would like to see the streets cleaner from debris from over hanging trees in flood prone areas to prevent flooding.
469	I would like to see a ban on water skiing activities on the river because the cost of rehabilitating the river bank is very high. It would be better to preserve and look after the natural environment of the river and waterways.
471	With the area growing so quickly we have a very small catchment area and we need a decent permanent water supply source. We need another dam at Byrril Creek or stop the influx of new people into the region.
473	Not wasting and store as much water as possible and more rebates. Continuing rebates.
474	It would be good if they dredged the river so it could flow. Also the swamp in "Knox Park" as it is just a breeding ground for mozzies and cane toads. This flows into the river and I believe it must be contributing to the pollution of our waterways.
475	Council should encourage more people put in water tanks.
477	Natural habitats are a great amenity but people need to drink. Occasionally reality has to intrude.
478	Another dam is essential given the growth of the population in the region.
479	It worries me as water is becoming more and more scarce. We really have to be careful with our water and plan wisely for the future.
480	Raise the dam levels at Tweed dams.
481	should build another dam or raise the height of the Clarrie Hall Dam. There should be an agreement between Tweed and Qld in terms of sharing water.
482	I would like to see council make a decision about future water source before the Shire is in dire situation with water availability.
484	Erosion at Kirra Beach.
485	I think the council needs to take more care with controlling pollution that enters the Tweed river, primarily from recreational users.
486	I think that we will need to create more water storage for our region somewhere in the future, therefore Council should give serious consideration to construction of another source of water holding.
487	There should be rain water tanks in every home. How about rebates for that?
491	I do not agree with the need of another dam.
492	I think they should provide assistance for people with new houses to put water tanks and for other people in the area who also do not have one.
494	I think treated or recycled water should be less than the cost of drinking water.
495	More use of recycled water.
496	I believe we should re-use water as much as possible as there are and more water tanks.

499	I think if they don't do something they will eventually run out of water such as building a dam. They need to provide more rebates for people to put in water tanks. I think that residents in older style duplexes should have separate water metres read and built by the council as it is unfair that they pay half for water regardless of how much they use.
502	Tweed Shire Council does not need to build a dam. Council needs to look at curtailing over development of the region so as to maintain a safe future water supply.
504	Build that dam where they brought all the land. It doesn't matter how much water we're saving. We are populating more and building more developments which means more water usage.
505	I think there is enough science there to show that our water is dependent on the current weather patterns.
506	People to be encouraged to put water tanks in.
507	I believe that we should have more water tanks, every house should have one.
508	Should build another dam because of population growth.
511	I would like to see the river water quality improved, especially up river. I would also like to see a better system to ensure farming chemicals do not enter the waterways.
512	I wish council would come and clean our gutters out.
513	All new houses should have the ability to recycle and have tanks and there should be some sort of option for older housing.
517	Council should be doing something now about securing more water storage.
518	I think we waste too much water. I don't believe that another dam is the solution. I think that education of water use is important. Having said that, big housing developments mean that the current water supply would be insufficient, therefore securing water is an important issue. I would like to see Council concentrate on improvements and better use of the current water storage systems.
519	I think they should build another dam.
521	I believe a new dam needs to be built.
522	I live out of town and I think we need a new dam.
525	I witnessed stormwater overflowing after a storm. Should be someway to catch it. New houses and buildings should have water tanks.
527	Why have we got enormous water price/rate increases over the past 10 years? The increase doesn't fit the CPI so Council please answer?
528	They need to keep their infrastructure in planning for more population, and for new DA's there should be a compulsory water tanks or water recycling.
529	More developments means you need to build another dam.
531	If everyone had a rainwater tank, there'd be less drain on dam water reserves.
533	There is not a standard application for everyone. I feel some developers are getting special treatment.
536	Not so many personal boats on the river.
537	I think that responsibility for the care of rivers should be State Government's. Bores should have been included in this survey.
540	I think the Federal Government should pay for the care of rivers in urban areas.
545	I don't feel it's practical for everyone to have 10,000 Litre tanks. Go ahead with dam.
546	Stop taking commands from Qld (07) telephone areas? Residents over run by Council that is being pressure by Qld and Gold Coast region. Salt development is a disgrace.

547	A third tier in the water use should be introduced as a higher rate and the lower tier rate should be cheaper to encourage good behaviour. The Clarrie Hall dam is not a particularly good idea, we need other alternatives and it shouldn't be raised at this stage.
548	The reuse of water is a good idea for outdoor use it should be mandatory for all new homes built.
550	I would like to see them put in a bigger dam so we have more water.
552	I feel because of the housing developments and increased population growth the Tweed region has an increased demand for water. The current water storage is inadequate to sustain future projected populations for our region. Therefore building another dam would ensure that the region has safe water stored in the future.
553	They should raise the Clarrie Hall dam wall.
555	Council needs to ensure that infrastructure is in place for future expansion of the area rather than use a bandaid solution to deal with increased population needs.
556	I would like to see Council offer better incentives or rebates to harvest their own stormwater.
564	Self composting toilets, looking at tanks. The householder should take some responsibility to save water and not rely on the Council all the time.
567	Unsure why Federal or State Government should pay contribution for maintaining rivers and catchment areas.
570	Raise the height of the dam wall. Should be able to drink the water from the tap which I can't do that at the moment.
571	We do need another dam to make sure we have got enough water.
573	I think they should encourage more people to put water tanks in by giving Council rebates.
574	Agree to build another dam because of increased population.
575	Because of the rapid growth of the Tweed shire, we support a new dam at Byrill Creek. Also other shires do use treated water for outdoor use quite successfully so I feel that it is appropriate that we do too.
576	More rainwater tanks.
577	All new development like Kings Forrest or any other development should have to have water harvesting in place and reticulation.
579	It's important to maintain irreplaceable top tourists sites in the future and should think about the environment and tourists attractions.
580	I am against building the Byrill Creek dam and in favour of raising the wall on the Clarrie Hall dam.
583	When we have heavy rain, the over flow from this should go into reserve tanks to be treated and re-used.
587	Building another dam is not a good idea as the land is too precious to be dammed up. Future problems with increased population so future developments should have water saving devices.
589	The dam at Byrill Creek should go ahead.
590	I think they should put a dam in then all the water problems will be solved.
591	Availability of use of water tanks in rural and urban areas.
592	I would like waste water and recycled water to be up and running and another dam built.
593	I think that if more people had water tanks there'd be less drain on the dam. How about subsidies for water tanks.

594	I would like to see Council provide a water recycling facility for every household.
596	I would like to see the dam at Byrill Creek built for future water use.
599	We do get a lot of rain here in this area for as long as I have been here there has never been an issue with water. In my opinion I don't feel there has been any shortage, we always have plenty of water.
600	Are Council looking into extending Clarrie Hall dam?
601	To take shower water and reuse it for toilet flushing and garden use should be seriously considered or implemented. A considerable amount of water would be saved verses rain water which is still precious.
603	My fear is of coal seam gas will leak into produced water and it will come onto our valley.
606	Another dam would be good as we need.
607	I can't see why retreated water and more run-off water can't be used rather than the outright waste we now have.
609	Everyone should have tanks.
613	I'd like to see all houses with water tanks.



An online and paper survey of Tweed Shire residents regarding the 2013 integrated water cycle management (IWCM) strategy



An online and paper survey of 441 Tweed Shire adult residents conducted by Jetty Research for Hydrosphere Consulting, on behalf of Tweed Shire Council

FINAL REPORT dated February 5th 2013

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Executive summary

A paper and online survey of Tweed Shire residents was commissioned in late 2012 by Tweed Shire Council (TSC), as part of a broader deliberation process surrounding the shire's integrated water cycle management (IWCM) six-year plan.

The online and paper surveys were run in parallel with a random telephone survey of 616 Tweed Shire adult residents (see separate report). Both surveys were designed to seek community feedback on issues raised in the "Six Year Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy review" background paper, prepared by Hydrosphere Consulting and dated November 2012. (See Appendix 1 for copy of final paper/online questionnaire.)

The paper and online surveys were available for completion between November 12th and December 12th 2012. Over that time, 441 valid surveys were received (335 online and 106 paper).

Note that due to the self-selecting nature of the online and paper sample, the results of this survey cannot necessarily be used to make reliable inferences about the overall population of the Tweed shire. The results, while a useful snapshot of community opinion, can (strictly speaking) only be used to reflect the views of those who chose to participate in the survey.

Among the online and paper survey's major conclusions:

1. 32 per cent of respondents were concerned "a lot" about the Tweed Shire's ability to meet its water needs in the medium- to long-term, while a further 48 per cent were concerned "a little". Less than half of online/paper respondents (i.e. 43 per cent) agreed that the Tweed community as a whole had made serious efforts over the past three years to reduce daily water use.
2. Half the respondents believed they used less water than the average Tweed Valley household, while just 9 per cent felt they used more. (The balance believed they were about on average.) One in four were able to correctly nominate the 180 litre per person per day target for average daily water use.
3. On the question of whether Council should focus its activities more on reducing water usage or increasing availability, there was a definite bias towards reducing usage with a mean score of 4.09 (on a 0-10 scale, with midpoint of 5).
4. When asked to nominate which of six water supply factors were most important to them personally, respondents focused firstly on ensuring a continuous supply of drinking water. This was followed by maintaining the natural environment in the river and catchment areas, and maximizing stormwater and wastewater re-use. Encouraging commercial properties and industries to reduce consumption, and protecting waterways for recreational use were deemed of (relatively) less importance.
5. Residents were strongly of the view that river water needed to be clean and of high quality, even if it could be treated prior to reaching their taps. Some 73 per cent felt this was "very important", with a further 23 per cent deeming it "quite important".
6. Regarding the importance or otherwise of conserving water when dams were full, respondents came down in support of saving water even in times of plenty. The mean score of 6.83 (again on a 0-10 scale, with zero signifying "use as much water as we like when dams are full" and ten being "save as much water as possible at all times") was well on the conservation side of the midpoint (i.e. 5).

7. Two-thirds of respondents agreed that it was appropriate to introduce water restrictions when dam levels fell to 75 per cent, with 23 per cent believing they should be introduced sooner.
8. Among five possible Council priorities for funding, protecting the natural habitat and water quality was the most popular choice (nominated by 46 per cent of respondents), followed by protecting the drinking water supply (33 per cent) and improving the quality of treated water/urban stormwater runoff (17 per cent). Conversely, only 3 per cent classed protecting water quality for swimming, boating and fishing as their major funding priority for council.
9. Regarding which of four prompted water-saving initiatives respondents would prefer to see Council allocate resources towards, the most popular option (selected by 45 per cent of those surveyed) was greater use of recycled water.
10. There was widespread support for three prompted alternative water sources. Eighty nine per cent each supported using (a) rainwater from residential tanks and (b) harvested stormwater for toilet, laundry and outdoor taps. Sixty one per cent agreed with using treated wastewater or sewage for these purposes.
11. Asked whether recycled water supplied to their house should cost more or less than, or the same as the current supply price of \$2.05 per kilolitre, 44 per cent believed it should cost less. A further 37 per cent felt it should cost the same, while only 7 per cent believed it should cost more.
12. Half of those surveyed believed that farmers and council should share the burden of maintaining the health of rivers and other waterways within rural/agricultural areas of the Tweed shire, while a further 37 per cent felt Council (i.e. ratepayers) should pay solely for this.
13. Conversely, only 41 per cent agreed that property owners and council should jointly pay for maintaining the health of rivers and other waterways within urban areas, while 46 per cent felt Council/ratepayers should be responsible for this.
14. Just over three-quarters of respondents (i.e. 77 per cent) agreed that the current two-tiered system of residential water pricing is fair, while just 16 per cent believed all households should pay the same rate per kilolitre regardless of usage.

While the above summarises the results of the online and paper survey, it's important to note that this report also compares findings against the parallel random telephone survey of 616 Tweed shire residents aged 18-plus conducted in November 2012.



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February 5th 2013

Introduction

Background

The 2012 Tweed Shire Council Integrated Water Cycle Management (IWCM) mixed-method online and paper survey, commissioned by managing consultants Hydrosphere Consulting, was designed to provide community input into a review of the shire's IWCM six-year plan.

Council's IWCM strategy (originally adopted in 2006, and then updated in 2009 and 2011) has guided its management of the urban water supply, sewerage and stormwater systems for the past six years. Council is now conducting a major six-year review of the IWCM to ensure its long-term direction remains appropriate. This online and paper survey, run in parallel with a representative telephone poll (see separate report), was designed to allow all those wishing to have a say on water cycle management the opportunity to do so.

Methodology

Survey content was based largely around the "Six Year Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy Review" background paper, written by Hydrosphere Consulting in collaboration with Tweed Shire Council (TSC) and dated November 2012. Survey content was constructed by Jetty Research and Hydrosphere Consulting, and followed closely that of the parallel telephone survey (with only minor differences designed to accommodate the different survey methodologies). See Appendix 1 for the paper version of this survey.¹

Two thousand copies of the (A4, double-sided) paper questionnaire were printed. The paper survey incorporated a reply paid envelope and two-sided adhesive tape for easy return. The online survey was loaded into the QuestionPro survey format.

The survey went "live" on Monday, November 12th 2012. Those completing a survey were eligible to win one of two iPads, or the equivalent value (\$500) in shopping gift cards. Fifty A3 posters promoting the survey were produced by Jetty Research, along with 2000 double-sided business card-sized promoters. (See Appendix 2 for examples of both).

The survey was publicised via the following means:

- Survey web link to the online version of the survey on the <http://www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/Water> and <http://www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/Water/IWCM.aspx> web pages
- Information packages – including covering letter, paper surveys, business posters and business cards – sent to identified contacts at ten Tweed Shire high schools, plus TAFE (Kingscliff and Murwillumbah campuses), Southern Cross University, and Tweed Heads PCYC. This included follow-up phone calls and emails.
- Distribution (via TSC's youth development officer Sylvia Roylance) of a promotional email and web survey link to approx. 70 local youth groups and service providers;
- Distribution of business card promoters and paper surveys at the Tweed River Festival (November 17 and 18th, 2012).

¹ Online questions were, for all intention purposes, identical

Tweed Shire Council and Hydrosphere Consulting also publicized the survey through other means as part of the broader IWCM review project.

The survey was open for one calendar month. As at the completion deadline of Wednesday December 12th 2012, 441 unique and valid surveys had been received (broken down as 335 online and 106 paper).

Breakdown of the survey sample by age, location and gender was as follows²:

Table i: Online/paper sample, by age, location and gender

Age * Region * Gender Crosstabulation

Count			Region				Total
			Tweed Coast north of river	Tweed Coast south of river	Hinterland	Other	
Male	Age	Under 18	22	29	4	6	61
		18-39	9	13	7	5	34
		40-59	10	16	13	3	42
		60-plus	19	19	15	0	53
	Total	60	77	39	14	190	
Female	Age	Under 18	21	25	2	6	54
		18-39	16	19	8	2	45
		40-59	27	36	32	1	96
		60-plus	21	18	12	1	52
	Total	85	98	54	10	247	

(See “Demographics” section of report for further analysis of survey sample.)

Throughout this report, results of the online and paper surveys have been compared against the telephone survey wherever appropriate. However the online/paper and telephone samples have not been merged, as the telephone survey was random while the paper and online surveys were not. (See “sampling error”, below, for further details.)

Due to the nature of the survey, not all respondents answered all questions. The number answering each question is marked as “n = XXX” in the graph accompanying the relevant data. Care needs to be taken in extrapolating results from smaller sample sizes.

Where differences between telephone and paper/online results, or among different groupings of online/paper respondents (e.g. by age or gender) in this report are classed as “significant”, this implies they are statistically significant based on independent sample t-scores or other analysis of variation (or ANOVA) calculations. In statistical terms, significant differences are unlikely to have been caused by chance alone. In tables, statistically significant differences are typically shaded blue (significantly above mean) and pink (significantly below mean).

Given the self-selecting nature of the online/paper sample (see “Sampling Error”, below), results have not been post-weighted to reflect the demographic breakdown of the Tweed Shire adult population by age and gender.

² Note that four respondents chose not to supply one or more of these demographic characteristics, hence the total in Table i does not align exactly with the total sample size of 441



Sampling error

Were random sampling error to be applied to a sample of 441 residents (out of an estimated survey population of approximately 33,657 households in the Tweed Shire)³ the random sampling error would be +/- 4.6 per cent at the 95 per cent confidence level. (This effectively means that if the survey was repeated 20 times, results should be representative of the overall survey population to within +/-4.6 per cent in 19 of those 20 surveys.)

However the online and paper methodology used for this survey, being self-selecting (i.e. “opt-in”) in nature⁴, is not strictly considered random. In a self-selecting sample it is difficult to assess the presence of bias i.e. whether the opinions or characteristics of the participants deviate from those of the target population. Participants may differ from the rest of the target population: for example, those who take part may have a strong opinion about the subject matter.

Hence the results of this survey cannot necessarily be used to make reliable inferences about the overall population of the Tweed shire. The results, while a useful snapshot of community opinion, can (strictly speaking) only be used to reflect the views of those who chose to participate in the survey.

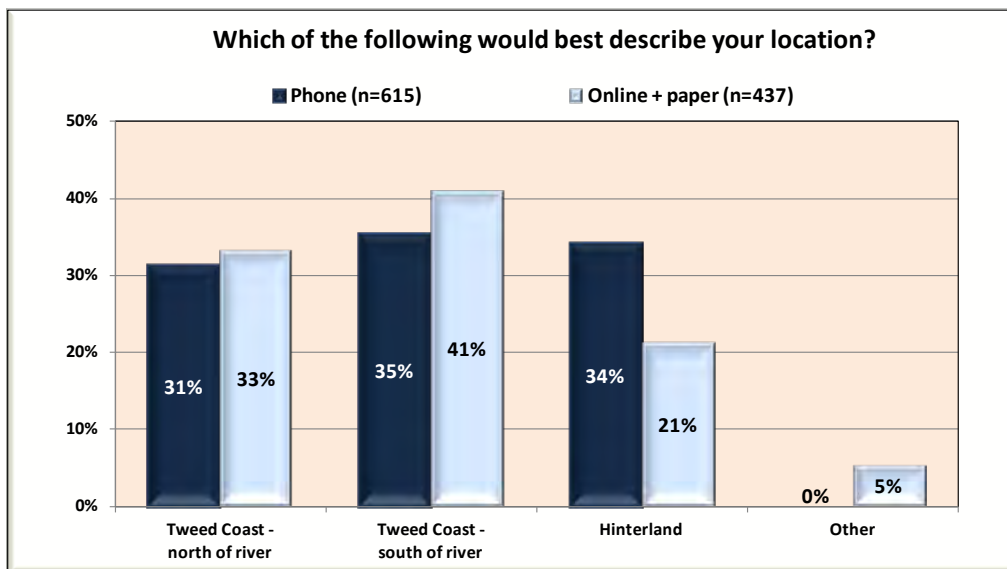
In most instances, results have been compared against the parallel random telephone survey. (Random sampling error for that survey was approx. +/- 3.9 per cent, again at the 95 per cent confidence level.)

³ Based on ABS Census data, 2011

⁴ While all residents aware of the survey had the opportunity to complete it, results are reliant on those who chose to do so rather than those who had been randomly selected to participate. Those who chose to take part may or may not be representative of the Tweed Shire community as a whole.

Part 1: Demographics

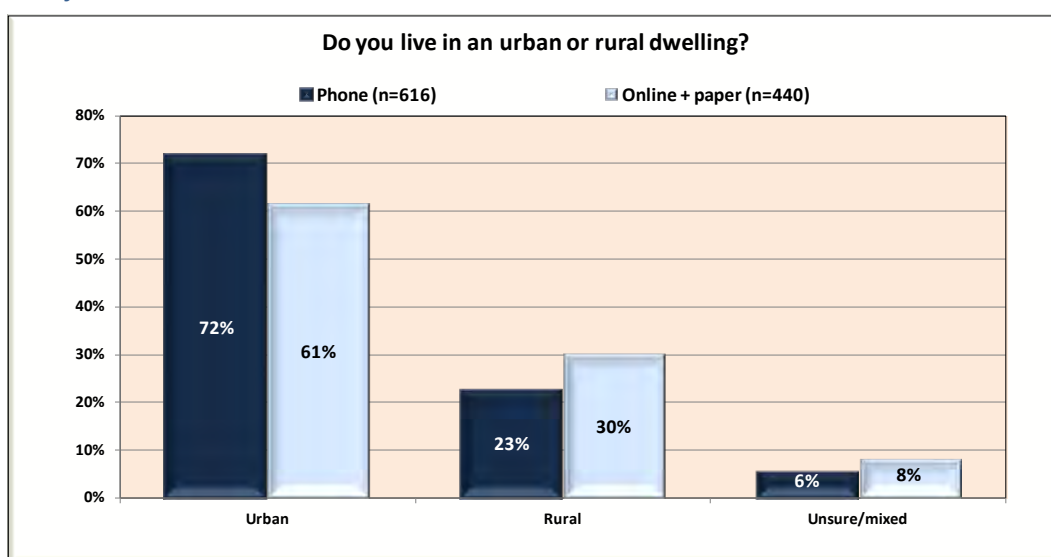
Graph 1.1: Which of the following would best describe your location within the Tweed Shire? (Prompted)



While the telephone survey aimed for a roughly equal split between residents living on the Tweed Coast north and south of the river, and in the Tweed Valley hinterland, the online/paper sample was skewed towards Tweed Coast/south of river (41 per cent) and away from hinterland residents (21 per cent). That said, there is still a broad spread across the three regions.

