

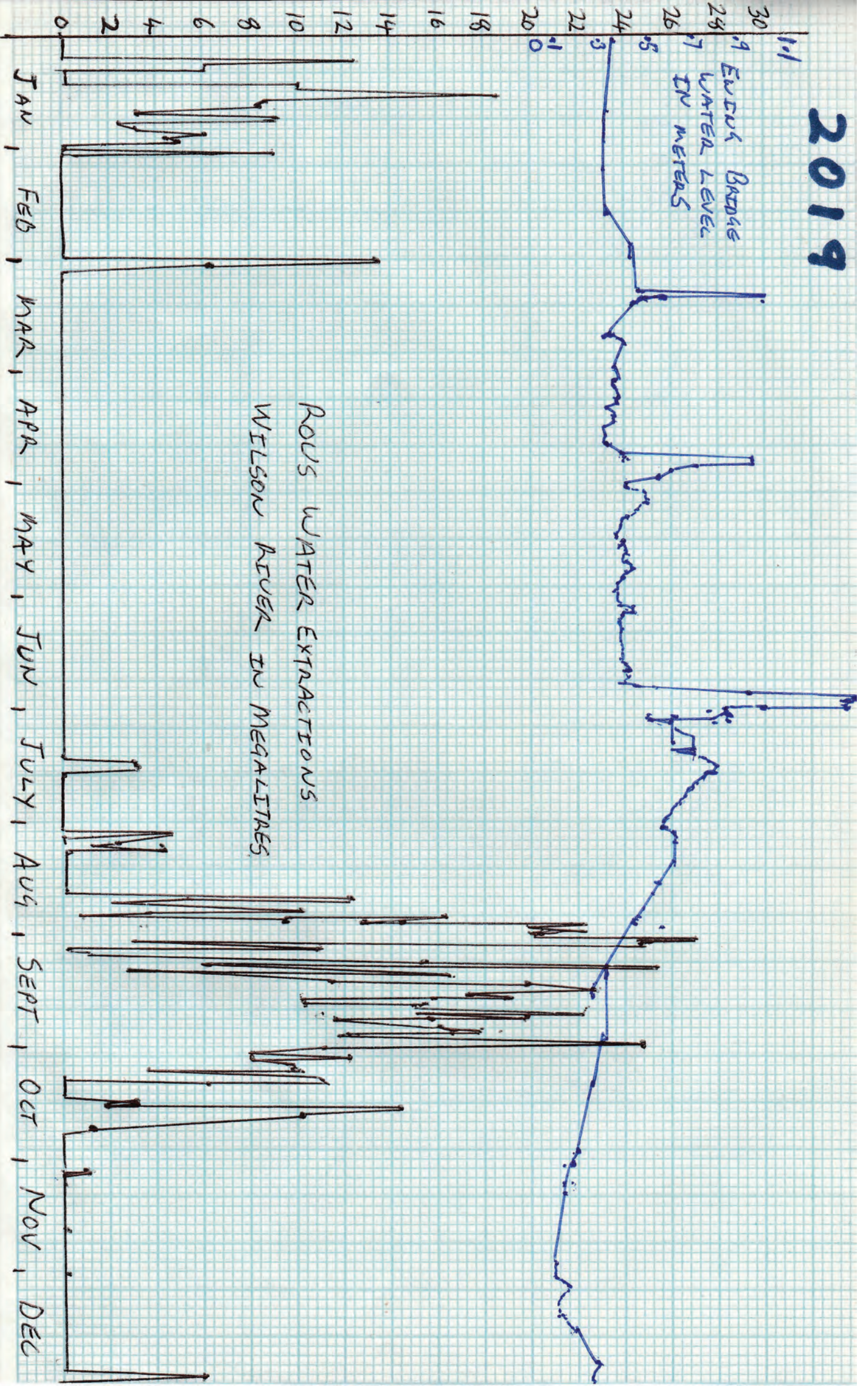
Natural Resources Commission: Re Water Sharing Plan for Richmond River

Hi All, Let me begin by saying I have lived on the family farm at [REDACTED] on Coopers creek all my 65 years. Our family first settled here in the 1880's and over 140 years we have seen a steady decline in Coopers creek. I believe there is a natural decline due to erosion and high rainfall events causing banks to collapse and the river to change course. Up until the last 15 years, flow however has been pretty constant with rocks normally being under water are now normally exposed. Unfortunately I don't know the reasons for this but my guesses are , more population having access to riparian water, bores depleting ground water reserves, irrigators under pressure to produce more to stay viable, and climate change. More recently we have seen Rous Water have an extraction point near Lismore. This has resulted in this whole catchment being declared a Catchment which has resulted in more regulation and scrutiny. This was done as far as I'm aware with no public comment or compensation. I believe it had to be done because a planned dam at Dunoon was mothballed and short term solutions had to be found, with high impacts on the river. Please find attached graph from last year showing extraction and river levels and you will note post the high pumping period the river dropping to an all time low. This was a dry time but this shows me there is not enough reserves built into the system.

My questions are does the water sharing plan cover downstream water extractions and ground water reserves for the whole North Coast. I believe the plan is a good thing to have but it should take in the whole community with environmental costs born by the everyone, not just farmers.

The information to compile this graph was not easy to obtain and there should be 1 central site that has historical data and daily data including rainfall for the known history of the catchment and someone with better office skills than me to graph it and keep everyone informed. I realize I have probably not addressed the outcomes from the plan but until we get the basics clear and out in the open our way forward will not be satisfactory. Thanks for listening and I would have liked to have spent more time on this, so I hope you can read between the lines a bit. I have attached a photo of the creek as low as ever just before the rain came. Cheers Ken Murphy.

2019



EVERY BRIDGE
WATER LEVEL
IN METERS

ROUS WATER EXTRACTIIONS
WILSON RIVER IN MEGALITRES

JAN, FEB, MAR, APR, MAY, JUN, JULY, AUG, SEPT, OCT, NOV, DEC

