The Community Does care a Damn

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Tweed Council Community Access
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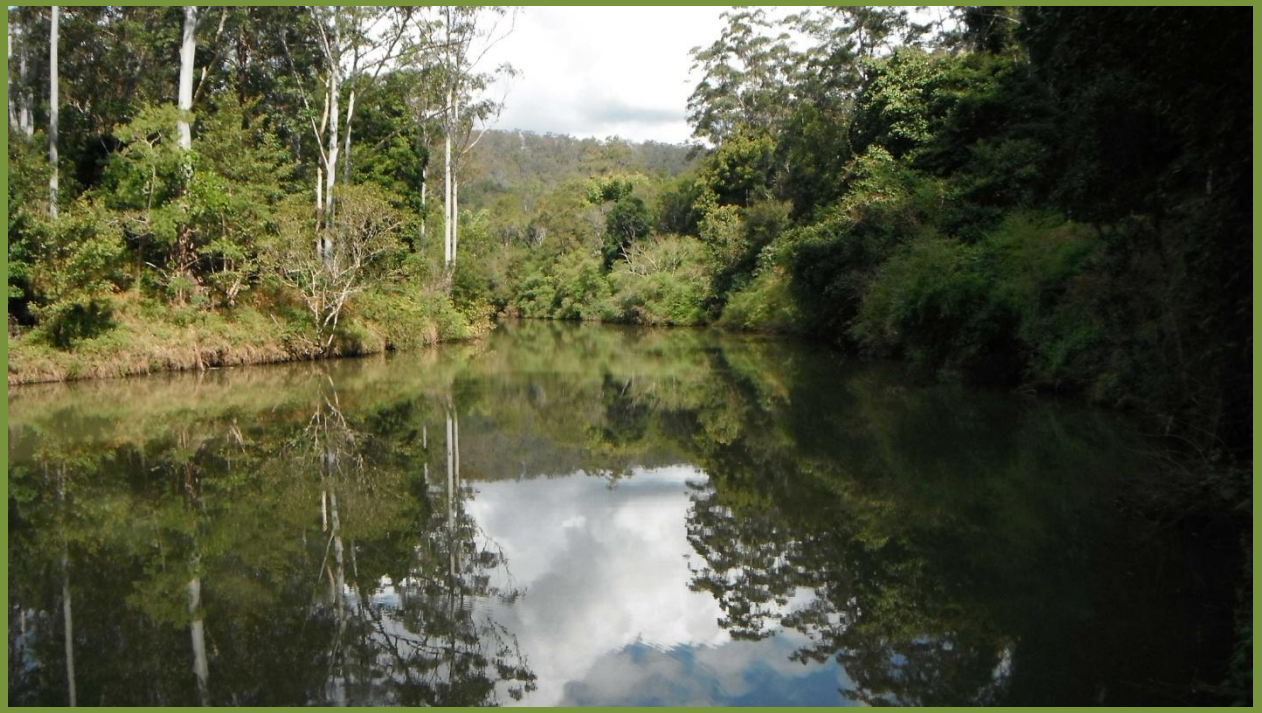
Risks of the Byrrill Creek Dam

The risks portrayed by the Staff Report on the choice of a new dam at Byrrill Creek are very real: Higher costs and time frame and it is a documented high conservation area with many threatened species.



ENDANGERED SPECIES

Within the Byrrill Creek Area and surrounding National Parks there is high percentage of recorded Endangered, Threatened or Vulnerable Fauna & Flora species, within the TSC (State) and EPBC(Federal) listings

An assessment of priority fauna species through the PIA identified:

- 42 priority Flora species
- 37 priority fauna species: 6 amphibians, 7 reptiles, 13 birds, & 11 mammals