Five per cent of online/paper respondents lived outside the Tweed shire. However their views have been included given an assumed involvement in the shire as employers/employees, landholders, volunteers etc.

Graph 1.2: Do you live in an urban or rural environment?



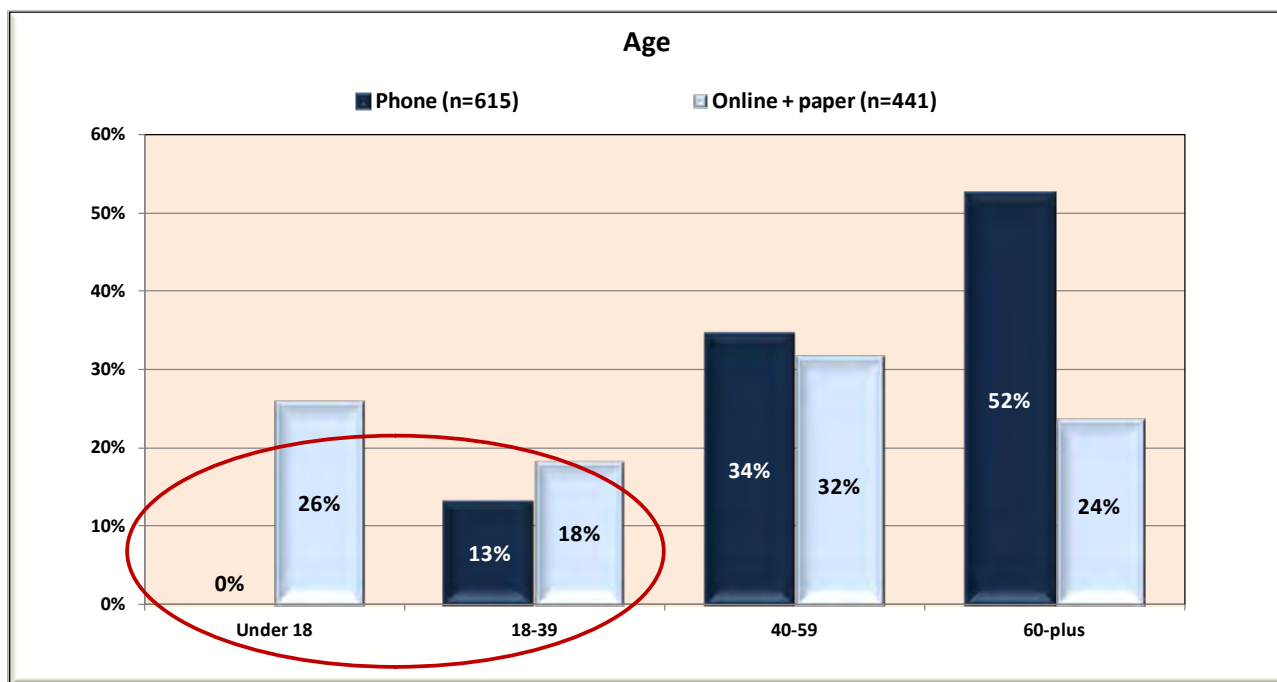
As shown in Graph 1.2, the online/paper survey enjoyed a good spread between urban (61 per cent) and rural (30 per cent) residents.

Table 1.2.1: Setting by location (Online/paper only)

		Which of the following would best describe your location?				Total
		Tweed Coast - north of river	Tweed Coast - south of river	Hinterland	Other	
Urban/rural setting	Urban	109 75.2%	116 66.3%	30 32.3%	13 54.2%	268 61.3%
	Rural	22 15.2%	45 25.7%	57 61.3%	8 33.3%	132 30.2%
	Unsure/mixed	14 9.7%	14 8.0%	6 6.5%	3 12.5%	37 8.5%
Total		145 100.0%	175 100.0%	93 100.0%	24 100.0%	437 100.0%

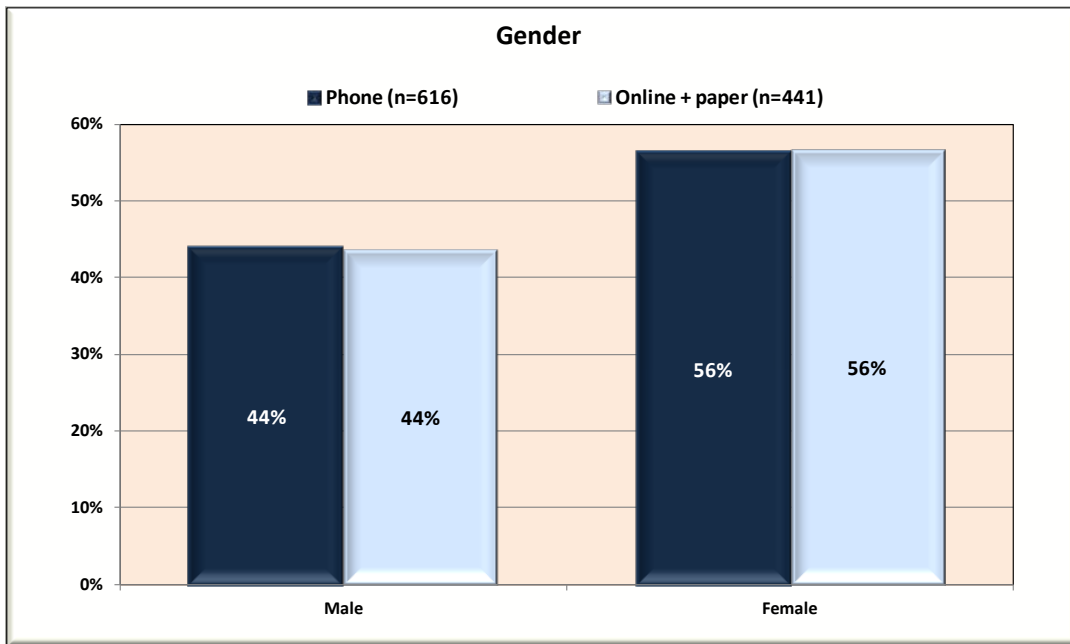
As one would expect, residents in the Tweed hinterland were proportionately more likely to live rurally than those living on the Tweed Coast.

Graph 1.3: Age



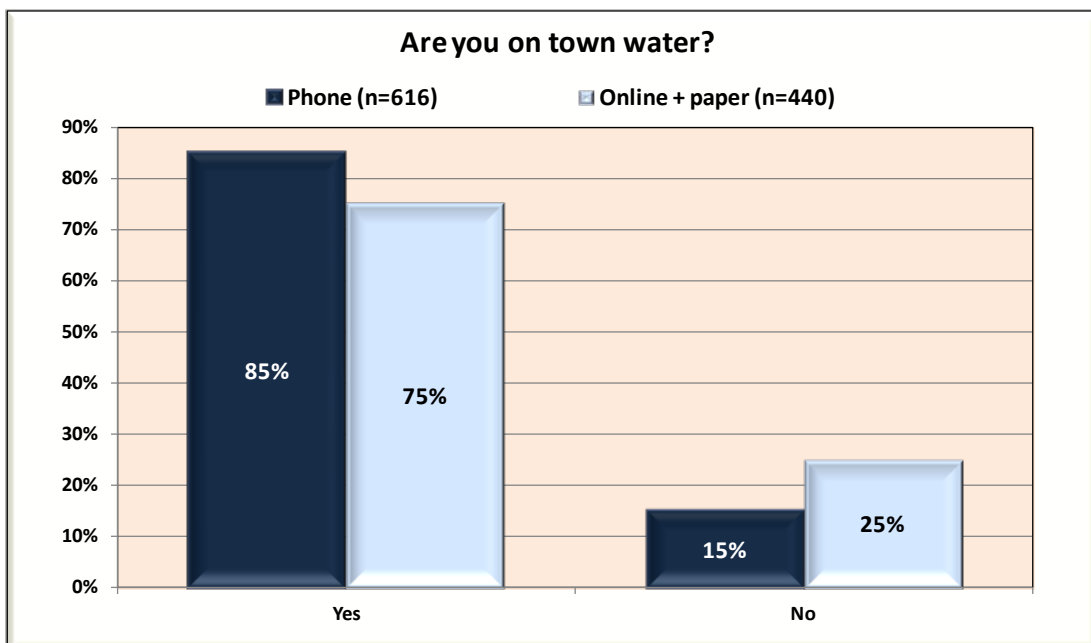
While the phone survey excluded residents aged less than 18 and was hence skewed towards older residents, the online survey provided a relatively even spread of ages. In particular, a promotional push through Tweed Valley high schools (see Introduction) pleasingly resulted in 115 completed surveys from the under-18's.

Graph 1.4: Gender



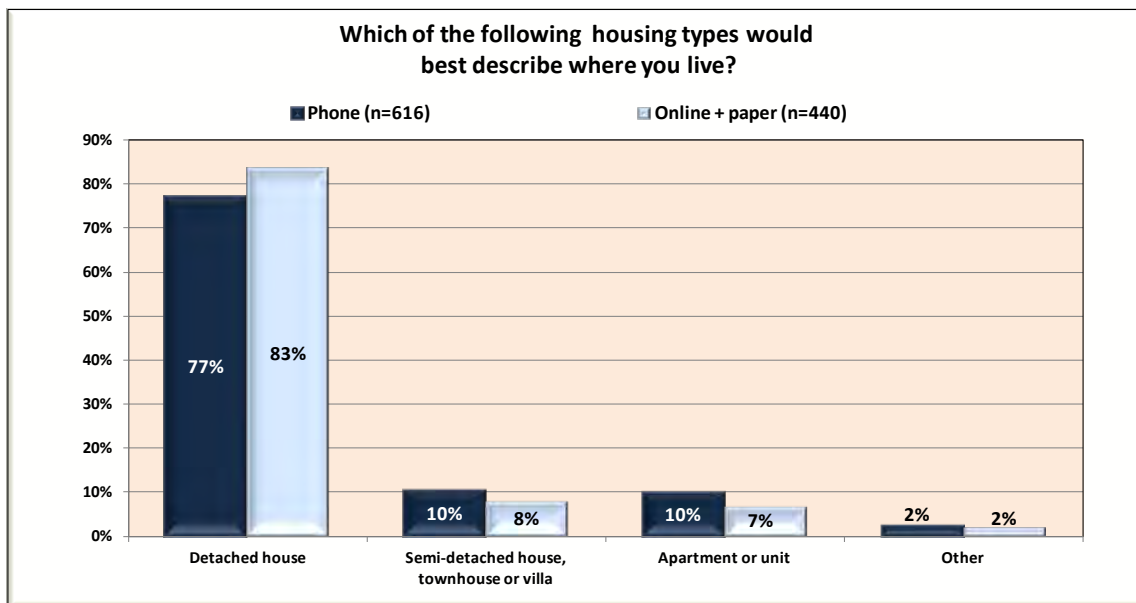
Gender split was almost identical between telephone and paper/online surveys.

Graph 1.5: Are you on town water?



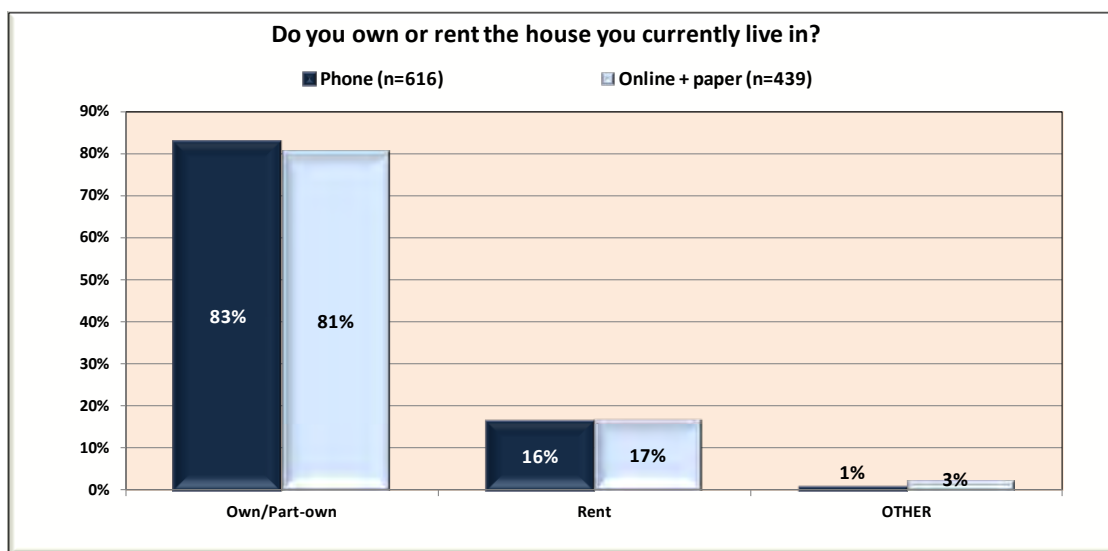
Online respondents were less likely to be on town water than those surveyed by phone, again suggesting a higher proportion of rural residents in this instance.

Graph 1.6: Which of the following housing types best describe where you live?



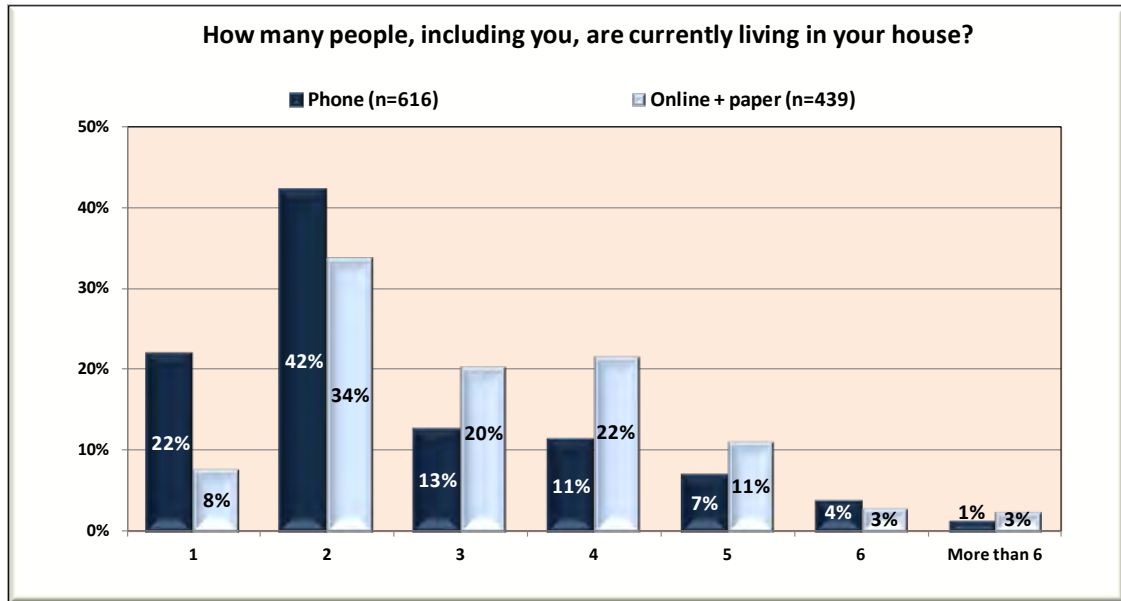
Housing type was relatively consistent between the two surveys. Among online/paper respondents, rural respondents were more likely than their urban counterparts to live in a detached house (at 90 and 80 per cent respectively).

Graph 1.7: Do you own or rent the house you live in?



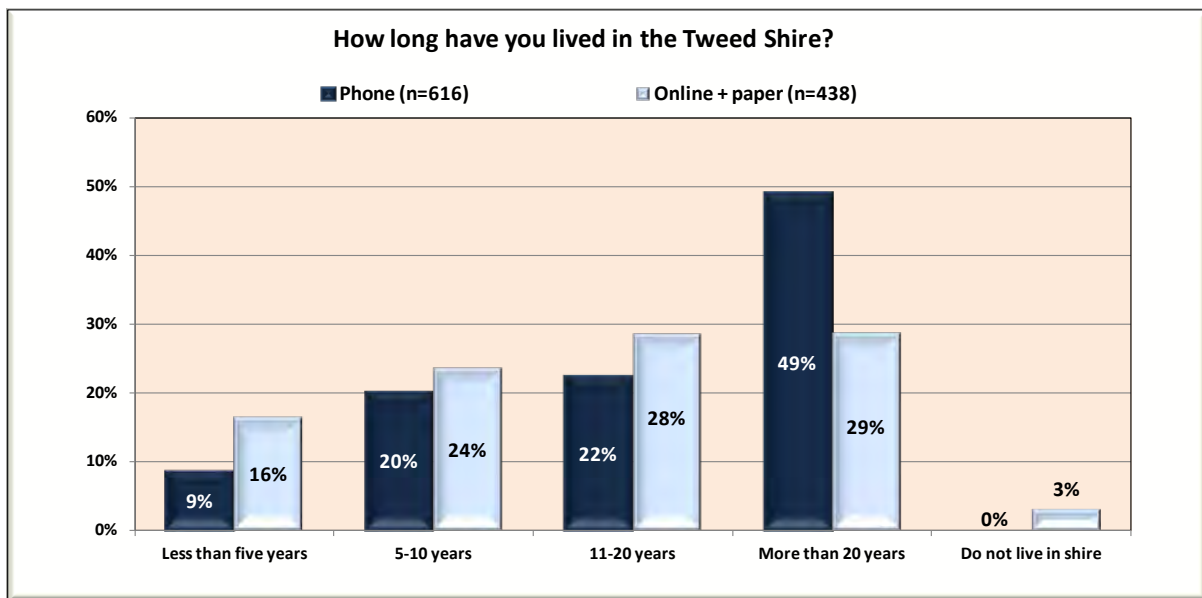
There were no significant differences in home ownership between the telephone and online/paper surveys.

Graph 1.8: How many people, including yourself, live in your house?



Online respondents were more likely than those surveyed by phone to live in households with three or more people. This is consistent with the younger age profile for online/paper survey participants.

Graph 1.9: How long have you lived in the Tweed shire?

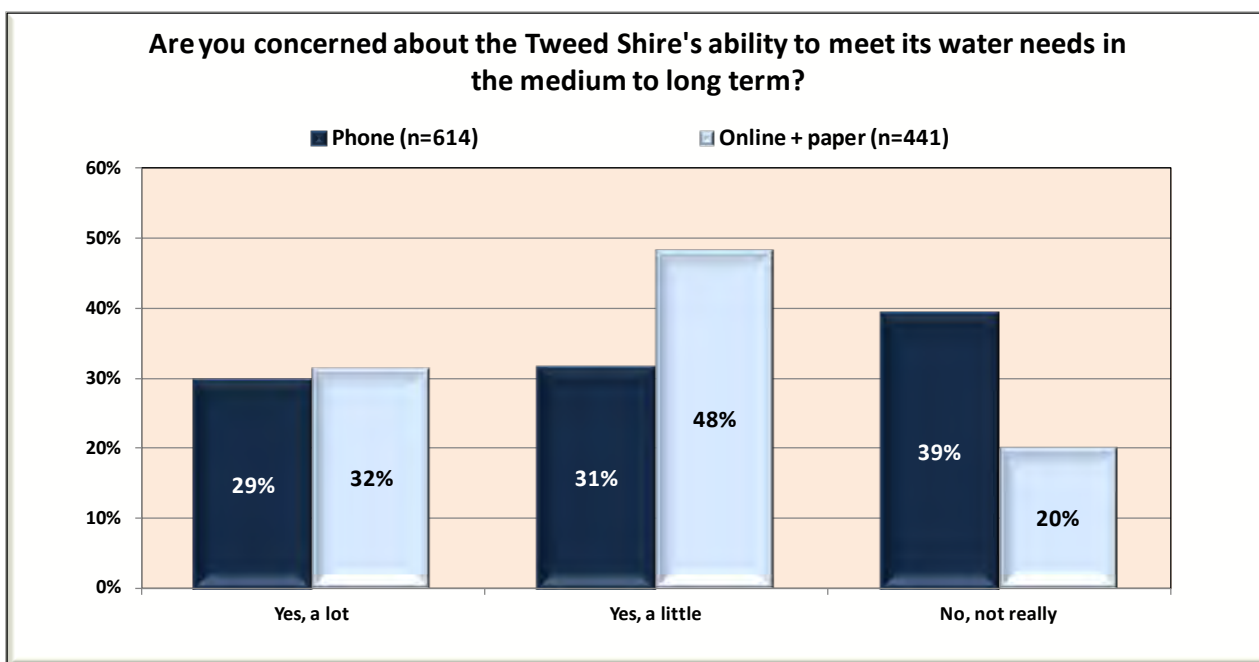


Likewise, the shorter length of residence among online/paper respondents reflects the younger age profile of this sample.

