

[REDACTED]

From: julie beesley [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 30 June 2020 9:12 AM
To: NRC
Subject: Byrrill Creek Dam opposition.

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Dear Sir /Madam

I would like to make the below comments on the above Water Sharing Plan in relationship to the following points

**To what extent do you feel the plan has contributed to environmental outcomes?
What changes do you feel are needed to the water sharing plan to improve outcomes?**

Clause 48(1)Byrrill Creek dam

The current prohibition of a Dam within Byrrill Creek Water Source has been a positive environmental outcome and I recommend this prohibition remains within the Water Sharing Plan.

It has helped preserve the Byrrill Creek catchment areas with its high riparian conservation status, numerous threatened species, Aboriginal cultural heritage sites, and the wildlife & climate change corridor linking Mt Warning & Mebbin National Parks.

It is to be noted that Tweed Council has already adopted raising Clarrie Hall Dam wall as the preferred option for water augmentation & also has a 20 year moratorium that bans any dam proposal at Byrrill Creek [until 16 May 2032](#).

I support the Tweed Council statement at its meeting of 18 June 2020 that resolved:

Council maintains its long standing and scientific based opposition to the building of a dam at Byrrill Creek.

Environmental Water Flows

Tweed shire's river systems flow through and support an internationally significant highly biodiverse environment. I do not support reducing environmental flows on any stream or river, during low flow & droughtEnvironmental flows are a critical and positive outcome of the current water sharing plan.

1. From Clarrie Hall Dam

Environmental Water flow releases from Clarrie Hall Dam to feed Doon Doon Creek & the Tweed River should remain. It proved to be an important aquatic refuge during the recent drought, when the majority of all creeks & the upper reaches of the South arm of the Tweed River ran dry. .

2. Fish Ladder Flows at Bray Park Weir

The Environmental flow releases for the Fish Ladder at Bray Park Weir should also remain to allow migration of native fish upstream.

3. Clause 43. Access rules for the taking of surface water

As the Tweed Councilrelies on flow releases from the Dam for the urban Tweed Water Supply, I would suggest that there be a reduced access/cease to pump to water from the river to properties with self regulated water licences drawing from the Tweed River during drought times. These irrigators need to be utilising best practise water efficiency measures, and accountable & monitoredmetered use of water extracted, if not a cease pump restriction, during drought times and extremely low flows.

4. Environmental Flows, Drought and Water Extraction Facilities

Like wise these above restrictions, ie reduced access/cease to pump, should also apply to all five water extraction & water bottling plants within Tweed Shire who are taking water from aquifers, when there are low flows in nearby creeks & rivers or during droughts.

Water Licences

There is a lack of scientific data of both above ground & groundwater sources in the Tweed which means the current Water Sharing Plan, is ineffective in making any future decisions on water licensing.

This needs to be remedied (& funded) as soon as possible, and Climate change particularly needs to be taken into account.

Lack of compliance by many of water users in the Tweed is inadequate to effectively manage and put the Water Sharing Plan into operation. The self regulating of water licenses is open to abuse and has proved not accountable within the Water Sharing Plan or regulatory bodies.

Climate Change

A Water Sharing plan has to address Climate Change more effectively. The Tweed has experienced its worst flooding event during Cyclone Debbie, March 2017, and its worst drought in 2019, and also the overtopping of the Bray Park Weir with salt water inundation. These occurrences are predicted to become more extreme.

Clause 14 of the existing WSP has provisions to manage the sharing of water based on long-term averages, however it needs to reflect these changes, particularly low flows.

During the 2019 drought the water supply to Tyalgum village was severely affected, with no flows into the weir and high pollution levels. Council did not have sufficient water for the village supplies & water was trucked in. An increased allocation, depending on river health is suggested.

Warm regards,

Julie Beesley