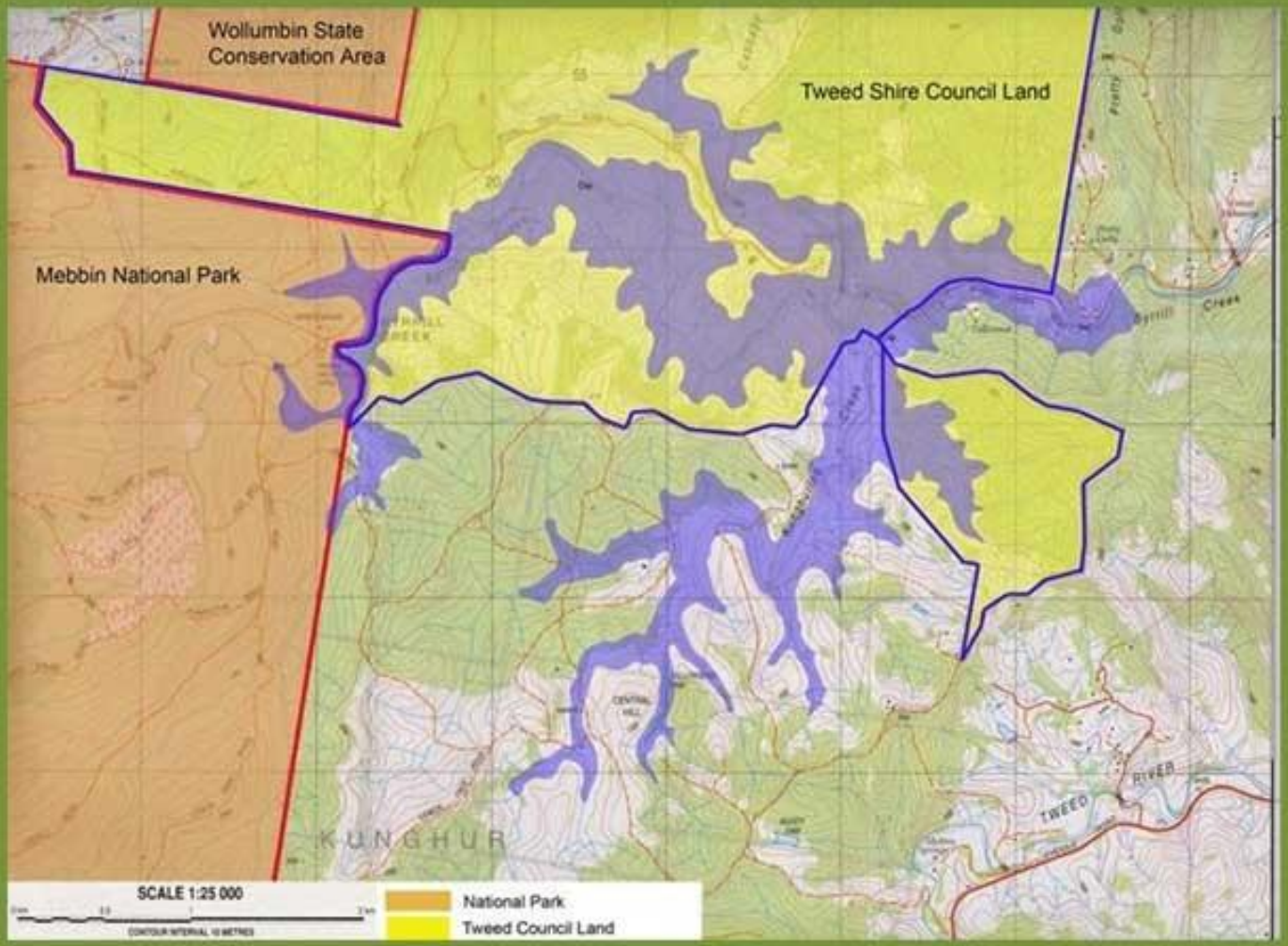
Dr S. Phillips of "Biolink" Ecological Consultants identified 45 Threatened Fauna species, 26 Flora Species & 2 Endangered Ecological Communities in a 5km radius of Byrrill Creek

A local Byrrill Creek Fauna Survey, July 2009, recorded 15 species




Areas of lowland rainforest, near the creek at Mebbin National Park that would be flooded. Lance Tarvey of NPWS, Murwillumbah, considers these areas the most valuable in diversity of species and irreplacable.

PROPOSED AREA OF INUNDATION: Dam, National Park, TSC Land



400ha in total and 21ha of Mebbin National Park would be inundated by the proposed 36,000ML dam. The through road to Tyalgum is unlikely to be replaced due to high costs & environmental impact. The present access to the National Park Camp ground would also be inundated.

BORDER RANGES RAINFOREST BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT PLAN 2010
REGIONAL FAUNA & CLIMATE CHANGE CORRIDORS

Provided by Shane Ruming DECCW Coffs Harbour ,with thanks.