Part 2: Introductory attitudes and knowledge

The survey commenced with a series of introductory questions designed to gain a better understanding of respondents' knowledge of, and attitudes regarding a number of water cycle issues:

Graph 2.1: Are you concerned about the Tweed Shire's ability to meet its water needs in the medium to long term? (Prompted)



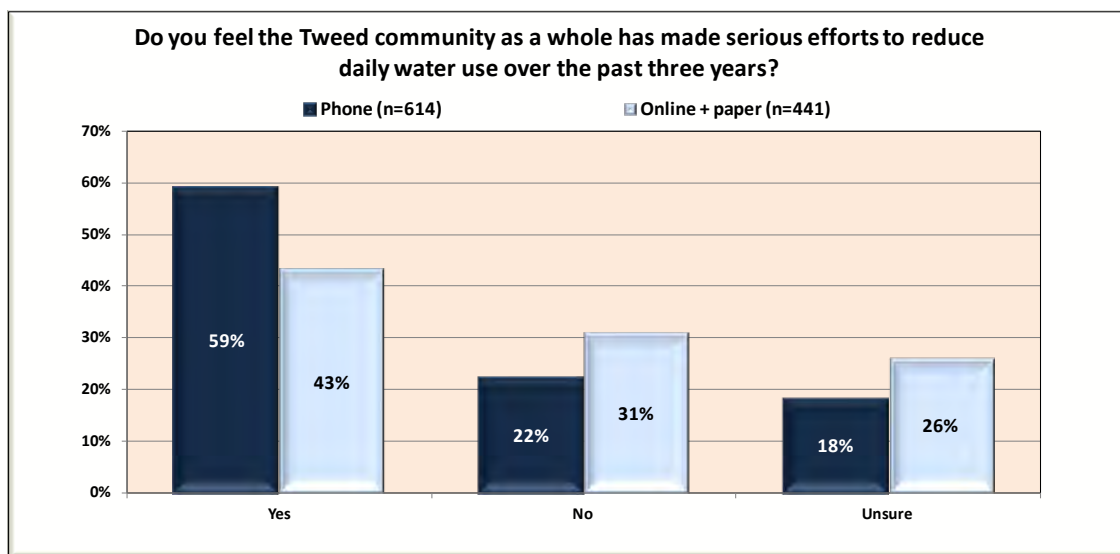
While the number of respondents concerned “a lot” was largely unchanged between telephone and online/paper surveys, the proportion of those concerned “a little” was significantly higher in the latter poll.

Table 2.1.1: Concern by age (Online/paper only)

		Age				Total
		Under 18	18-39	40-59	60+	
How concerned are you with the shire's ability to meet water needs?	Yes, a lot	24 20.9%	15 18.5%	51 36.4%	49 46.7%	139 31.5%
	Yes, a little	68 59.1%	41 50.6%	65 46.4%	39 37.1%	213 48.3%
	No, not really	23 20.0%	25 30.9%	24 17.1%	17 16.2%	89 20.2%
Total		115 100.0%	81 100.0%	140 100.0%	105 100.0%	441 100.0%

As shown in Table 2.1.1, among online and paper respondents concern the proportion of those concerned “a lot” rose significantly with age.

Graph 2.2: Do you feel the Tweed community as a whole has made serious efforts to reduce daily water use over the past three years?



As shown in Graph 2.2, online/paper respondents were less convinced than their telephone-pollled counterparts that Tweed Valley residents had made serious efforts to reduce water consumption over the past three years.

Table 2.2.1 Effort by age (Online/paper only)

		Age				Total
		Under 18	18-39	40-59	60-75	
Feel Tweed community made serious efforts to reduce water use over past 3 years?	Yes	28 24.3%	43 53.1%	67 47.9%	52 49.5%	190 43.1%
	No	37 32.2%	22 27.2%	44 31.4%	33 31.4%	136 30.8%
	Unsure	50 43.5%	16 19.8%	29 20.7%	20 19.0%	115 26.1%
Total		115 100.0%	81 100.0%	140 100.0%	105 100.0%	441 100.0%

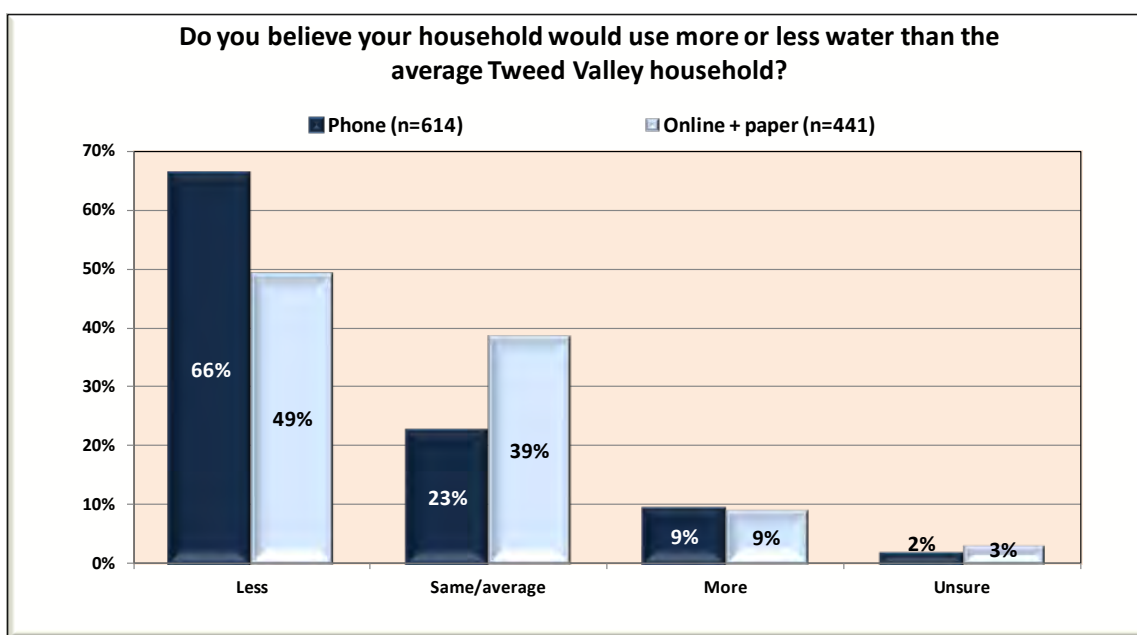
Interestingly, those aged under 18 were significantly less likely than all other age groups to agree that residents had made serious efforts to reduce water use.

Table 2.2.2: Effort by setting (Online/paper only)

		Urban/rural setting			Total
		Urban	Rural	Unsure/ mixed	
Feel Tweed community made serious efforts to reduce water use over past 3 years?	Yes	132	46	12	190
		48.9%	34.6%	32.4%	43.2%
	No	70	53	12	135
		25.9%	39.8%	32.4%	30.7%
	Unsure	68	34	13	115
		25.2%	25.6%	35.1%	26.1%
Total		270	133	37	440
		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Likewise, as shown in Table 2.2.2, urban residents were more confident in the shire’s water-saving efforts than those living in rural areas.

Graph 2.3: Do you believe your household would use more or less water than the average Tweed Valley household? (Prompted)



Online/paper respondents were perhaps more “realistic” in their interpretation of how much water they used, with only 49 per cent claiming they used less than the average Tweed Valley household (against 66 per cent of those surveyed by phone). However the proportion believing they used more than average was the same in both polls, at just 9 per cent.

Table 2.3.1: Perceived usage by location (Online/paper only)

		Which of the following would best describe your location?				Total
		Tweed Coast - north of river	Tweed Coast - south of river	Hinterland	Other	
Believe your household uses more or less water than average?	More	17	17	4	2	40
		11.7%	9.7%	4.3%	8.3%	9.2%
	Less	63	80	69	3	215
		43.4%	45.7%	74.2%	12.5%	49.2%
Same/average	63	73	18	14	168	
	43.4%	41.7%	19.4%	58.3%	38.4%	
Unsure	2	5	2	5	14	
	1.4%	2.9%	2.2%	20.8%	3.2%	
Total		145	175	93	24	437
		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

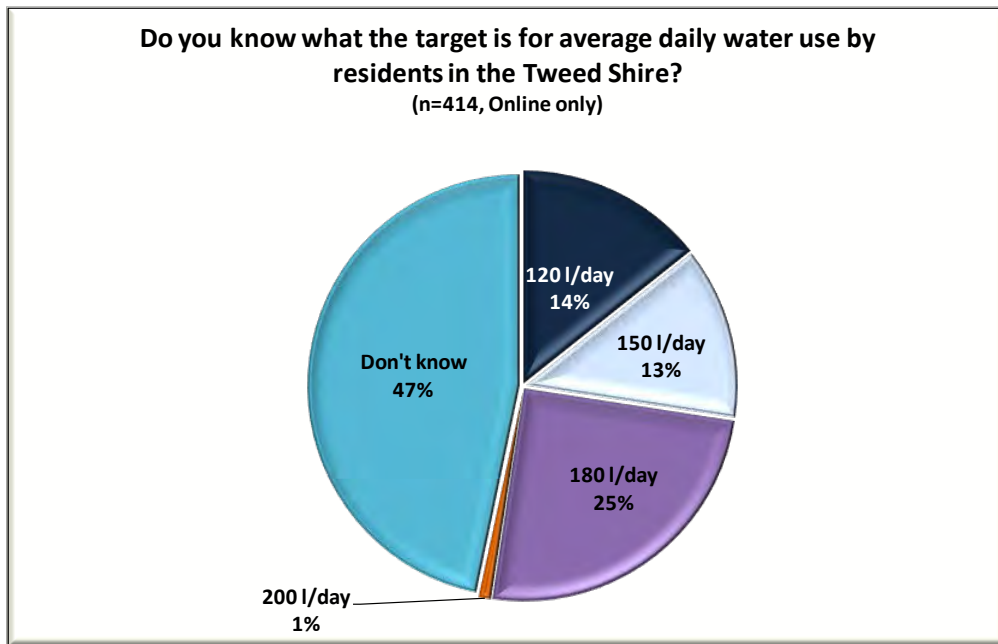
Among online/paper respondents, some 74 per cent of those living in the hinterland believed they used less water than the average household, against less than 50 per cent of those living on the Tweed Coast. (Conversely, 40-plus per cent of coastal residents felt they used the same as the average household, against just 19 per cent of those from the hinterland.)

Table 2.3.4: Perceived usage by household volume (Online/paper only)

		Less than 3/More than 3		Total
		Less than 3 people living in the house	3 or more people living in the house	
Believe your household uses more or less water than average?	More	7	33	40
		3.8%	12.8%	9.1%
	Less	128	88	216
		70.3%	34.2%	49.2%
Same/average	46	123	169	
	25.3%	47.9%	38.5%	
Unsure	1	13	14	
	.5%	5.1%	3.2%	
Total		182	257	439
		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

While it is unsurprising that households with three or more residents were significantly more likely to believe they used a greater amount of water than the “average” household, it is interesting that 34 per cent of those in larger households still believed they used less.

Graph 2.4: Do you know what the target is for average daily water use by residents in the Tweed Shire?
(Online only - prompted)



The results for this question cannot be compared against the phone sample, due to the different methodologies employed.⁵ In the paper/online version, 25 per cent of respondents correctly nominated the correct answer of 180 litres/person/day against four other options. Around half the sample were happy to admit they didn't know, i.e. rather than guessing at one of the prompted options.

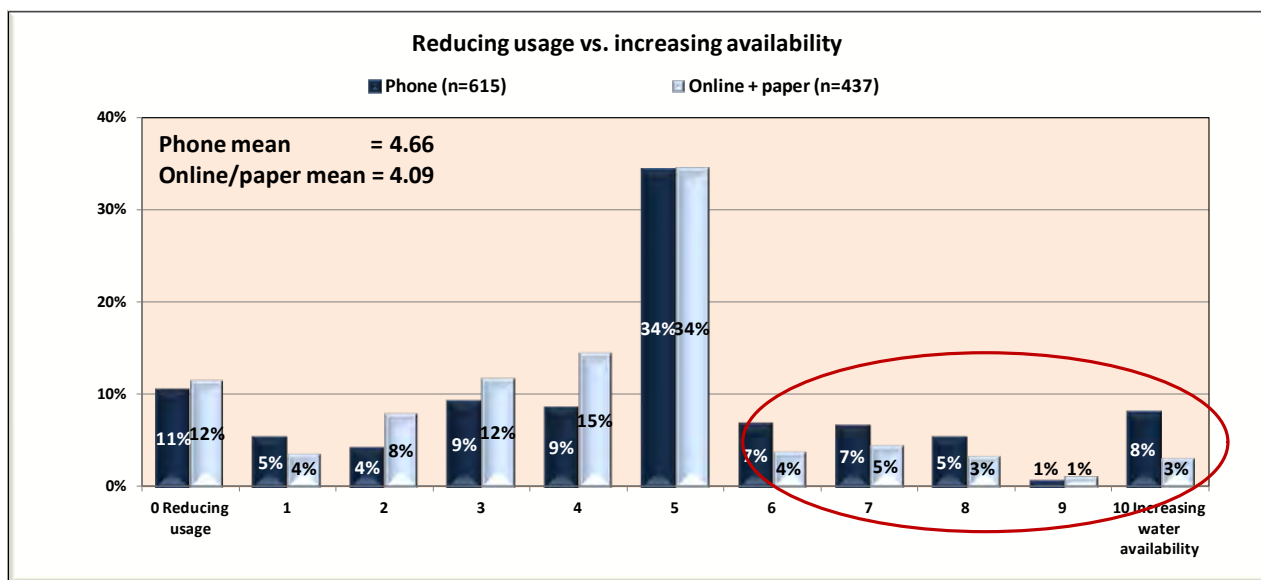
⁵ In the case of the telephone survey, this was an unprompted question asking respondents if they knew the current daily target for water consumption. (Just 11 per cent correctly provided the 180 litres/person/day response.) Online and paper respondents were asked if they knew the correct daily target, and given a list of options, including "don't know".

Part 3: Beliefs surrounding water usage and availability issues

Like its telephone survey equivalent, the paper and online surveys included a number of questions designed to test community beliefs surrounding water usage and availability.

The first of these asked “Some people believe that ensuring a long-term water supply is mainly about reducing people’s water usage, while others think it’s more about increasing water availability. Where would you sit on a sliding scale of 0-10, where 0 means it should all be about reducing usage, and 10 means it should all be about increasing water availability?”

Graph 3.1: Where would you sit on a sliding scale of 0-10, where 0 means (focus) should be all about reducing water usage, and 10 means it should be all about increasing water availability?

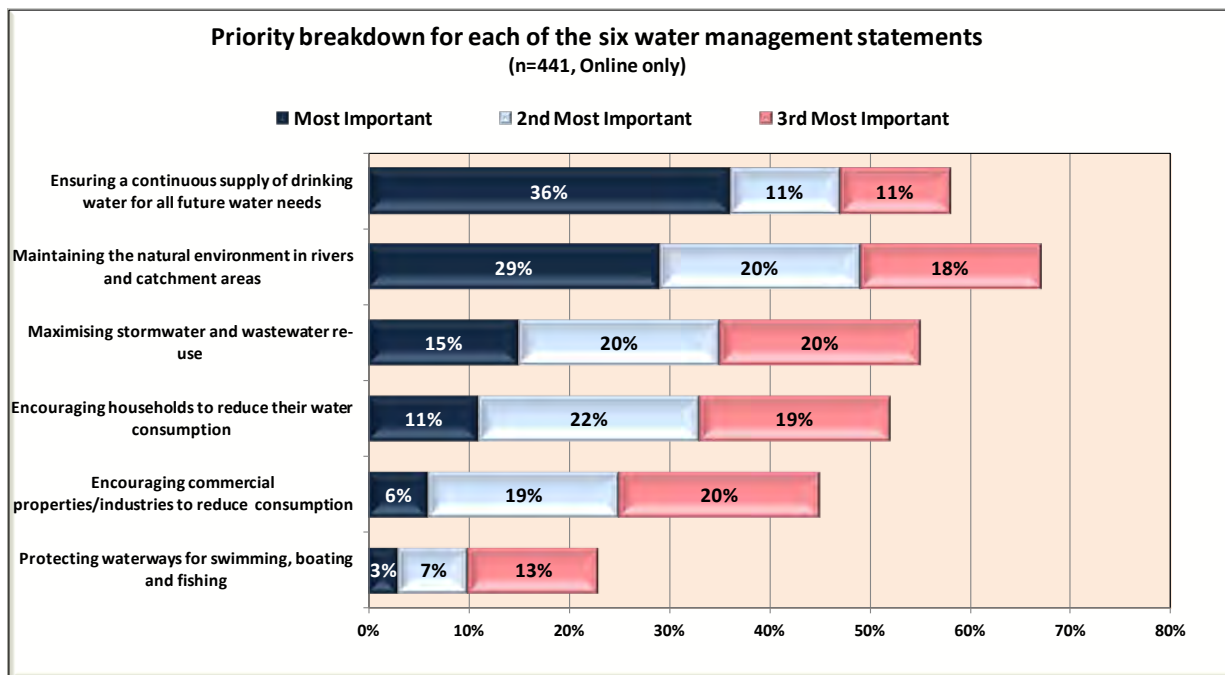


The online/paper respondents were significantly more likely than those interviewed by phone to believe the focus should be more on reducing water usage than increasing availability. This is indicated by the lower number of respondents to the right of the midpoint (see red circle), and hence a lower mean score of 4.09 – against 4.66 for those polled by phone. (However it needs to be acknowledged that both sets of respondents came in on the “reduce usage” side of the continuum.)

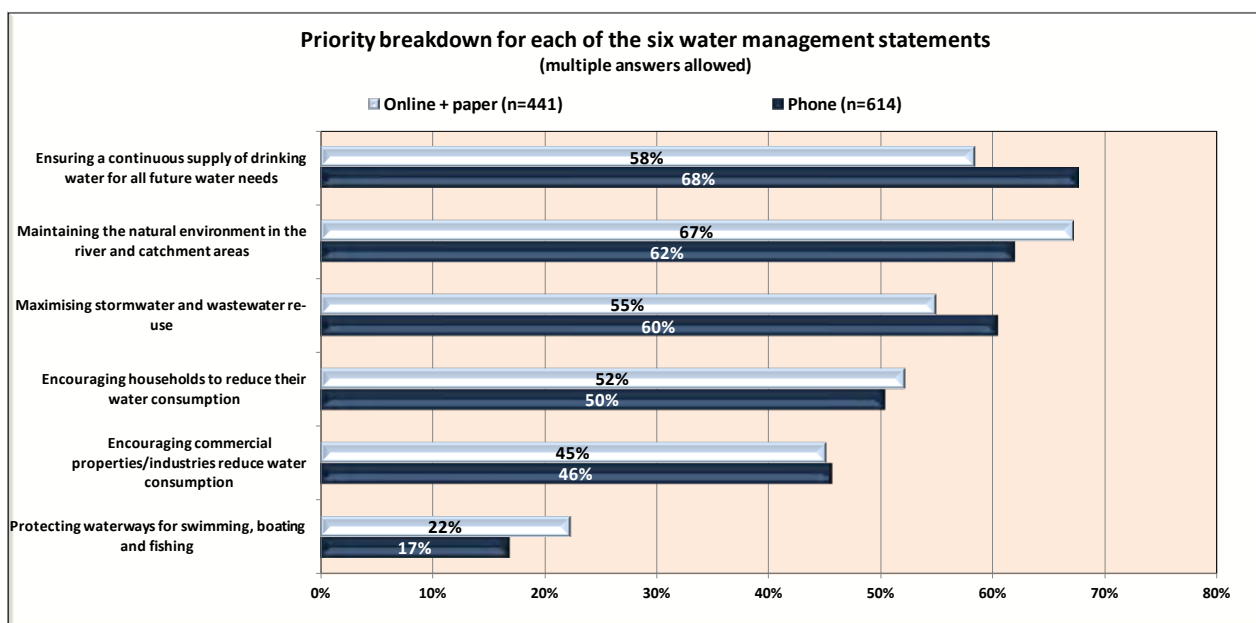
As might be expected, those living in the Tweed hinterland and those classing themselves as rural residents were significantly more likely than coastal residents to focus on reducing usage as opposed to increasing supply.

In a three-part question, respondents were then read a list of six factors involved in securing a long-term water supply, and asked to progressively nominate which of these were the most, second most and third most important to them personally. The online/paper results are shown in Graph 3.2.1, below, while Graph 3.2.2 compares the total nominations for both phone and online/paper polls:

Graph 3.2.1: Priority breakdown for each of the six water management factors (online/paper only)



Graph 3.2.2 Each of the six water management factors named as a priority



Ensuring a continuous supply of drinking water for all future water needs was rated the “most important” factor in both phone and online/paper surveys. However when the three most important factors were totalled (Graph 3.2.2), “maintaining the natural environment in the river and catchment areas” was the most commonly mentioned of the six statements among online and paper respondents.

“Maximising stormwater and wastewater re-use” and “encouraging households to reduce their water consumption” ranked third- and fourth-most mentioned statements respectively in both surveys.

