

**INFORMATION SHEET ABOUT
TWEED SHIRE COUNCIL DEMAND MANAGEMENT STRATEGY (2009)**

SUBMISSIONS CLOSE 4pm ON 30th APRIL

Post to: Tweed Water Submission, Tweed Council, PO Box 816 ,Murwillumbah 2484

Email to: watertsc@tweed.nsw.gov.au

Submissions can most easily be made via a telephone call !) PHONE 1800 826 267.

**All this info will be available on the caldera web site shortly www.calderaenvironmentcentre.org.
So you can easily copy & paste bits of info that you want to put in your submissions.**

Demand Management Strategy Points

Request Tweed Shire Council proceed with the request of the Community Working Group, for an independent assessment/review of the 'Tweed Shire Council Demand Management Strategy', so as to assure national and international performance standards **are being met.**

Tweed Shire Council appears to be avoiding common sense water saving solutions as outlined in the National Water Sensitive Cities (WSC) concept. The WSC concept, includes stormwater harvesting, urban water recycling and greywater reuse programs.

The exhibited Strategy contains significant flaws and omissions, which we believe restricts Councils means to provide ecologically sustainable water supply to the Tweed Shire.

1. Object to the planned doubling of the Tweed Shire population by 2036.(see extra notes)
2. Object to the inappropriate unsustainable design of the housing developments (Kings Forest & Cobaki Lakes), which have no Council requirement for grey water recycling & a dual reticulation system. (which was initially proposed by the developer Leda). In neighbouring shires in SE QLD at Pimpana new developments (predicted population 170,000) dual reticulation recycled water is compulsory, also in Ballina Shire.
3. Insist that the new housing developments collect and use rainwater tanks as a substantial source of their water. A minimum of 10,000 Litres, preferably 20,000 litres, per house is necessary, so people are more self sufficient. These could be built underground to save space. At present Council is only recommending 5,000 litres per household to the above developments, as their total water saving programme. Rouse Water have had tank rebates for 10 years & have achieved substantial water savings. Tweed has no tank rebates.
4. Insist on Major Stormwater Harvesting & reuse of water that now just flows into our estuaries, & causes environmental damage. Urban run off wastes 70% of water. Our neighbouring shire, SE QLD Water are leading the way in Stormwater Management & harvesting & have mandatory legislation in place for new developments such as at Coomera Waters.
5. Climate change & rising sea levels have not been taken into account in the Draft Water Demand Management Strategy & most new development are on coastal areas that would be affected.

6. Within the DMS the target daily water consumption levels are too high. Our target should be 150 litres per person per day, or less. Further Education of the population needs to be carried out to achieve this.
7. The price of water should be reflected as a valuable commodity and excessive water use should be charged at far higher rates than is recommended. Consumption in excess of 150 litres per person per day should be charged excess rates.
8. Within the DMS in Green Field Development Scenarios (Appendix F) Scenario 3, the most sustainable option, of combining BASIX, Rainwater tanks & Dual Reticulation brings consumption levels down to 95lts/person/day. However this has been considered too costly to consider or implement, instead the TSC choice has been Scenario 1: BASIX (which is now state legislated anyway) & a 5,000 Lt tank (to be purchased & maintained by land owner)
9. A question to Council: \$75 million has been spent on the upgrade of Bray Park Water Filtration Plant, so does Council really want new developments that are water self sufficient, such as recycled water & large capacity rain water tanks??

Population Notes

Australia's population growth has been recently reported at 2.1 % annually. If this percentage was applied to the 2008 population only 114000 residents would need to be serviced with town water. Total consumption based on the 2008 usage would be 12642 ML/annually (2036) which is a quantity of water below Council's current secure yield of 13750ML/annually.

If Tweed Shire Council has overestimated the predicted population significantly, then the time to augment the supply bulk water could be delayed beyond 2021. This would allow Council time to develop new water saving programs using sustainable and available water in their new five Major Developments and major infill areas.

Conclusion

We consider that council has time not to rush into a new dam option at Byrrill Creek for water supply; has time to repair the Clarrie Hall Dam spillway on which there has been an overdue caveat since 2002, and time to embrace more than in the past, a range of water management techniques:

1. Stormwater harvesting,
2. Urban water use efficiency programs
3. Urban water recycling and reuse programs,
4. Urban rainwater harvesting (larger tanks)
5. Flood management.

OTHER INFORMATION YOU CAN RESEARCH FOR SUBMISSIONS

For more details on Tweed Shire Councils Draft Water Demand Management Strategy (2009) check out their website.

<http://www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/onexhibition/OnExhibitionDetail.aspx?ExhibitionID=85&Status=Current> and the CWG Report, & Minutes.

<http://www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/Search.aspx?SearchText=CWG%20Report>