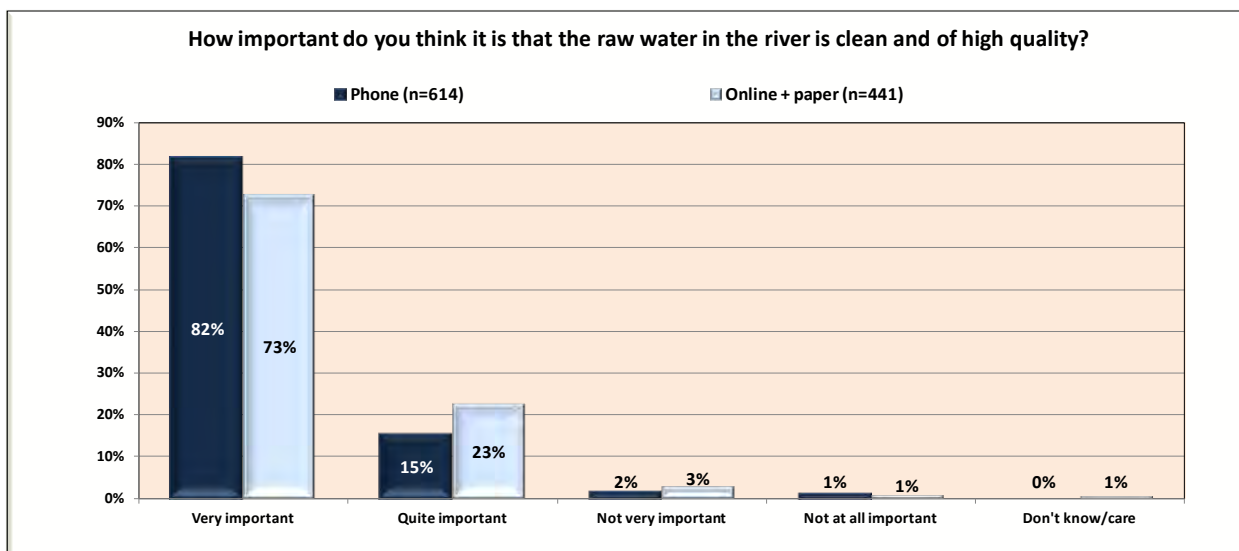
Table 3.2.1: Priorities by location (Online/paper only)

		Which of the following would best describe your location?				Total
		Tweed Coast - north of river	Tweed Coast - south of river	Hinterland	Other	
Priority	Ensuring a continuous supply of drinking water	105 72.4%	100 57.5%	33 35.9%	16 66.7%	254
	Maintaining the natural environment	94 64.8%	116 66.7%	68 73.9%	13 54.2%	291
	Maximising stormwater and wastewater re-use	69 47.6%	96 55.2%	63 68.5%	11 45.8%	239
	Protecting waterways for recreation	33 22.8%	43 24.7%	12 13.0%	9 37.5%	97
	Encouraging households to reduce their water consumption	77 53.1%	89 51.1%	49 53.3%	12 50.0%	227
	Encouraging commercial properties/ industries reduce water consumption	57 39.3%	78 44.8%	51 55.4%	11 45.8%	197
Total		145	174	92	24	435

The collective online/paper results, above, hide some interesting variations by location. In particular (and as shown in Table 3.2.1), hinterland residents were significantly less likely to nominate “ensuring a continuous supply of drinking water” than those living on the Tweed Coast, and significantly more likely to nominate “maintaining the natural environment”.

At this point respondents were told that “Water from the Tweed River can be treated to acceptable drinking standard before it reaches your tap”, and asked “However how important do you think it is that the raw water in the river is clean and of high quality?” The results are shown in Graph 3.3, below:

Graph 3.3: How important do you think it is that the raw water in the river is clean and of high quality? (prompted)

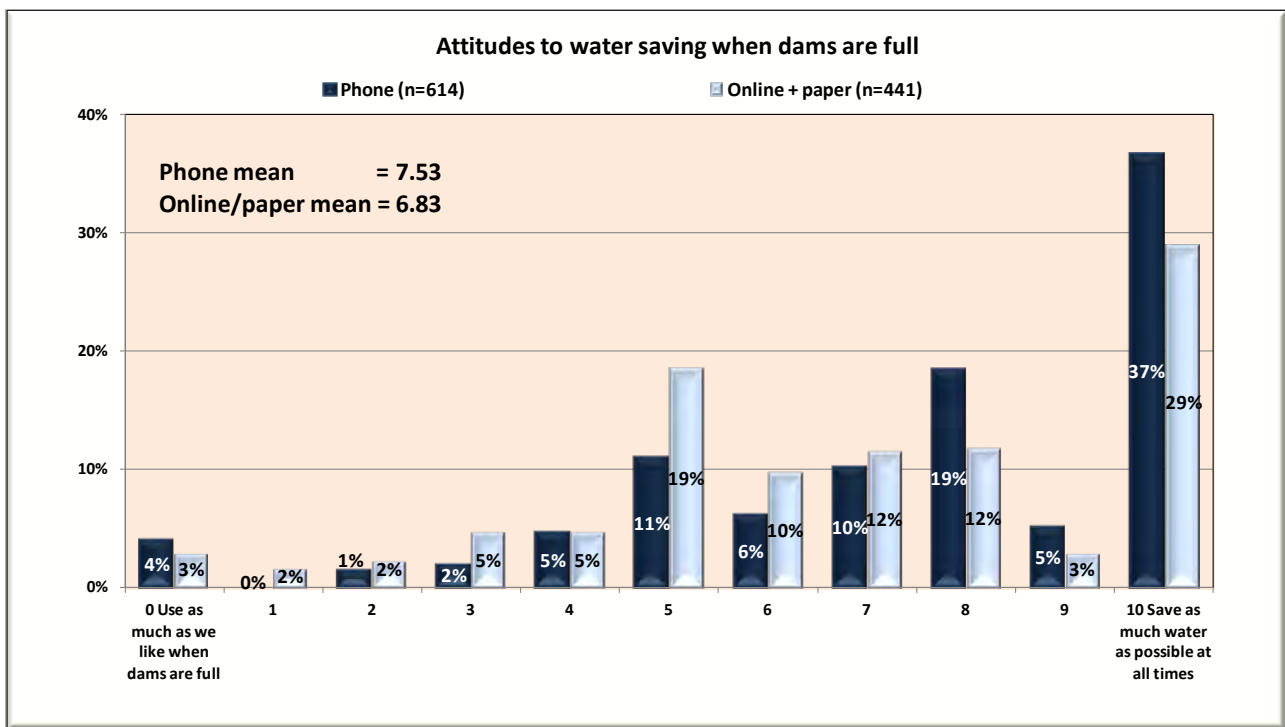


Results were similar between telephone and online/paper surveys, with only the degree of importance changing slightly. But both polls indicated an unequivocal desire for clean, high quality river water.

In a further “forced choice” comparison (i.e. similar to Graph 3,1), online and paper respondents were then told that “Some people believe that when dam levels are full we should be able to use as much water as we like, while others believe the community should save as much water as possible at all times. Where would you sit on a sliding scale of 0-10, where 0 means we should be able to use as much water as we like when dams are full, and 10 means we should save as much water as possible at all times?”

The results are shown in Graph 3.4:

Graph 3.4: Where would you sit on a scale of 0-10, where 0 means we should be able to use as much water as we like when dams are full, and 10 means we should save as much water as possible at all times?



The results of this question are perhaps counter-intuitive given the generally greater focus on water conservation among online/paper respondents in previous survey questions. In this instance those polled by phone were significantly more likely to tend towards the “save as much water as possible at all times” option, with a mean score of 7.53 (on a 0-10 scale) against 6.83 for online/paper respondents. That said, it should be remembered that in both surveys the mean score was firmly on the “conserve at all times” side of the midpoint.

The reason for the stronger “conserve at all times” belief among telephone respondents is almost certainly explained by the age factor, as shown in Table 3.4.1, next page:

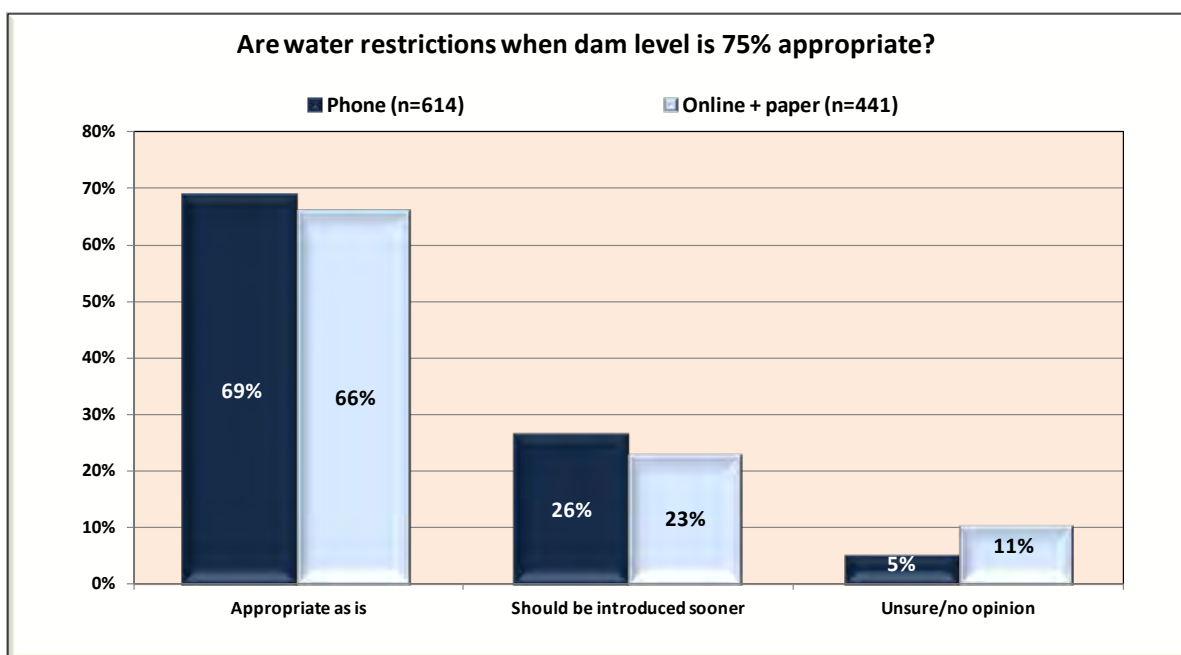
Table 3.4.1: Unlimited use vs. saving at all times by age (Online/paper only)

Age	Mean	N	Std. Deviation
Under 18	6.37	115	2.158
18-39	6.21	81	2.724
40-59	7.05	140	2.944
60-75	7.51	105	2.839
Total	6.83	441	2.730

This suggests a strong correlation between age and a belief that water should be conserved at all times: i.e. respondents aged 60-plus were significantly more likely than those aged less than 39 to feel that water should be saved even in times of plenty. (This may in turn arise from their greater memory of past water shortages.)

Respondents were then told that “Compulsory water restrictions for the Tweed shire currently come into effect when the dam level is 75 per cent, which last occurred in 2003”. They were asked if they felt this was appropriate, or whether they believed restrictions should be introduced sooner. The results are shown in Graph 3.5, below:

Graph 3.5: Is it appropriate to introduce water restrictions when dam levels reach 75%, as at present? (prompted)

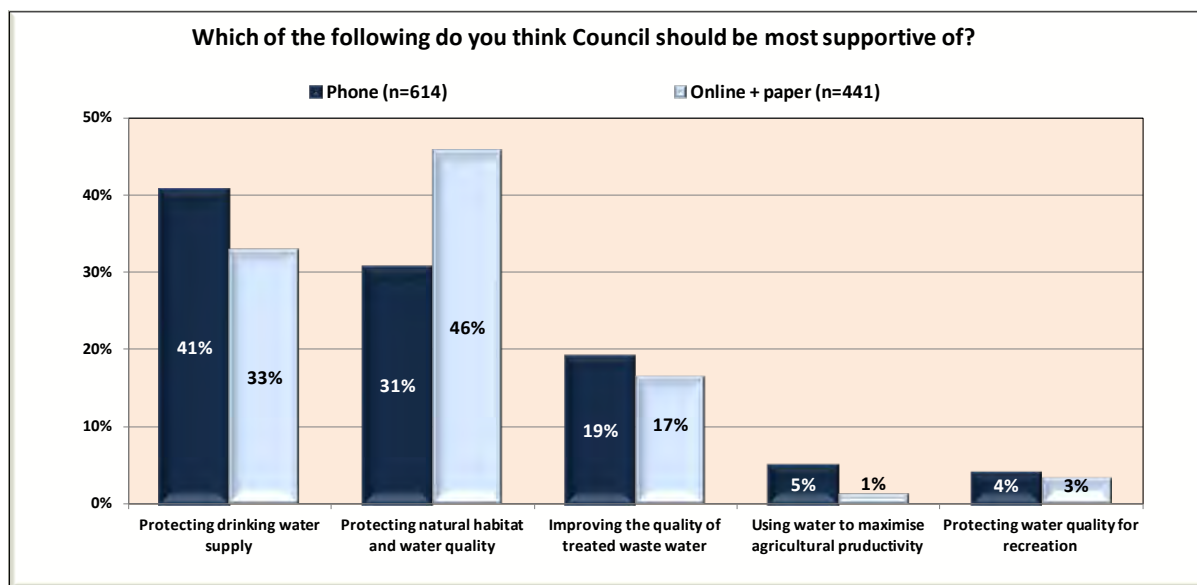


Two-thirds of online/paper respondents agreed that 75 per cent is a logical starting point for water restrictions, a figure that is virtually identical to the phone survey result.

Part 4: Additional water sources

At this point respondents were asked a series of demand and pricing questions about additional water supply sources. This began by asking which of five potential water uses Council should be *most* supportive of:

Graph 4.1: From the following, what do you think Council should be most supportive of? (prompted)



Consistent with other survey findings, online/paper respondents exhibited a greater interest in environmental factors than those interviewed by phone. In this instance, 46 per cent of online/paper respondents nominated “protecting natural habitat and water quality” as the issue most deserving of council resources, against 31 per cent of those polled by phone.

Breaking the online/paper results down by setting:

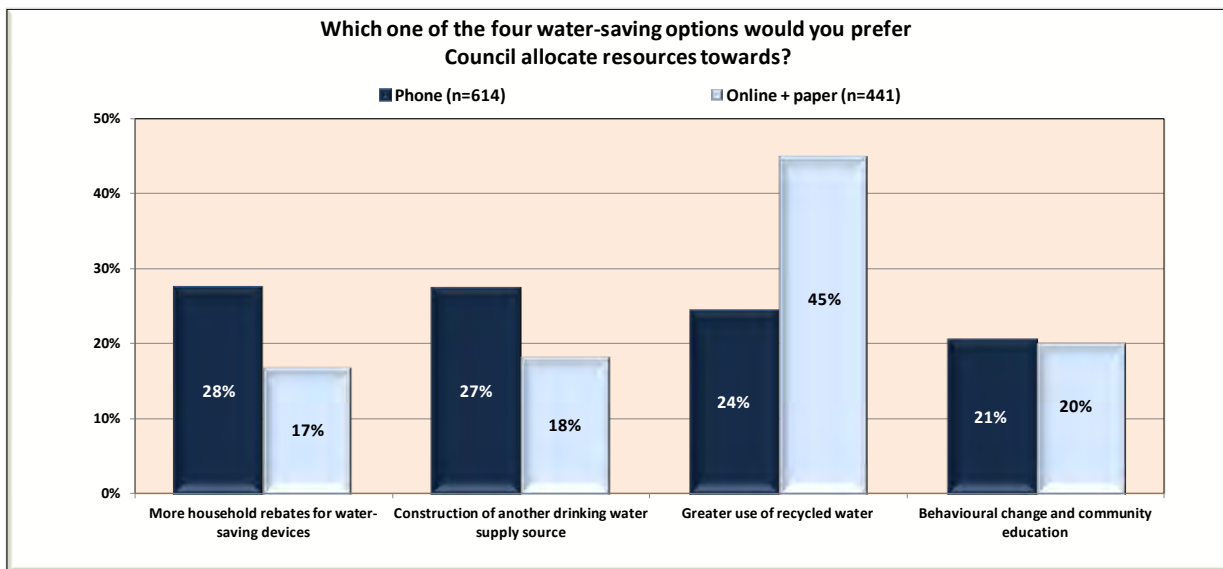
Table 4.1.1: Potential water uses by setting (Online/paper only)

		Urban/rural setting			Total
		Urban	Rural	Unsure/mixed	
In terms of the Shire's waterways, what do you think Council should be most supportive of?	Using water to maximise agricultural productivity	4 1.5%	2 1.5%	0 .0%	6 1.4%
	Improving the quality of treated waste water	49 18.1%	17 12.8%	7 18.9%	73 16.6%
	Protecting water quality for recreation	7 2.6%	7 5.3%	1 2.7%	15 3.4%
	Protecting natural habitat and water quality	100 37.0%	84 63.2%	17 45.9%	201 45.7%
	Protecting drinking water supply	110 40.7%	23 17.3%	12 32.4%	145 33.0%
Total		270 100.0%	133 100.0%	37 100.0%	440 100.0%

This suggests that urban respondents were more likely to focus on protecting drinking water supplies, while the bulk (i.e. 63 per cent) of those living rurally nominated the “protecting natural habitat...” option.

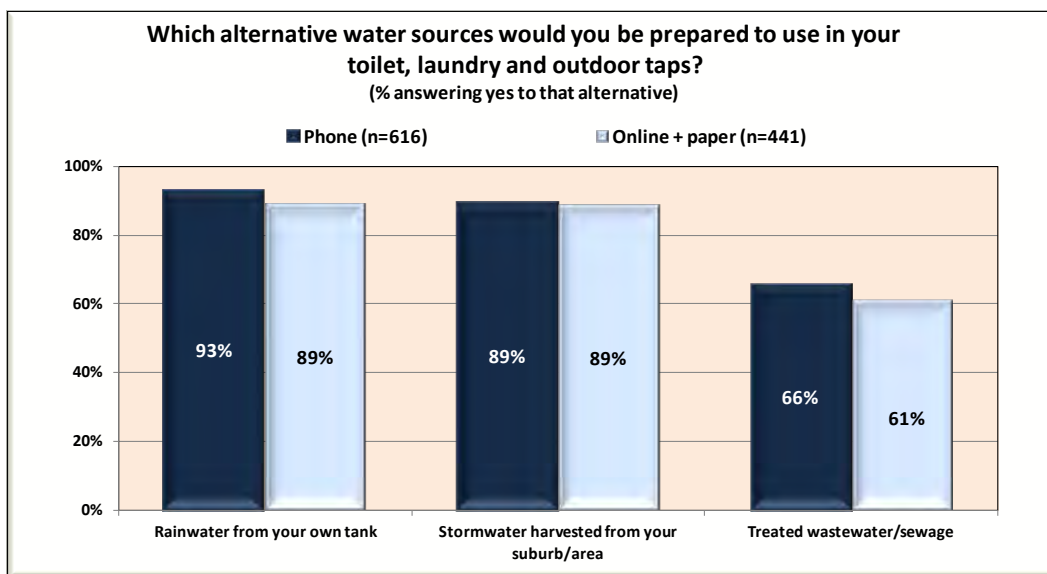
Further to this, respondents were asked to decide which of four potential water-saving options was the most important for Council to be devoting resources towards. Their responses are shown in Graph 4.2, below

Graph 4.2: Which water saving option would you prefer to see Council allocate resources towards?



Whereas telephone respondents were evenly divided between the four prompted options, in the online survey there was a strong bias towards “greater use of recycled water” – being nominated by 45 per cent of participants. Beyond this, however there was roughly equal support for the remaining three options.

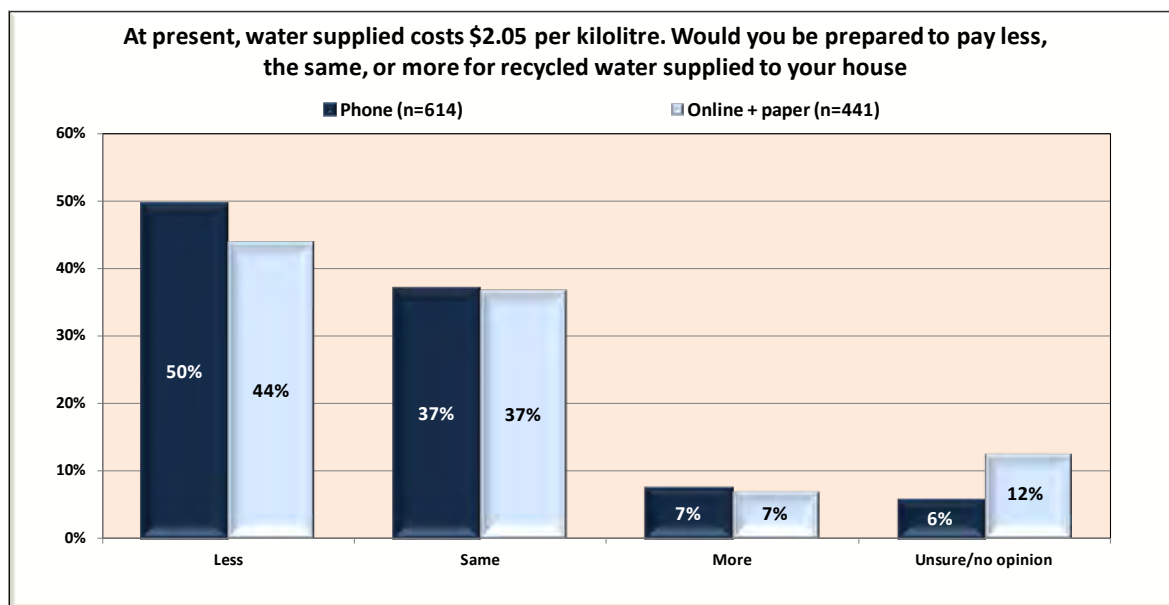
Graph 4.3: Which alternative water sources would you be prepared to use in your toilet, laundry and outdoor taps?



Meanwhile there was strong support for rainwater tanks and harvested stormwater to be used in toilets, laundry and/or outdoor taps (both telephone and online/paper). Six in ten online/paper respondents also said they would be prepared to use treated wastewater and/or sewage.

Regarding preferred water pricing for recycled water options:

Graph 4.4: At present, water supplied costs \$2.05 per kilolitre. Would you be prepared to pay less, the same, or more for recycled water supplied to your house?



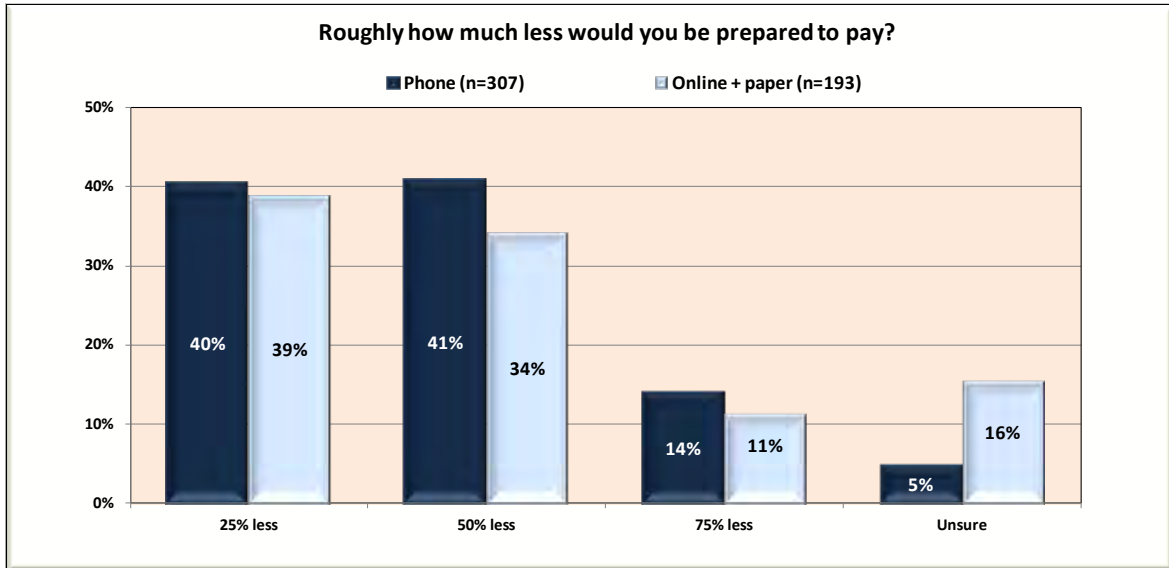
Results were similar between telephone and paper/online surveys, with the largest proportion in each instance (50 and 44 per cent respectively) feeling that recycled water should cost less than existing supply and 37 per cent feeling it should be the same. As shown in Table 4.4.1, below, the jump in “unsure” for online/paper respondents was driven by those respondents aged less than 18.

Table 4.4.1: Current cost options by age. (Online/paper only)

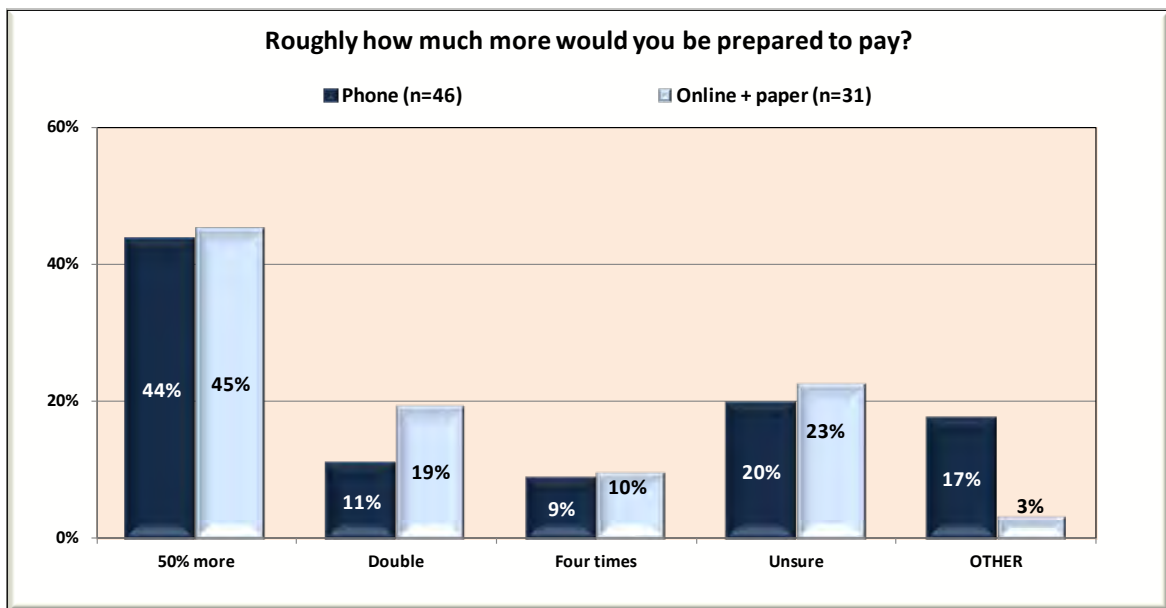
		Age				Total
		Under 18	18-39	40-59	60+	
At present, water supplied costs \$2.05 per Kilolitre. Would you be prepared less, the same, or more for recycled water?	Less	44 38.3%	44 54.3%	60 42.9%	45 42.9%	193 43.8%
	Same	37 32.2%	23 28.4%	56 40.0%	46 43.8%	162 36.7%
	More	11 9.6%	4 4.9%	12 8.6%	4 3.8%	31 7.0%
	Unsure/no opinion	23 20.0%	10 12.3%	12 8.6%	10 9.5%	55 12.5%
Total		115 100.0%	81 100.0%	140 100.0%	105 100.0%	441 100.0%

Graphs 4.5.1 and 4.5.2, below, show (among those proposing the charge be higher or lower) how much more or less recycled water should cost:

Graph 4.5.1: (For those proposing less) How much less would you be prepared to pay? (prompted)



Graph 4.5.2: (For those proposing more) How much more would you be prepared to pay? (prompted)



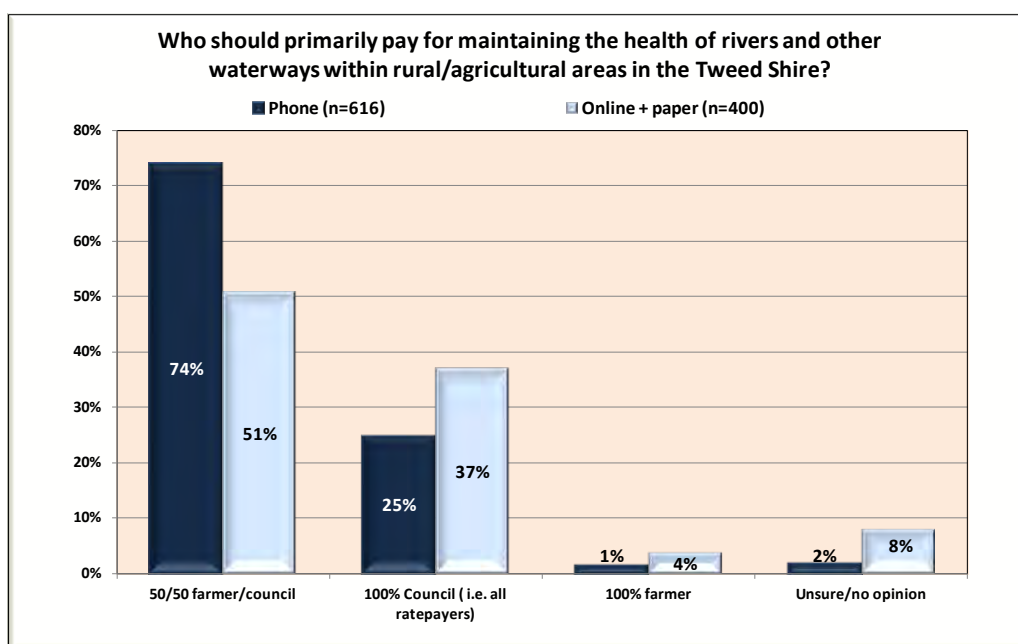
(N.B. Results should be treated with extreme caution due to the small sample sizes)

Of those (193 online/paper respondents) proposing less, opinion was relatively evenly split between those feeling it should be 25 or 50 per cent cheaper. Of those prepared to pay more, just under half felt 50 per cent more was fair.

Part 5: Sharing the burden

The surveys concluded with three questions designed to understand attitudes towards who should pay for maintaining river health in rural and urban areas: adjoining landowners, the community as a whole (i.e. via Council), or a combination of both. Looking first at rural/agricultural areas:

Graph 5.1: Who should primarily pay for maintaining the health of rivers and other waterways within rural/agricultural areas in the Tweed Shire?



Although a slim majority of online/paper respondents believed that farmers should share any cost burden with Council, this was a significantly lower proportion than encountered in the telephone survey.

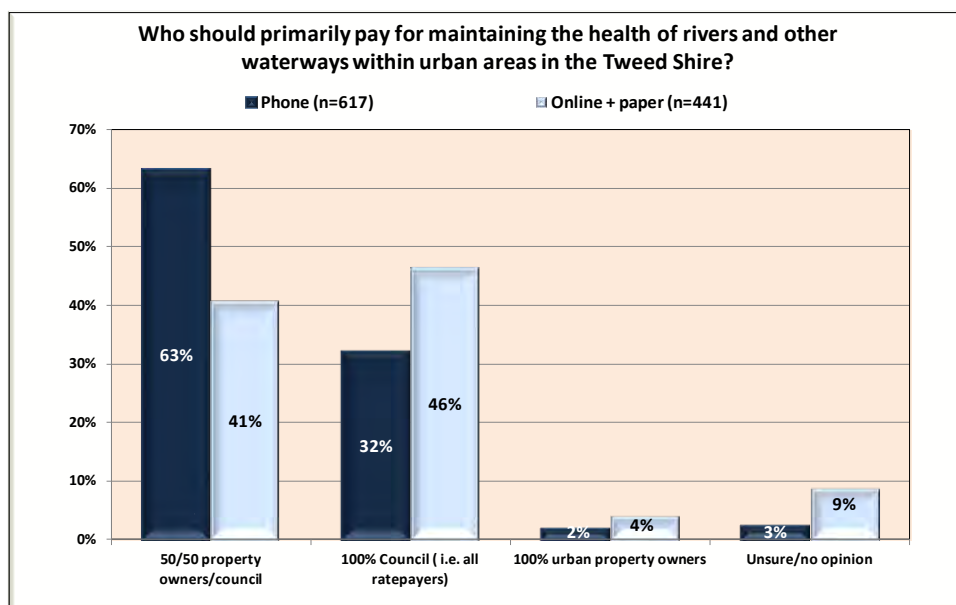
Table 5.1.1: Prime payer (within rural areas) by location (Online/paper only)

		Which of the following would best describe your location?				Total
		Tweed Coast - north of river	Tweed Coast - south of river	Hinterland	Other	
Prime payer for maintaining river health within rural/agricultural areas in Tweed Shire?	100% farmer	6 4.8%	6 3.7%	3 3.4%	0 .0%	15 3.8%
	100% Council (i.e. all ratepayers)	40 31.7%	62 38.0%	40 45.5%	4 21.1%	146 36.9%
	50/50 farmer/council	68 54.0%	81 49.7%	44 50.0%	9 47.4%	202 51.0%
	Unsure/no opinion	12 9.5%	14 8.6%	1 1.1%	6 31.6%	33 8.3%
	Total	126 100.0%	163 100.0%	88 100.0%	19 100.0%	396 100.0%

Breaking the online/paper sample down by region, we see that hinterland residents were more likely than those living on the coast to believe that council/ratepayers should bear the burden of river health in rural areas. But a bare majority of hinterland residents still believed it should be jointly funded.

Asking the same question about urban areas:

Graph 5.2: Who should primarily pay for maintaining the health of rivers and other waterways within urban areas in the Tweed Shire?



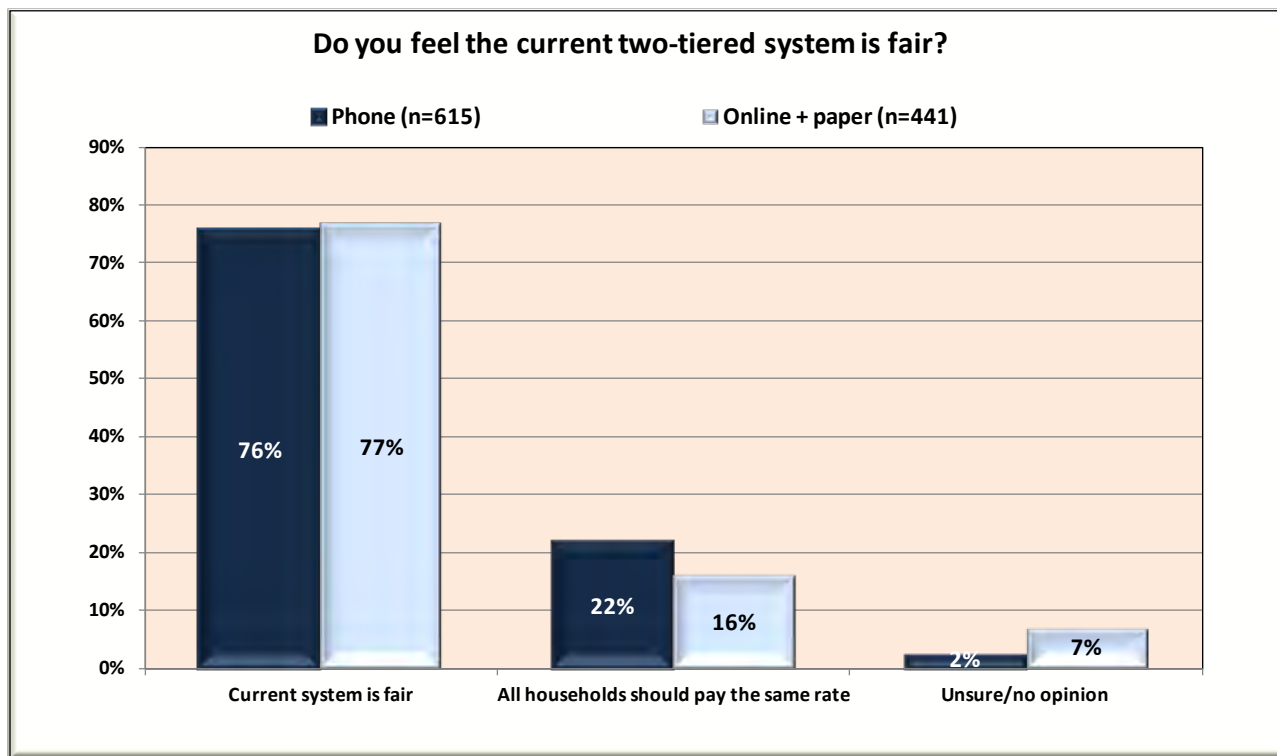
In this instance, the largest proportion of online/paper respondents (46 per cent) felt that Council/ratepayers should pay to maintain river health in urban areas, while only 41 per cent believed this should be borne equally between landowners and council. While such a result may seem somewhat hypocritical, the result was consistent between urban and rural residents (as shown in Table 5.2.1, below):

Table 5.2.1: Prime payer (within rural areas) by location (Online/paper only)

		Urban/rural setting			Total
		Urban	Rural	Unsure/mixed	
Prime payer for maintaining river health within urban areas in Tweed Shire?	100% urban property owners	9	9	1	19
		3.3%	6.8%	2.7%	4.3%
	100% Council (i.e. all ratepayers)	128	65	12	205
		47.4%	48.9%	32.4%	46.6%
	50/50 property owners/council	110	49	21	180
		40.7%	36.8%	56.8%	40.9%
	Unsure/no opinion	23	10	3	36
		8.5%	7.5%	8.1%	8.2%
Total		270	133	37	440
		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Finally in this section, respondents were asked whether they believed the current two-tier tariff – in which households using a lot of water pay a higher rate per kilolitre for some of their water – was fair, or whether all households should pay the same price per kilolitre regardless of usage:

Graph 5.3: Do you feel the current two-tiered system is fair?



Results were similar between the two surveys, with three in four respondents believing the current system to be fair. However as shown in Table 5.3.2, below, the proportion of online/paper respondents wanting to maintain the current two-tiered pricing model rose significantly with age.

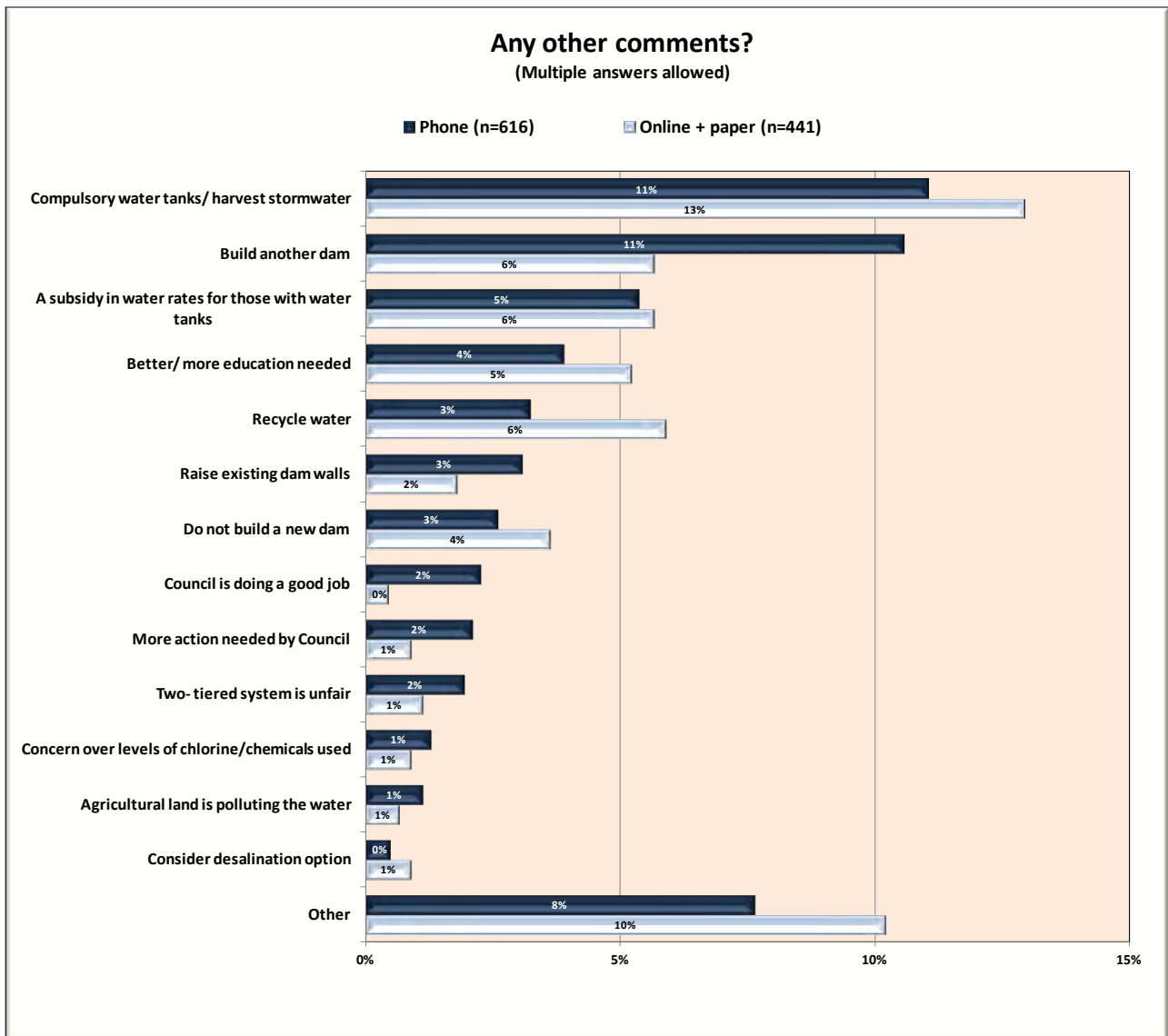
Table 5.3.2: Fairness of current two-tier system, by age (Online/paper only)

		Age				Total
		Under 18	18-39	40-59	60+	
Do you feel the two tiered system is fair for Tweed residents?	Current system is fair	71 61.7%	61 75.3%	114 81.4%	92 87.6%	338 76.6%
	All households should pay the same rate	23 20.0%	15 18.5%	22 15.7%	12 11.4%	72 16.3%
	Unsure/no opinion	21 18.3%	5 6.2%	4 2.9%	1 1.0%	31 7.0%
Total		115 100.0%	81 100.0%	140 100.0%	105 100.0%	441 100.0%

Part 6: Other comments and suggestions

The survey concluded with respondents being asked, in an open ended question, if they had “any additional thoughts on any aspects of the Tweed’s future water cycle management priorities that they would like to share with council.” Two hundred and fifteen chose to add additional comment. These have been coded (i.e. themed), and the main themes are shown in Graph 6.1, below. (Note that percentages are as a proportion of all people surveyed, not just those contributing comments.)

Graph 6.1: Other comments or suggestions





The conservation ethos of online and paper respondents was evident in these comments, with a desire to better harvest rainwater and/or see compulsory water tanks noted by some 12 per cent of all online/paper respondents. This was followed by 6 per cent each calling for more water recycling initiatives and subsidies in water rates for those harvesting their own stormwater.

Regarding explicit support and opposition for a new dam, online respondents were almost evenly split in their views. This differs from the telephone survey, where opinion was more skewed towards preference for a new dam.

A full list of “other comments” is included as Appendix 3 to this report.



Appendix 1: Questionnaire

(N.B. This is the paper version of the survey. For all intentions purposes the online version is identical.)



**Have your say in the future of the Tweed Shire's water cycle.
Go into the draw to win one of two iPads!***

* or the equivalent value in shopping gift cards

Tweed Shire Council is surveying Tweed residents about the shire's future water cycle management priorities. The survey should take less than 15 minutes to complete and any answers you provide are confidential. Most questions simply require you to tick or place numbers in the appropriate box.

If you complete the survey, you will go into a draw to win one of two iPads (valued at \$500 each) or their equivalent in shopping gift cards. (Note that any contact information you provide for this prize draw will be separated from the rest of your answers prior to any data being analysed.)

Surveys must be completed and submitted by midnight on Wednesday, December 12th, 2012.



Q1. Are you concerned about the Tweed Shire's ability to meet its water needs in the medium to long term? (Please tick ONE box only)

1. Yes, a lot 2. Yes, a little 3. No, not really

Q2. Do you feel the Tweed community as a whole has made serious efforts to reduce daily water use over the past three years?

1. Yes 2. No 3. Unsure

Q3. Do you believe your household would use more or less water than the average Tweed Valley household?

1. More
2. Less
3. Same/average
4. Unsure

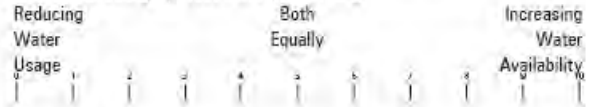
Q4. Do you know what the target is for average daily water use by residents in the Tweed Shire? (Please tick one of the targets only, or "I don't know what the target is".)

1. 120 Litres per person/day
2. 150 Litres per person/day
3. 180 Litres per person/day
4. 200 Litres per person/day
5. I don't know what the target is

Q5. Some people believe that ensuring a reliable long-term water supply for the Tweed Shire is mainly about reducing people's water usage, while others think it is more about increasing the water availability.

(Question continued next column)

Where would you sit on a scale of 0-10, where 0 means it should all be about reducing usage, and 10 means it should all be about increasing water availability? (Please mark with an "X")



Q6. Ensuring a secure long-term supply of water involves a trade-off between lots of different factors. Please read through the following list, then write the numbers 1, 2 and 3 in three of the boxes (where 1 is the most important to you personally, 2 is the second most important and 3 is the third most important).

- Ensuring a continuous supply of drinking water for all future water needs
 Maintaining the natural environment in the river and catchment areas
 Maximising stormwater and wastewater re-use
 Protecting waterways for swimming, boating and fishing
 Encouraging households to reduce their water consumption
 Encouraging commercial properties and industry to reduce water consumption

Q7. Water from the Tweed River can be treated to acceptable drinking standard before it reaches your tap. How important do you think it is that the raw water in the river is clean and of high quality? (Please tick ONE box only)

1. Very important
2. Quite important
3. Not very important
4. Not at all important
5. Don't know/care

PLEASE TURN OVER

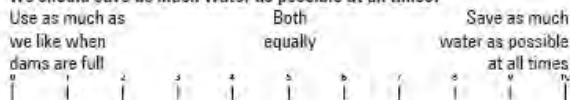
Delivery Address:
PO Box 1555
COFFS HARBOUR NSW 2450

No stamp required
if posted in Australia



Jetty Research
Reply Paid 1555
COFFS HARBOUR NSW 2450

Q8. Some people believe that when dam levels are full we should be able to use as much water as we like, while others believe the community should save as much water as possible at all times. Where would you sit on a sliding scale of 0-10, where 0 means we should be able to use as much water as we like when dams are full, and 10 means we should save as much water as possible at all times?



Q9. Compulsory residential water restrictions for the Tweed Shire currently come into effect when the dam level is 75%, which last occurred in 2003. Do you think this is appropriate, or should they be introduced sooner? (please tick ONE box only)

- 1. Appropriate as is
- 2. Should be introduced sooner
- 3. Unsure/no opinion

Q10. In terms of the Shire's waterways, what do you think Council should be most supportive of? (Please tick ONE answer only)

- 1. Using water to maximise agricultural productivity
- 2. Improving the quality of wastewater and stormwater runoff
- 3. Protecting water quality for swimming, boating and fishing
- 4. Protecting natural habitat and water quality
- 5. Protection of drinking water supply

Q11. Providing an additional water supply source is costly. If they could only do one, which of the following four water-saving options would you prefer to see Council allocate resources towards?

- 1. Greater use of recycled water
- 2. More household rebates for water-saving devices and systems
- 3. Construction of another drinking water source
- 4. Behavioural change and community education

Q12. Assuming it was readily available, which alternative water sources would you be prepared to use in your toilet, laundry taps and outdoor taps? Please tick YES or NO for the following options:

	Yes	No
Rainwater from your own tank	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stormwater harvested from your suburb or area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Treated wastewater/sewage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q13. Treated and drinkable water supplied to households currently costs \$2.05 per kilolitre. Would you be prepared to pay less, the same or more than this amount for recycled water supplied to your house for outdoor use, toilet flushing or clothes washing?

- 1. Less
- 2. Same SKIP TO Q.16
- 3. More SKIP TO Q.15
- 4. Unsure/no opinion SKIP TO Q.16

Q14. (If "Less" to Q13) Roughly how much less would you be prepared to pay for this recycled water?

- 1. 25% less
- 2. 50% less
- 3. 75% less
- 4. Unsure

Q15. (If "More" to Q13) Roughly how much more would you be prepared to pay for this recycled water?

- 1. 50% more
- 2. Double
- 3. Four times
- 4. Unsure
- 5. Other (please specify)

Q16. Who should primarily pay for maintaining the health of rivers and other waterways within rural/agricultural areas in the Tweed Shire?

- 1. 100% farmers
- 2. 100% Council (i.e. all ratepayers)
- 3. 50/50 farmers/Council
- 4. Unsure/no opinion

Q17. Who should primarily pay for maintaining the health of rivers and other waterways within urban areas in the Tweed Shire?

- 1. 100% urban property owners
- 2. 100% Council (i.e. all ratepayers)
- 3. 50/50 urban property owners/Council
- 4. Unsure/no opinion

Q18. At the moment there is a two-tier tariff, which means that households which use a lot of water pay a higher rate than others for some of their water. Do you think this system is fair, or should all households pay the same rate per kilolitre regardless of how much they use?

- 1. Current system is fair
- 2. All households should pay the same rate regardless of use
- 3. Unsure/no opinion

Q19. Do you have any other thoughts on any aspect of the Tweeds future water cycle management priorities that you would like to share with Council?

.....

.....

.....

.....

Q20. Into which of the below age ranges do you fall?

- 1. Under 18
- 2. 18-39
- 3. 40-59
- 4. 60+

Q21. Gender

- 1. Male
- 2. Female

Q22. Do you live in an urban or rural setting?

- 1. Urban
- 2. Rural
- 3. Unsure/mixed

Q23. Are you on town water (i.e. connected to mains water)?

- 1. Yes
- 2. No

Q24. Which of the following housing types would best describe where you live?

- 1. Detached house
- 2. Semi-detached house, townhouse or villa
- 3. Apartment or unit
- 4. Other

Q25. Which of the following would best describe your location?

- 1. Tweed Coast-north of river
- 2. Tweed Coast-south of river
- 3. Tweed Shire - Hinterland
- 4. Other/outside Tweed Shire

Q26. What is your residential postcode?

Q27. Do you own or rent the house in which you are presently living?

- 1. Own/Part-own
- 2. Rent
- 3. Other

Q28. How many people, including yourself, are currently living permanently or part-time in your house?

Q29. And finally, how long have you lived in the Tweed Shire?

- 1. Less than five years
- 2. 5-10 years
- 3. 11-20 years
- 4. More than 20 years
- 5. Do not live in the shire

Thank you, that is the end of the survey, and you are now eligible to enter the draw to win one of two iPads, or their equivalent value in shopping gift cards. The competition will be drawn on Tuesday 18th January 2013 and winners will be notified by phone. The terms and conditions can be found on the Jetty Research website (www.jettyresearch.com.au). Lottery permit LTPM/12/00219.

If you would like to enter the draw, please enter your name and daytime contact phone number below:

Name:

Daytime Contact Number:

Appendix 2: Promotional A3 posters and business cards



A3 poster (single sided)



Business card – front side



Business card – reverse side

Appendix 3: Other comments

1001	Raising of the Clarrie Hall Dam is most logical and cost effective way to augment the Tweed Shires water supply.
1005	Promotion of rainwater tanks, compost toilets, grey water systems and sustainable technologies for those who can. More community involvement in programs and more ongoing community focussed education programs. Water waste and energy can be viewed holistically and mean more when looked at altogether. Programs that are more flexible and engage more with community members.
1009	The Tweed rainfall is sufficient to keep water tanks useable. This negates the use of contaminated stormwater runoff and waste water reuse. Demand can be lowered with more rainwater tanks. Future population trends need to be better assessed.
1011	I think that the council should give more education to the industries in regards to there usage of water money does not seem to work as I've seen company's dumping water on the street which is drinking water what's with that do you think they care.
1012	I would be happy to use recycled water for toilet flushing and outdoor use, however I've been advised that recycled water stains and deteriorates clothing during clothes washing. It would be beneficial to provide further advice on this, such as recycled water may be used for one or a combination of the following; toilet flushing, outdoor use and clothes washing.
1013	Encourage installation of compost toilets. Recycling of storm water and waste water cities such as London and Singapore use waste water for drinking as well as other use. Step up the effort to get farmers to keep cattle out of waterways and to grow crops organically so there is less nutrients going into the water ways. Make golf courses become organic. Limit population growth and new mini cities.
1019	Is there anyone monitoring and reporting on the levels of dangerous and environmentally persistent chemicals such as Atrazine used by the sugar industry in Tweed waterways. If not why not?
1023	The cost of proper treatment of Sewer is high. The removal of toxins such as medical wastes including thru body fluids is difficult to achieve. I would much prefer the harvest of storm water as a preferred method of recycle in local areas. While the construction of another dam is high, there is need to balance that cost with the benefits of industry development including specialised primary industry, small lot farming and the attraction of additional residents to the region.
1024	I think that the council should recycle more water and protect the natural habitat of the Tweed.
1028	I believe that the Government or Council should help the households out with water tanks for there water system to save water around the Tweed region.
1029	Restrict water.
1031	All I have to say is that every one in the community should pay regardless of how much water is being used and make it fair to everyone else in Tweed.

1040	I live on half a hectare and use water for my flower and vegetable gardens. I should not have to pay any extra than those who live in units or flats. The only logical way forward is to build a new dam. That's what we agreed on years ago and selected land etc. I don't agree with the minority that seem to run there one sided agenda. Council should run a referendum at the next election to find out what the majority wants and not just the ultra green minority wanting to get votes for the election.
1043	Rainwater tanks in urban areas should be encouraged for use in toilets, laundry, gardens and carwash etc.
1044	The council needs to do more about the litter along our roads. It all ends up in the river. Council subs out slashing along our roads, this cuts up the litter and makes it easier to get into the streams and rivers. The council needs to incorporate people with the slashing to pick up the litter in front of the slasher. The slashing occurs about 4 times a year. If people could be employed at the same time as the slashing it wouldn't cost too much but would be a great benefit to rivers, sea life, animal life, and people. This could be a simple solution to two problems, litter and water quality. I can't believe how much litter there is along two roads I travel, Bilambil Rd and Terranora Rd, you would think with the many years of education that people wouldn't do it anymore.
1046	I would not want to use the alternative water options for my laundry, but I would be happy to use them for outdoor taps and toilet.
1047	There should be a greater focus on sustainable use of available water, storage, reuse and recycling rather than greater storage capacity. I am fully supportive of the resources Council commits to natural waterway restoration and management.
1048	I absolutely support much greater incentives for houses to harvest rainwater for all household use .This area (despite recent figures) has such a high rainfall rate yearly that if every house in this area used rainwater first even if connected to town water supplies. I cannot see the need for any large structural changes to the current water supply system. It is madness to have so much run-off from roofs both industrial and urban and frustrating to hear talk of another dam being built. The cost to council in this event is likely being much higher than fully funding the cost of installation of a tank for every house in the shire! In no way do I support the building of a dam further causing needless destruction to rapidly dwindling wildlife habitation. We have so many more sane and cheaper options available to us now. Thanks for your time.
1049	Households that meet the water use target should pay the standard rate. Those that use more should pay more on an increasing scale. The council should promote the use of dry composting toilets. There are failing septic systems all over the shire. In may cases compost toilets would be the answer. This would help improve the health of our waterways and reduce water consumption. If increasing storage capacity was deemed necessary then raising Clarrie Hall Dam is the only sensible option.
1052	High rainfall area. Plans to harvest storm water within the shire and tanks for high water usage commercial users should be an ongoing priority.

1054	Recycled waste water would be fine to use in toilets and outside taps. It would need to be of high quality to consider using it in laundry. It should be used in all parks and Council toilets as well. Raising the Clarrie Hall dam wall seems like the most sensible option. Lastly, we said recycled water should be cheaper than drinking water but maybe this just means that drinking water is actually too cheap! There should probably be more of a sliding scale and target 180Lt seems too large. We have a large home with pool and gardens and we use on average 110Lt per person a day in our household of 4 people. If water was a bit more expensive on a sliding scale, people might think twice about turning on the tap and watering their driveways!
1061	No dams. Housing doesn't bring rain the trees do. More trees along waterways to stop evaporation.
1062	Council should make better reuse of household grey water in future planning and retrospective use in existing households. Reuse of reclaimed water in nearby Greenfield subdivisions. Our bulk water supplies are obtained from the Tweed River and not the Clarrie Hall Dam.
1065	New developments including Council parks and roadside vegetation on sandy soils e.g.. Casuarina and Salt require additional water to maintain vegetation particularly during drought. Basic requirements to be minimise lawns do not seem to be enforced. Developers should be required to provide 100mm of topsoil to ensure there is some capacity for moisture retention in the topsoil.
1067	Please DO NOT DAM at Byrrell Creek.
1068	What if Commonwealth will dictate us to share water with Gold Coast? We are okay so far but will suffer greatly if climate worsen. Desalination would be (in far future) more palatable than recycling. Rise existing dam much better than new collection area with consequences for environment. Dual piping service for laundries is perfect but can we afford it? Rewards in form of water rates discount for rain water tanks would encourage more people to install.
1069	Don't use recycled water from waste water sources. The operators have poor controlling ability and the process engineers aren't really process engineers.
1071	I do think with the ever expanding population we do need another supply e.g. a dam and also encourage more harvesting and use of stormwater.
1072	I'm more in favour of increasing the height of the dam rather than a new dam.
1078	Using recycled stormwater/sewerage for all public parks, sporting venues etc where human consumption is not a risk.
1080	Given climate change predictions and a growing population it is imperative that Tweed Shire should be integrating all water management in the very near future. Therefore, education of the general public is of paramount importance. Further it means that the use of wastewater and stormwater be incorporated into localised areas or used onsite and rain water tanks become mandatory. If these measures are taken, I believe we will be able to secure far more water than that supplied by dams. Responsibility of our own water is the only way to a future of sustainability.
1081	Let every household have their own tanks, use this water as wanted free of charges. Also teaches them to save water like the old days. You get it you look after it.
1082	Raise Carrie Hall dam wall as originally planned for in the early 1980's.
1083	I would like to see much better use of all rooftop runoff water. Schools, commercial, industrial and residential rooftops all shed huge amounts of water that should not run away to sea.

1085	More dams needed in Tweed Shire.
1086	I think it is important to recycle as much waster as possible and focus on keeping the rivers free from pollutants due to agricultural wash-off and petrol powered water sports. I believe that a rebate to install water tanks in residential areas would be great and also making installation a requirement for all new dwellings which are built would help to encourage and educate a water conscious society.
1087	As out water augmentation is being driven by new urban developments, I believe that all new Greenfield Developments should be mandated by Council in the DA Approval process to provide Dual reticulation for toilets and outdoor use as well as a mandatory 10,000lt tank for washing machines and showers. (If council cannot afford this, the developer should pay at least 50% of the cost). Both of these implementations will reduce water use substantially, reduce urban run off and also discharges from sewerage treatment plants which ultimately pollute our waterways. I do not support a new dam at Byrrill Creek, Tweeds highest riparian conservation value area.
1088	Rebates for devices and tanks are usually not suitable for people struggling financially.
1089	Education for property owners and farmers where chemical run-off could go into waterways.
1092	There's been a lot of education about household water usage management but not enough about industrial commercial management. I have seen on many occasions the water sprinklers on at Salt Resort when it is pouring rain. This a complete waste of water and needs to be managed better. I've also seen sprinklers facing out to the road.
1096	It is absolutely important for education which follows through from Council to land owners to home owners e.g. watering, time of water and use of water. We all require education to promote the best for our tomorrow.
1098	Need to have another dam in the shire.
1103	Raising existing Dam as opposed to building new dam.
1104	I very much think that Dual Reticulation or other water management scheme should be required houses in the huge developments of Cobaki and Kings Forest so that the provision of water does not become an issue for the Shire. If property owners knew this was required before purchase, it would be accepted and would be a small percentage of the cost of the land and house. This along with maximum harvesting of stormwater etc. maximum recycling by industry/commercial businesses and continued education of the public to value and use water wisely should ensure that a dam is never again considered and that the Clarrie Hall Dam wall should not be required to be raised. However, if extra water were needed in years to come, Clarrie Hall Dam should be raised, not a dam at Byrrill Creek considered. If Council consider that there will be insufficient water resources in the Shire with stormwater harvesting, recycling etc. and shire residents reducing their usage, the developers of Cobaki and Kings Forest should be required to pay levies to cover the increased water demand similar to Section 96 to fund infrastructure for roads etc. They are making megabucks from the development and existing ratepayers, or the new ones living in these developments, should not be expected to fund extra water needed, especially if prudent water use measures are not put in place for each dwelling. Also I think it should be mandatory for the houses in these developments to have 10,000lt tanks plumbed into the toilet and laundry (there are slim line ones if space is a limiting factor) unless it is just simply not possible. Studies show that Australia has the largest houses in the world which is widely regarded by thinking people to be VERY UNSUSTAINABLE. I think only 5,000lt tanks are required at the moment and I don't know if this is even mandatory.
1107	It would be beneficial for Council to give incentive, such as a subsidy for householders to install rainwater tanks.

1109	Prefer not to have water restrictions unless severe drought as people are already cutting back on their water use and having restrictions which make the area dry and brown is a greater fire risk and deters people from gardening and growing their own fruit and vegetables. The amount of rainfall received in the Tweed is generally fairly high and imposing restrictions which are not necessary just deters people from taking pride in their gardens and the environment and detracts from the beauty of the area which tourists and holidaymakers enjoy.
1110	Build new dam at Byrrill Creek.
1111	I am on a rural property. I have a spring fed dam which never runs dry. I have rainwater tanks for drinking. I would not like to have town water and have to pay for water usage. I think all households should have their own water tanks whether rural or in the suburbs where town water is supplied, a rebate for setting this up would be helpful.
1112	The Tweed Area is expanding all the time so that means the population grows each year. I think of the future years down the track for my kids and grandchildren so maybe it's time to build another dam to cope with the demand of drinking water. I think recycled water should be used for toilets and washing and showering etc . I always worry if the water supply dries up we all dry up. Thanks for an interesting survey.
1113	All new urban developments should be connected with recycled water with storm water captured and recycled too. Runoff water everywhere should be filtered to avoid toxins entering the rivers and estuaries. Stop farm animals and runoff from polluting all rivers and creeks through fencing and swales. Encourage landowners to revegetate river banks and address erosion. Re educate residents that think recycled water is for drinking and that recycled water would be retrofitted to existing homes. Continue supporting landcare groups in their endeavour to address water quality. No new dams. Make river health a shire wide priority.
1115	We have a lot of naturally available water in terms of rainfall in our region. Every dwelling and every building should be required to harvest rainwater i.e. water tanks from it's roof for toilet flushing, laundry and gardens at the very least. Water recycling/re-use storage systems (e.g. shower water used again in the garden, clothes washing, toilet flushing etc.) in domestic households it should be supported (subsidised for existing buildings, required by council in all new buildings). When we have so much water available to us in the form of rainfall, I think the best approach is harvesting and using that available water in the most efficient ways, rather than dams providing all water requirements for everyone and then restricting water when dams get low. Individual households should take some responsibility for their own water provision and use levels with council providing clean drinking water and back-up water where needed to households, probably at a cost after a minimum is provided free. So rainwater tanks, water re-use systems in all buildings also harvesting stormwater run-off for use seem like the best approaches in our region .
1116	I think the Tweed water is some of the best drinking water in Australia considering we travel a fair bit. I have no hesitation in drinking Tweed Water straight from the tap. Some other areas of Australia the water tastes foul and we have to buy drinking water even for making a cup of coffee. Can certainly tell the difference. So thanks Tweed for what you are doing.
1117	All new and eventually all houses should have a water catchment system.
1119	Make water collection mandatory for all new houses. Make composting toilets compulsory as well. Use recycling system for grey water.
1120	I would like to see town water available to rural areas that are still close to town.

1121	Have just moved here from a rural property. Very used to saving and recycling water but feel more education is needed in suburbia. Although have only been here a short time feel that Tweed Council is doing a good job getting the message across and that it all takes time to get through to some people.
1123	Recycling water is a better way of water conservation.
1129	I think we should invest in more payments to households for water saving devices and plans instead of making people pay for them as it would save them money in the long run.
1131	That the increase of the existing dam wall is a far better plan then the production of a new dam
1132	When it rains quite heavily systems need to be in place to capture this water and save it for times of need.
1148	Get body corporate properties on individual meters as soon as humanly possible so each individual property owners/ or the renter in some cases share the responsibility of excess water use. The NSW Sate Government requires this but this Council takes every step to avoid doing this at every turn. Choosing to read metered properties and bill every three months doesn't really reduce consumption it really just increases the workload of staff. Typically in a body corporate situation I have a leaky toilet flushing system, should I have a plumber replace or repair the control mechanism or let the rest of the residents share the low cost of my waste, including long soaking showers and so on. That decision will save me \$100 but the wasted water (shared cost) may only cost me \$1.20. I would install a water tank on my property but I won't waste my money doing that while someone in the area has an automatic watering system dumping water on there lawns and gardens rain hail or shine. There is no cost benefit in me taking that step. Incidentally I had 3 tanks at my last 3/4 acre home and used 57 litres per person per day and I still have the figures to substantiate that claim! I read my meter every Sunday when I picked the paper delivery up at the front gate! Yet if I choose to run the irrigation system to water my gardens that would use 3000 litres per night - I was happy to pay for the excess water I used and hence when the restrictions came in force in the Caboolture Shire we stopped the full irrigation. This council has a responsibility to install read and implement a full individual metering process wherever possible and as expeditiously as possible! In our complex that could start tomorrow! i.e. Read meters check flow rates of current meters, if the meters are in accurate request owners to install your brand of meter.
1149	Solar wind and powered de-salination plants. Suggest these facilities be small to medium in size. Installed using long term planning and construction.
1150	It seems ridiculous that all water that passes through the system is treated to drinking standard when only a very small percentage is used for consumption. Bourke has dual reticulation, it is an option!
1152	Compulsory rain water tanks, use of recycled water in all new housing estate and in all industrial areas. Farmers allowed to harvest more rain water collected on their on properties either with tanks or dams. Downside with current council's decision is that they have yearly charges on rain water tanks in urban households which deflects the goal of promoting self sustainability. Educating the public and business sectors about water saving is also highly commendable and should be strongly encouraged. Building more dams to cater for predicted growth I AM STRONGLY AGAINST. Methods to harvest stormwater runoff should be investigated.
1153	Modernize. all new developments should have own water collection / recycling rather than more dams.

1154	I would like to be able to access the tap water chemical make up and parameters, e.g. hardness, salinity, ph, phosphate, and what chemicals are added to the water etc as I keep tropical fish and need to know what's in the water.
1157	I am happy to use re-cycled water for gardens, toilets, outdoor wash downs e.g. cars, paths etc. Not too sure about treated effluent for laundry though. Generous rebates for tanks is a terrific idea!
1159	Newly constructed homes should construct rainwater harvesting systems, perhaps slightly subsidized by rate payers. Place substantial fees for swimming pools above and below ground and spa baths. Existing households pay very much higher water rates to appreciate the value of water.
1164	The Clarrie Hall dam catchment area needs to have the cows fenced off. This would slow down the aquatic weeds in the dam.
1165	I would like to see all new housing developments be developed with the capacity to use recycled grey water for toilets, gardens. As our area grows, we must be mindful of why it grows the natural beauty of the Tweed. Our residents always put environment first in every survey. I think the developers should be footing most of the costs for the infrastructure of these developments not ratepayers.
1166	A new dam on Byrrill Creek should be taken off the agenda completely, once and for all. Dams make us lazy in our efforts to find other alternative strategies such as reuse, stormwater capture, rainwater tanks and generally reducing usage.
1167	Please take care of the water ways, beaches and lakes.
1170	Need to consult with the community.
1175	As the population is continuing to grow, so should the supply grow with more storage dams considered.
1179	Continue to educate all residents with new ideas to save water and also focus on industrial usage.
1183	I think Council should be very mindful of the impact of climate change on future water management and plan for this.
1188	The only thing I can think of is the run-off from the road to the water behind Seagulls along the Oyster track , I think it could be managed better as a lot of sludge and rubbish is washed into the water where the Oyster farm is . I think recycled water is a great idea especially for parks and household gardens. I believe each household could also use a small tank for garden usage and a rebate for instillation (I realise there is one but maybe continue it and or increase the rebate to encourage people to install one) or a free one would be would be an advantage.
1189	Keep up the good work as tap water for drinking beats bottled water any day .
1196	I think that water restrictions should be on all the times. Introducing restrictions at the last minute or a trigger point is reactionary e.g. watering of gardens odds and evens, trigger nozzle for hosing and cars washed by using high pressure sprayer.
1198	All new developments must have water tanks and reusable grey water systems.
1200	I believe that education is critical and that the community should be in an informed place when making vital decisions such as issues relating to water management. Therefore, forums and community meetings would be beneficial.

1203	New developments should be made to install rain water/grey water reuse and existing households should be rewarded or subsidised for installing the same if they choose to do so. Grey water or recycled water to be used on all outdoor activities, toilet and laundry facilities.
1204	Recycled water is a viable option for the future.
1206	There should be more education from an early age so it becomes normal behaviour as our children grow up, to save our planet. There should be fines for wasting water and polluting our waterways .
1208	Rebates attract people to change for change sake and costs the Council a lot of money and businesses inflate the prices of these item and services making them more expensive, therefore making extra monies from the Council.
1209	Ongoing education of all residents is a most important part of any planning. We all need to take responsibility for being careful with our water use.
1210	While controversial, I believe a new dam is the best option for future demand of water use. I am strongly against desalination plants.
1213	Having previously lived in a rural area with only rainwater available, I am very mindful of the amount of wasted water coming off our roofs. Council should encourage residential catchment and use of rainwater to augment the reticulated supply.
1214	Personally I would like to install water tanks but require a little assistance with that given the capital cost. Having recently migrated here from Melbourne the concepts of water saving education, measures and targets are well ingrained. The target of 155 Litres per day was achieved in our home through water tanks and vigilance. What I may not understand at present is the mix of rural and urban populations in our shire and the direct impact of the rural landscape upon the water supply.
1218	Encourage more households, especially older homes to install rainwater tanks and also be able to use rainwater for showers as well as toilets and washing.
1220	I think there should be an incentive for households that use less water than the target. We are a family of 7 and we come way under the target. Our neighbours are a couple only and use way more! I think a discount on water or rates or a bonus in some form would be a great way to motivate residents to reduce their usage. Maybe also suggesting some ways to reduce water use in your newsletter would be great, perhaps you could ask residents to send in their suggestions and the best each week wins a prize. Prizes and discounts would be my advice for trying to change people and business attitudes to water use.
1223	Consideration of decentralising water harvesting, recycling and reuse into much smaller and more manageable catchments e.g. new subdivision could have there own system rather than rely on the larger more regionally based systems. The street or block storage unit (collecting run-off etc) could then supplement individual water tanks. More education in terms of water smart house design. This could include more interactive displays of water usage at the point of usage rather than a meter hidden away in the garden with numbers that no one understands.

1226	<p>I am concerned that the present water level at which restrictions are applied by Council of 75% full, points to an inadequate total maximum storage. 75% in other places e.g. Sydney and Melbourne represents more than a years supply; in Tweed it is obviously much less but I don't think the estimated weeks of consumption in storage is public knowledge. We know that seasonal rainfall predictions seem now to be less reliable with the onset of global climate change and it is therefore more responsible for Tweed to begin a program to increase its safety stock of water by expanding and controlling the catchment volume than to adopt short range conservation policies and hope for the best. The cost of this program is likely to be less than the cost of building and maintaining a desalination plant, (\$16M PA for standby cost of Tugun's desalination plant, Tweed Sun, 6 Dec 12).</p> <p>The increasing development within the Tweed Shire with growing population will place more demand on reliable water resources which emphasizes the priority for Council to commit to the long view.</p>
1228	<p>Tweed Shire is blessed with one of the most beautiful and diverse environment with a sub tropical climate which fortunately receives adequate annual water supply. This natural beauty and the river systems must be protected for the future of our valley. Encouraging both industry and residential households to be aware and develop water saving processes is essential. Permanent water restrictions are not warranted with our current climate but Council should be looking to developing an alternative dam water source over the next 20 years.</p>
1236	<p>I believe if we all manage our water usage better now, then our own children of today will learn to respect our most important life force and they in turn will teach their children for future generations to come. Water is our livelihood and also provides food on our tables. What more can I say. Keep up the wonderful supply of fresh clean water we so fortunately have now. Teach everyone how to save water more often as this can only be beneficial in the long term. I cannot see any other method of preservation.</p>
1238	<p>This survey did not include questions that people already living just on rainwater collected on their properties could easily answer e.g.. how much more would I pay for recycled water. Not enough focus in the survey on the option of rainwater collection in urban areas.</p>
1243	<p>We have a few neighbours who persistently hose their road and gutters every day which is a blatant waste of water. This practice should be prohibited.</p>
1247	<p>If Council stopped approving large housing developments, they could conserve water and natural waterways.</p>
1248	<p>I'm a big believer of recycling.</p>
1252	<p>As long as people are educated on simple ways to conserve this precious resource the management of this should be sustainable. Severe consequences should be dealt to those who threaten our beautiful area.</p>
1254	<p>Recycled and rain water is an efficient way to save water.</p>
1257	<p>I cannot understand why it's not compulsory for every new house or units built to have rainwater tanks. In the case of units, why isn't all the catchment not stored underground and used for gardens toilets etc. Instead it is just wasted down the stormwater into the rivers and oceans, such a huge waste. It all seems very simple and logical.</p>
1258	<p>Should raise Clarrie Hall Dam then build Byrrill Creek Dam.</p>

1259	<p>All storm water should be used for our toilets and pumped out to the farmers so we keep our fruit and vegies cheap and also support our Australian farmers to keep their farms alive without struggle, maybe costly to help the farmers but beneficial in the long run especially if solar or wind is used to pump the water out. Also sewage water should be used if cheap enough to recycle on things that do not require coming into contact with human needs, not even laundry. It should be used to clean down machinery or factory floors where it's not going out to the ocean. Also using the Tweed river for water will eventually increase the salt content in the water and so I think should not be used. I'm unsure of the facts but in any case think it should be left alone as I'm sure it would affect fish in the ocean or other disturbances. Lastly there should be more rebates for solar water and electricity and good rebates on putting power back into the grid, as again it maybe costly to start with but we are creating a good economy by helping people out finically so they can put more money back into our country to improve it. Not just giving them money to spend but actually giving discounts to improve and that can only be good. Laundry water should have something given out by the Council so it can be used (our grey water) to water our gardens therefore saving once again on water.</p>
1260	<p>I would prefer Council to spend money on many water tank rebates and rebates for plumbing to the whole house or at least toilet, shower and washing machine and never build another dam and all the infrastructure.</p> <p>As well as helping alleviate supply needs, tanks relieve waste water pressures.</p> <p>We can never underestimate the importance of our natural water ecosystems for us locals, visitors, recreation, livelihoods, and for the whole nation and future generations. We must value it in every decision and enhance it's functioning.</p>
1261	<p>I think the priority should be for every home to have a water tank.</p>
1263	<p>Keep looking into the future and make decisions on the number of households there will be in the future.</p>
1265	<p>We need a tank scheme to encourage at source collection of rainwater for household use.</p>
1267	<p>I have a form of TB called 'Bronchiectasis' or 'Lady Windermere Syndrome' which my lung specialist has told me has probably come from our tap water supply, so now I have to buy and drink only bottled water.</p>
1271	<p>Don't build a new dam</p>
1272	<p>Council to ensure that future water cycle management priorities are actually activated and are not just words without substance to make Council members sound as if they are doing something towards the future of the Tweed.</p>
1273	<p>As far as community education is concerned, a weekly water saving tip on the front of the Tweed link would be effective, especially if it is made children friendly.</p>
1275	<p>The one and only thing that should be allowed during water restrictions is washing of vehicles once every 2 weeks. Vehicles are an expensive part of our lives and should be looked after.</p>
1277	<p>Lots of warning to enable ratepayers to modify their usage before restrictions become necessary. Hand held hoses and no sprinklers during restrictions. Commercial car washes to recycle water during restrictions.</p>
1278	<p>Enable homes to utilise semi treated grey water for garden use is a must!</p>
1281	<p>Environmental protection should be the highest priority. If population growth is not going to be addressed all systems should be on a user pays basis. I don't mind as a ratepayer paying for services and programs that protect our waterways but funding needs to be used wisely. I'd rather pay for preventative measures to be put in place rather than funding repair works.</p>

1283	Water tanks for households is an easy option for individual use. Encouragement and rebates for existing houses and compulsory installation in new houses is a good idea.
1284	Any new development should be required to have water tanks or water storage.
1286	The solution to water availability is to alter the way we use and think about water, not to just continue to provide more. Water is the worlds most valuable resource and we need to alter our perception to reflect its value.
1287	Education of school children would seem a sensible path for future water management. If they can understand the prospect of a possible future with insufficient water. This should help to reduce water consumption. Maybe Council could offer a prize for the best projects and ideas, this may involve parents also.
1288	A healthy natural environment is the most fundamental necessity for life to flourish and that includes human life. Despite our technology, in the long run we are not insulated from the damage that is done to the natural world.
1289	All houses should be fitted with a rainwater tank to maximise water supplies. Prevent random wholesale clearing of hills and river banks to reduce erosion and improve water quality.
1294	I think educating people about being water wise is huge, especially for young people. Don't know if there are any water wise programs going around schools but would be a good idea. Need to be taught water is precious. There are still a lot of people in the community who are not very water wise e.g. they leave water running when washing dishes with no plug in sink.
1295	Other alternatives should be made available.
1296	Bear in mind that no matter how comprehensive a strategy is arrived at for future water usage, Council must recognise that any water supply (except for desalination) is entirely dependent on rainfall. Future plans must include strategies for both too much and or not enough available water. Household and business education is important for adaptability into the future.
1298	Building a overwhelmingly unnecessary dam is COMPLETELY DAFT when there are so many modern, affordable, tried and true recycling/reusing water methods available. These methods have been introduced to Council but often fall on deaf ears. Please find the time to consider these and implement them before it is too late.
1299	I really think education will help with saving water. I don't know a great deal about what will happen if we continue to over use so I can't educate my children except to tell them not to waste water.
1303	Continue the focus on sustaining low water usage through demand management measures and reduce the NRW component in the system and regularly reassess the decision window for augmentation options based on latest population projections.
1309	Rainwater tanks of at least 10000 litres should be mandatory in all new homes. A council approved composting toilet system design should be supplied and encouraged for use to home owners as an option when building and renovating their homes.
1311	I'm in favour of building the new dam. Council has prepared for this for many years. It will take years to build with all the future buildings planned to be built so our population will skyrocket. We now have a wonderful water separation plant which is waiting to work at it's full potential.

1313	<p>Levels of protection and management do not reflect environmental significance of the areas. Increased water demand should be dependent on the capacity of the waterways to sustain environmental health which is currently not being achieved.</p> <p>Reduce population increases if necessary. Develop a strategy that would avoid any more damming at all costs please.</p>
1314	<p>There appears to be no information in high rise apartments owned, rented or holiday leased about water restrictions or conservation. Tourists have open slather to waste water which we as rate payers have to cover. This is not fair and needs to be addressed.</p>
1315	<p>I think that water is a fundamental need in our community. Every attempt to use water wisely and better education is very important.</p>
1316	<p>The survey seems to lean towards the construction of a dam on Byrill Creek. This is an appalling and wrong idea mooted by those with a vested interest in making money. Tweed Shire has the rainfall and the population to be world leaders in water conservation and recycling. I urge you to show your creativity and willingness to preserve our unique environment. Focus on that and the rest will take care of itself.</p>
1318	<p>Encourage residents to purchase tanks for outside water use, maybe through a rebate system. Holiday accommodation and high rise units need to ensure signage is plentiful and obvious in encouraging guests and owners to use water carefully .</p>
1319	<p>Put the proposed dam in at Byrill Creek.</p>
1321	<p>People who want the luxury of their own swimming pool should pay premium rates. Council should monitor both wastewater and rivers and creeks for industrial and agricultural chemical pollution. Destroying natural areas especially forested areas to satisfy massive urban overuse is reprehensible.</p>
1322	<p>Fencing agricultural land to prevent cattle defecating in Oxley and Tweed rivers should be a priority. Water recycling would be much better than building a new dam.</p>
1325	<p>Reduce, reuse and recycle are the basic principals to achieving efficient resource use. Only a few percent of water treated to potable standard is actually used for that purpose. This leaves plenty of scope for using non-potable water. Naturally, Council still has a duty of care that supplies are fit for purpose. Good water management is usually cheaper in the long term than building new dams. More dams is a last resort and represent an outmoded, engineering approach to fixing a problem.</p> <p>Council should adopt all aspects of Water Sensitive Urban Design and IUWM. Our neighbours on the Gold Coast and in Brisbane are doing this. It has been shown to be a win for people and their environment and is especially suited to Greenfield developments such as Cobaki and Kings Forest.</p>
1326	<p>As well as municipal recycling of grey water there should be encouragement of and investigation into onsite reuse of water especially for gardens. This would help to lower consumption of provided water and drive home the message of reuse of water.</p>
1327	<p>Perhaps a generic household usage amount should be capped for all residents and if you go over then you get penalised.</p>
1329	<p>Emphasize water reduction strategies combined with rebates for low water appliance use.</p>
1337	<p>Farmers should not pay for anything.</p>
1342	<p>That it's cheaper for families.</p>

1347	There should be subsidies for urban households to install big tanks such as narrow ones along fences or any size for small yards. New houses should install big tanks not the little one's being installed at present. More effort to recycle waste water and collect storm water from all buildings particularly from commercial buildings. Compost toilets should be encouraged.
1349	Recycling is a very clever idea because it is important to think ahead.
1350	We need to have better recycling and water needs to be recycled. Something needs to be introduced to use grey water on gardens rather than drinking water.
1355	Clearer waterways for recreational use would boost tourism.
1361	No one knows what the future will bring! However educating everyone from an early age about water cycle management so that it becomes a way of life rather than something to do in times of drought is probably the most important tool to preserving our future water resources.
1362	Recycled water would be a great way to help with the water supply but the community has to be educated about the proper usage of water otherwise it is pointless.
1364	<p>If it is possible to harvest and treat stormwater to exclude any harmful bacteria, I would use it for outdoor, toilet and laundry use.</p> <p>I am opposed to installing and using a desalination plant for household water especially with the adverse effects from climate change already affecting our oceans. We do not know enough about what returning salt and water from desalination plants is going to do to the ocean, its marine life, reef and effects on climate.</p> <p>I understand Ballina Shire has a mandatory policy of installing water tanks in new buildings for toilet use. I think this is commendable and Tweed Shire Council should consider it too. However I'm unsure of what happens if the water tank runs out in drought times and whether owners would be charged for normal drinking water usage even though they have already contributed to the cost of installation of this alternative system.</p>
1367	I don't believe it's fair to overcharge those who use more water for the same rate.
1369	Perhaps the Council should look at subsidising water storage tanks for residents home use and with professional advice where to install the tank.
1371	<p>The ecological value of Byrill Creek outweighs the argument for a dam there.</p> <p>Build the dam somewhere else for goodness sake, where the nature is already destroyed.</p> <p>Build a dam on old farmland and replant it into a forested water catchment area and hey presto we can have more water and keep the iconic Byrill Creek.</p> <p>How about getting more serious about the size of household tanks, especially new housing developments that can build in large scale storm-water storage to supply the whole of the development.</p>
1372	I suggest that rainwater tanks be made available. Grey water could be recycled too.
1373	All new developments should have waste water recycling systems, rainwater tanks and water saving devices made compulsory.
1374	Ratepayers should receive more information on the water usage in the area with comparisons to last years usage.
1375	The recycling and dual reticulation of water should become mandatory in new urban areas, as building new dams is neither cost effective nor environmentally sustainable.
1376	Not enough effort has been made to recycle or reuse water. A lot of talk and no action. Old-school attitudes prevail such as our forefathers bought the land at Byrill Creek, hence a dam shall be built there. No one in my family supports the dam option.

1377	New subdivisions, including the mini cities of Cobaki Lakes and Kings Forest must have dual reticulation and wetlands to enable them to harvest and clean stormwater runoff then recycle this back as garden, toilet and laundry water. I find it offensive that Councils all around the country are doing this yet we in the Tweed, who have such a wonderful environment to preserve are doing nothing.
1378	If population growth is to be as predicted, water usage and rainwater storage in individual household tanks and recycling of water within households must be a priority. It would be wrong at both a practical and moral level to make heavy investment in water supply so as to allow wastage and misuse to continue at the present level e.g. drinking water to flush toilets.
1380	More dams may not be the most sustainable long term answer. We need to look after the natural environment and minimise our impact rather than changing it to suit our ever expanding needs.
1381	No dams are needed. We have high rainfall to capture. Less concrete and runoff is a solution.
1384	I do not believe that another dam or extending Clarrie Hall Dam is the answer. Council should support as many households as possible to install tanks for rainwater. The Tweed is one of the most bio-diverse areas in Australia and we should be maintaining the natural environment as much as possible to ensure there is something for the residents of the future. The reason I believe all households should pay the same amount is because the two-tiered system places undue stress on low socio-economic people who have large families.
1385	The wording of this survey is biased towards reinforcing existing levels of knowledge whereby many people think that household consumption of water is the most important issue in water management and that they will have to suffer some reduction in their lifestyle if reduction in water consumption targets are to met. The ecosystem services of the Tweed Shire are to preserve and enhance in accordance with best practice, the natural environment better managed and so on. It is good that words to the effect that it is costly to provide an alternative water source are included in the survey but the concept of COST for ecosystem services and the overall positive benefits to the community of best practice water management as part of ecosystem services management is not at all adequately conveyed in this survey. This is unfortunate as many surveys conducted in the past have found a high and consistent level of concern and awareness by Tweed residents that resources be managed to preserve and enhance what makes the shire attractive to them and to visitors. They expect a 'whole of landscape' approach that responds to the World Heritage status of three national parks within the shire and sets clear guidelines for land development so that it enhances, rather than detracts from the ecosystem services of the shire.
1386	We in the Tweed should be and could be much more creative with regards to water cycle management. There are many options that could be explored and adopted. Increased cost to households is a small price to pay to protect our unique environment.
1387	Council to increase water saving by increasing cost of water, recycling of waste water, capture of roof water, water saving devices in households and industry. Drinking quality water should not be flushed down toilets. Byrrill Creek should not be earmarked for a new dam.
1388	No new dam, but all new developments in the shire should be using recycled water designed in the development for sewerage and water saving devices in the housing designs e.g. tanks are compulsory.
1389	Building more dams is not the solution. That just ruins the environment and the Tweed hasn't got much of it left. More emphasis needs to be put on the current wastage of water and how it can be recycled or re-used. People need to be educated about water conservation and not

	encouraged to think it's an unlimited source.
1390	I would like to see a scheme where water tanks are been offered to residents of Tweed Shire. We live in a rain abundant area and it's a real shame to not capitalise on that resource.
1391	It is vital that the artesian well system of underground aquifers are kept free of contaminants for future generations by ensuring that CSG gas exploration ceases immediately. A greater responsibility is taken by the Council for recycling storm and waste water and more education in water management for the general public. Enforced responsibility of usage of water by commerce and agricultural users.
1392	Water is more precious than anything and should be treated as such.
1393	I would like to see heavily subsidised rainwater tanks and grey water systems for households, especially urban. I live rurally and most people have water tanks already and a focus on industry and agricultural water reduction.
1394	Encouraging the reuse of water with dual reticulation in new urban areas and not retro fitting for existing residents. Recycled water is treated and safe for gardens, washing machines and toilets etc, and that the environment is a prime consideration.
1395	Please encourage the community to become more conscious of their daily usage through ongoing education on the topic.
1396	Strongly opposed to a new dam as I believe the future water needs should be more accurately assessed with regard to potential for recycling/reuse and true cost put onto developers of new housing that would create extra demand. Developments currently under planning consideration like Kings Forest and Cobaki should have dual reticulation. These will be bringing new demand for the next 20 years and is a golden opportunity to implement reuse strategies on a feasible scale.
1397	Council should sell off land acquired for the future dam and fund tanks to all ratepayers in the shire, thereby reducing the need for water supply options and extra expenses from ratepayers. Council should also consider the more effective costs to those who drain the springs of their water from the mountain sources which should be available to eventually end up in the water supply. These people waste water and do not pay sufficient amount for what they are able to take which in turn reduces the water available to others in the catchment areas.
1398	All new developments e.g. Kings Forest and Cobaki Lakes should be fitted with dual reticulation large 10,000Lt tanks. Storm water runoff containment provisions etc, paid for by the developer. I don't think building dams are sustainable options for water supplies in the future but waste water reuse is highly recommended.
1401	Availability of metering system for strata title properties built, prior to introduction of individually metered water supply.
1402	I believe the future supply of water for the Tweed Shire can be supplied without building any more dams. All future developments should have rainwater tanks as compulsory and existing houses could be subsidised to put a rainwater tank on their house. If more water was needed I would prefer raising the existing dam. Byrrill Creek definitely should not be dammed under any circumstances. Ongoing education is important. Our precious water should certainly not be sold to the Gold Coast. Future developments should only go ahead if they can provide their own water supply - thus not increasing the demand on the system.
1403	Protection of underground water. No mining in the Tweed.

1406	<p>We should be looking at alternatives to dams i.e. stormwater harvesting, recycling, large rainwater tanks and dual reticulation especially in new housing estates like Kings Forest, Cobaki Lakes and Terranora etc. If these housing estates are self-sufficient water wise, it drastically reduces the burden on the whole shire.</p> <p>If the developer was responsible for the cost of these it would also mean ratepayers don't have to keep paying higher rates.</p>
1407	<p>I would love to see council being more creative and looking always to current best practice water management. The revelry of the natural environment and the health of the waterways and catchments is vital. Healthy catchments are in everyone's best interest. Onsite water catchments and storage as well as dual reticulation should be mandatory In all new developments in the Tweed. If a rebate system has been proven to be effective, utilise it. If charging more reduces use, use it. I am opposed to building another dam at Byrril Creek and would only like to see Clarrie Hall increased if all other options have been tried. It makes good sense to me that if the Tweed waterways can only sustain a certain population we should look seriously at the viability of all future development applications in light of this. Let's work out what is possible and desirable and forward plan future developments from this rather than approve developments of large towns and then wonder where we shall find the water. Kings Forest and Cobaki should both be models of best practice water management. Thanks for the opportunity to have my say.</p>
1409	User pays system is the fairest.
1410	<p>Generally I would like to see more recycled water and incentives especially with new housing developments. I currently rent and I'm limited to what is available, however as a home owner I would invest in many initiatives if available. I would like to see cleaner harvesting and reuse of storm water before it enters our waterways.</p>
1412	Force new developments to install water saving infrastructure so no new dams need be built.
1414	<p>Planning and development has not been considered as part of this survey. That is if population growth is not controlled and community strategic plans do not address natural environmental degradation then we lose the ability to provide the very resource we seek to protect.</p>
1416	Rebate scheme for installation of rainwater tanks and the use of grey water for toilets and gardens.
1417	User pay system is fair.
1418	Save as much water for future generations.
1420	<p>I think there should be more than two tiers of water charges, such that extremely high water use is penalised more heavily. Of course the size of the dwelling e.g. number of bedrooms needs to be taken into account when determining acceptable usage levels.</p>
1424	In the future we will have to have a sustainable source of water.
1425	<p>I think it's imperative that the environment and waterways are protected and maintained for the near and far future residents and community.</p>
1439	Recycle more water.
1443	Introduce water tanks into drains to catch rain water and use it for washing machines and tap water in the garden.
1444	Industry's should have recycled water which can be used for agriculture and industrial water use.
1447	Construction of an additional dam to ensure water supply for the Tweed.
1448	Try and recycle as much as possible and save money for society.

1450	Protecting the environment and recycling water and also sharing the burden of Council with farmers water to make sure of a sustainable future.
1451	There should be a greater effort on rehabilitating the natural environment.
1458	Where possible people should be encouraged to convert to tank water and disconnect from Council water. If tank water conversion occurs the householder shouldn't be required to pay water rates.
1459	I don't think new dams are appropriate. I think a moratorium on development is more appropriate. People here live for a lifestyle not to help developers who develop for today's profits and not tomorrows concerns.
1462	I'm all for building a new dam. Please do not close the Tweed River of boating activities. Boating is our life.
1469	Use recycle water from tanks.
1473	Desalination plants would create more drinking water but probably at too much cost.
1479	I would like the environment not to be effected.
1481	Council should work hard to improve the quality and taste of drinking water.
1487	Making a spot in the river that is suitable for swimming and has clean water.
1488	Build a new dam in Tweed area.
1489	More emphasis on water conservation and maintenance of recycling systems.

APPENDIX 3: RAINWATER TANK ASSESSMENT

RAINWATER TANK ASSESSMENT

The appropriateness of the current rainwater tank policy was assessed for a range of rainwater tank sizes on mains water consumption for a number of different water uses. The analysis was carried out using the spreadsheet based Rainwater Tank Model (version RTM 2.1) developed by DWE (now NSW Office of Water).

Rainwater tanks provide a potential alternative water source and can reduce the demand on the mains water supply. However, there are a number of constraints which need to be considered, such as rainfall, roof catchment size, purpose of use and cost, to ensure that the most appropriate sized rainwater tank is installed. Although larger rainwater tanks provide a greater capacity for storage and to reduce the demand on mains water, they are more expensive and may be restricted by planning controls and space.

The aim of the rainwater tank modelling was to assess a number of different rainwater tank scenarios and determine a scenario which best suits the 'average' house in Murwillumbah. Model scenarios were run using a variety of tank sizes and a combination of potential home rainwater uses as follows:

- External use only – garden watering and car washing;
- External use as well as internal toilet and washing machine use.

These two scenarios provide a good indication of the effectiveness of rainwater tanks, based on historical rainfall and temperature information. Assumptions for inputs into the rainwater tank model are presented in Table 18.

Table 18: Assumptions and inputs into the Murwillumbah rainwater tank model

Item	Model Assumptions
Roof area draining to tank (m ²)	160
First flush volume per storm (L)	20
Rainfall water lost due to wetting and evaporation/storm (mm)	0.5
Roof runoff factor (overflow, etc.) (%)	90
Residential annual average external usage (L/d)	150
Residential annual average toilet usage (L/d)	105
Residential annual average cold water washing machine usage (L/d)	88
Total average daily household usage (L/d)	165
Rainfall and temperature data from Bureau of Meteorology for Murwillumbah – 20 years between 1981 and 2001	

The following figures illustrate the results of the modelled scenarios. These figures demonstrate the volume of water saved, the time the tank is full each year and the percentage water which will still need to be supplied via the mains supply required for the different sized rainwater tanks.

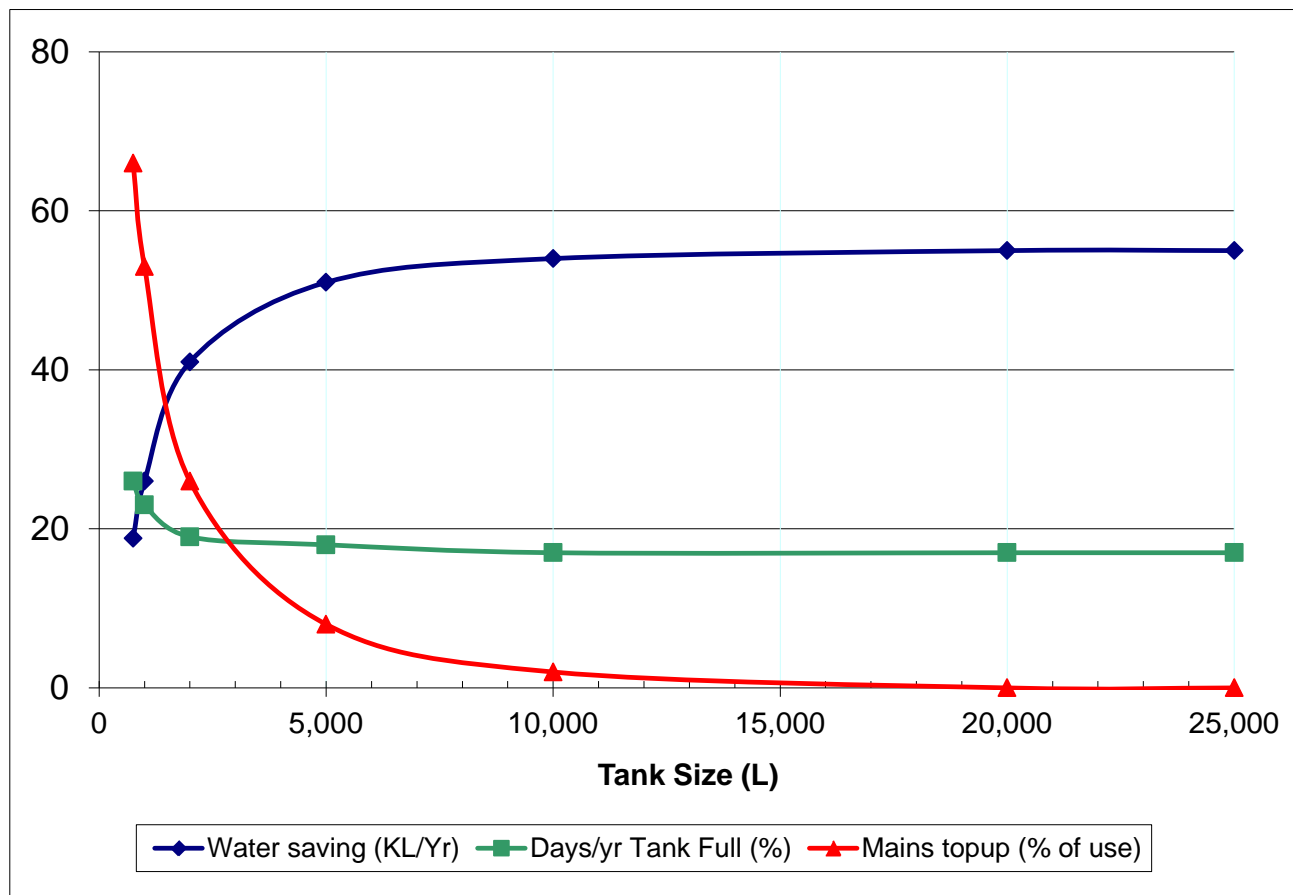


Figure 21: Murwillumbah Scenario 1- Rainwater tank size comparison for external use only

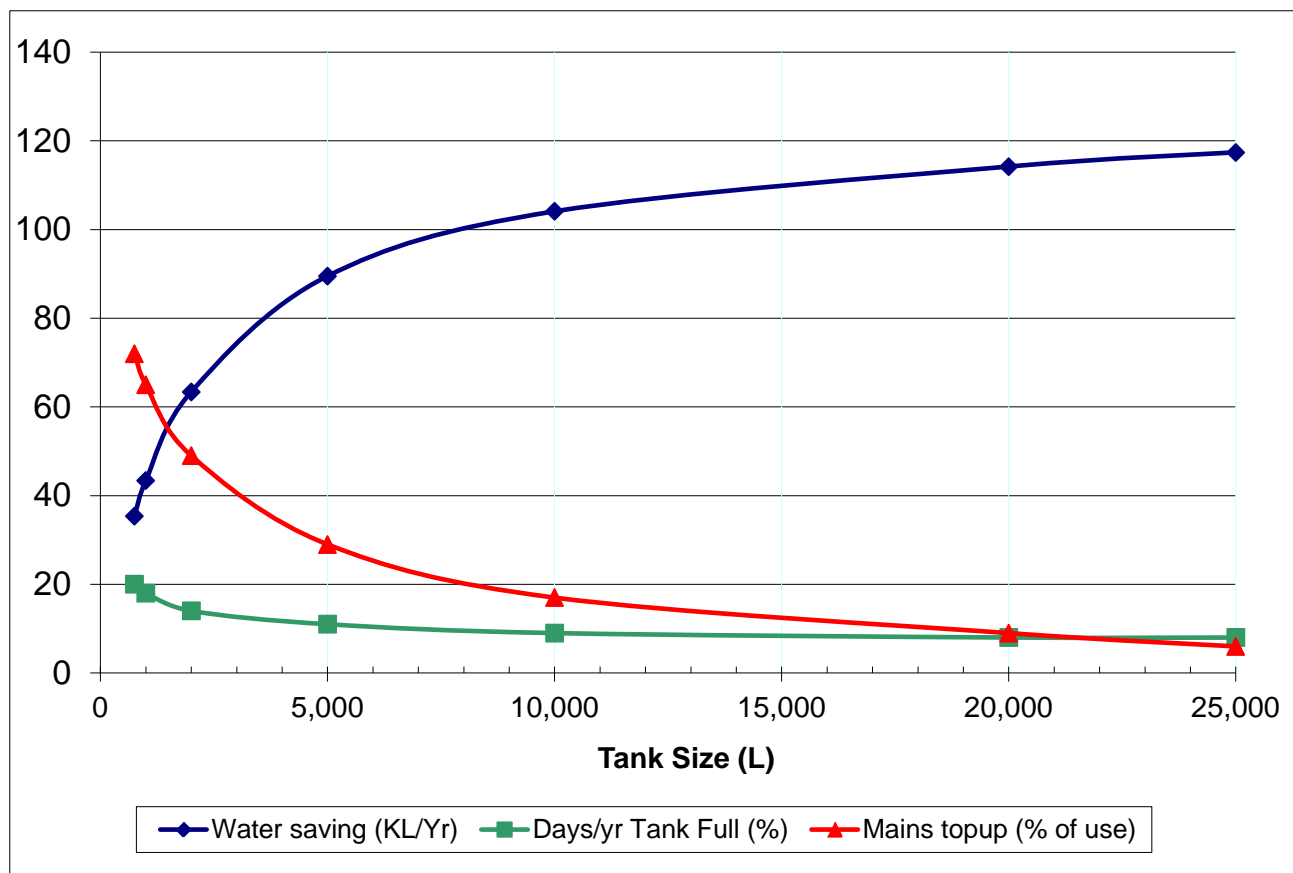


Figure 22: Murwillumbah Scenario 2- Rainwater tank size comparison for external, toilet and cold washing machine use

Based on the results of the model, the optimum tank sizes for an average home in Murwillumbah are shown in Table 19. The effectiveness of the tank size increased significantly up to these sizes and there was a reduction in additional benefit for tanks over these sizes. Due to the high rainfall, the optimum tank size increases with additional rainwater use. Similar results were obtained for coastal areas.

Table 19: Output from the rainwater tank model for Murwillumbah - Optimum tank sizes

Output	Scenario 1 – External Usage Only	Scenario 2– External, Toilet and Washing Machine
Optimum Tank Capacity (L) ¹	5,000	10,000
Roof Runoff to Tank/Year (kL)	216.2	216.2
Rainwater Usage/Year (kL) (%)	50.2 (23)	103.7 (48)
Average Tank Storage (kL) (%)	3.6	5.5 (55)
No. of overflow Days/Year	65	34
Average Overflow Volume/Overflow Day (kL)	2.6	3.3
Maximum Daily Overflow (20yrs) (kL)	39.5	39.3
Days per Year Tank is Full	65	34
Non-Tank Mains Usage per Year (kL)	54.8	125.3
Mains Top-up Usage per Year (kL) (%)	4.2	21.2 (17)
Mains Water Saving and Roof Stormwater Reduction (kL/yr)	50.6	104.1
Total water bill saving (\$/yr) (%) – based on TSC 2013 tariff	93.65 (22)	192.56 (45)

1. Based on Figure 21 and Figure 22

APPENDIX 4: IWCM SCENARIO COSTS

Ten Year Costs of IWCM Options and Scenarios (2013 \$)

Option		Ten year total additional cost
<i>Level 1- Current Strategy</i>		
All	No increase above current budget	-
<i>Level 2 - Urban Water Cycle Management Improvements</i>		
2b	Strengthened community engagement process	110,000
3b	Improved data management	260,000
5c	Full compliance with best-practice guidelines	20,000
5d	Review and Update Sewer Overflow Abatement Strategy	50,000
5e	Review and update water supply and wastewater Business Continuity Plans	150,000
6c	Climate change adaptation – flooding and tidal inundation	150,000
6d	Climate change adaptation – surface water availability	250,000
6e	Reduction in energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions	Included in Council's broader sustainability initiatives
7b	Improved community understanding of water consumption targets	55,000
7c	Targets for non-residential consumption	Minimal
7d	Water Loss Management Program	150,000
7e	Review of effectiveness of RWTs	35,000
7f	Rainwater tank rebate	700,000
7g	Permanent water conservation measures	30,000
9d	Drinking water catchment planning	100,000
10b	Review and update Drought Management Strategy	150,000
13b	Biosolids Management Strategy	150,000
18b	Provide increased OSSM resources	1,400,000
Total – Level 2		3,760,000

Option		Ten year total additional cost
Level 3 - Total Water Cycle Management		
1b	Integrated Council-Wide IWCM Delivery	1,200,000
2c	TWCM community engagement process	100,000
3c	Increased understanding of total water cycle	100,000
4b	Strengthened IWCM policies	50,000
5f	Management of natural assets	100,000
11b	Integrated servicing strategies	160,000
11c	Identify opportunities for increased water recycling	250,000
14b	Greater integration of WSUD across Council	500,000
15b	Develop guidelines for compensatory measures	60,000
16b	Review and update erosion and sediment controls and provide increased resources	1,520,000
17f	Review of Streambank Protection Policy	20,000
17g	Total water cycle management framework and sub-catchment plans	450,000
17h	Upper catchment floodplain planning	400,000
17i	Monitoring, evaluation and reporting	400,000
18c	Integration of OSSM with water cycle management	Included in TWCM framework (Option 17g)
Total – Level 3 (Including Level 2 costs)		9,070,000