Tweed Water Sharing Plan prohibits Byrrill Creek Dam

Dec 2010: Tweed Water Sharing Plan places a prohibition on a Dam at Byrrill Creek for the next 10 years

'The WSP as made does not permit the construction of a new in-river dam on Byrrill Creek. This decision has been made based on the high environmental and world heritage values of the Byrrill Creek area, and ***the availability of other water supply options for Tweed Shire.'***

– Labor Water Minister Michael Costa, NSW Office of Water

WE WILL LEGALLY CHALLENGE A DECISION TO GO AHEAD WITH BYRRILL CREEK DAM

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

IWCM Nov 2014

Objectives:

"*Identification and incorporation of community priorities*"

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

I believe 1 week's notice of such a major issue is not supportive, inclusive or transparent. I feel it is only fair that the Council present a workshop for former CWG members and the public to clearly present their case for the raising of Clarrie Hall Dam, water options & climate change, and with time for questions to be answered. This should be held in early Feb 2016.

Options the Same as 6 years Ago & Implementation of IWCM

I commend the amount of Research and Reports that have been compiled over the last few years to aid in a decision, but the options are the same as back then: pipes from SE QLD Dams or dams in the Tweed. As I understand, other options, or the choice of a mix of options have not really been seriously considered during this time. This was what the CWG pointed out in 2010.

Yes, we have reduced consumption to 180 LT per day but recommendations in the IWCM such as- tank rebates (As provided in neighbouring Rous Water & Gold Coast has not been followed), targets for recycling water were to be 15% by 2015 which has not been achieved (at present 5-9%) There are plans, but they are not being implemented

If you look back at the Councils IWCM- 2006, 2009, 2011 & 2013 which is the strategic plan which guides & prioritises actions regarding water management. As far back as the 2006 WSUD (water sensitive urban design) and recycled water, were discussed as important elements. Its now 9 years later!

Strategy for Implementing DMS

Table 1: IWCM Strategy Implementation Program

	Options	Action	10 year total ($'000) [Note 1]	2016	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	286	40	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25
	3a, 3b, 3c	Data collection	380	60	60	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
	4a, 4b	Strengthened IWCM policies (under *Water Industry Competition Act*)	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	736	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			8,070	400	880	880	1,030	1,105	1,200	985	885	900	980

Fundamental actions	Priority Actions	Actions relying on prerequisite (priority) actions	Level 3 (TWCM) components

Note 1: 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 actions in the Implementation Program are additional to the Level 1 actions and are new strategic planning actions that are recommended to achieve the desired IWCM outcomes. None of the IWCM issues identified directly require investment in capital works within the next ten years that have not been documented in this Strategy. However, the outcomes of these actions may result in the identification of additional future expenditure requirements. Expenditure for Council's asset renewal program and provision of infrastructure to service new growth areas is additional to the IWCM implementation program and will be directed by many of the outcomes of the IWCM actions, particularly climate change adaptation, sewer overflow abatement strategy, biosolids management strategy, integrated servicing strategies and recycled water opportunities..

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

THE COMMUNITY SUPPORTS ALTERNATIVE WATER SOURCES

Tweed Shire Council IWCM Strategy : Random Telephone Survey Jetty Research Feb 2013: Question 10

"There was widespread support for three alternative water sources. Some 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"

POPULATION CORRECT?

- ***IWCM Issue 3: There is a need for defendable and robust population forecasts***
  *"*A revised projection based on 2011 Census data and revised development projections is expected to be completed during 2013"
  At present our growth Rate has dropped to 1.3% but it is noted that the council has used 2.2% growth as their basis for when augmentation is required.

An Oversupply of water with a dam?

- Council is planning many other demand management initiatives. Although these may result in reduction in demand, they are not yet adopted and no estimate of savings is available. Future reviews of this demand forecast can account for any additional savings.

7.3 Future Average Demand Profile

The predicted future average demand in each supply area is given in the following tables and figures.

Table 23: Future Average Demand – Tweed District (ML/a)

Connection Type [1]	2015	2025	2035	2045	2055	2065
Commercial	1,639	1,977	2,462	2,966	3,472	3,981
Industrial [2]	204	245	305	367	430	493
Municipal - excluding public parks	384	458	574	693	814	935
Municipal - public parks	241	279	354	433	512	592
Total Non-Residential	*2,468*	*2,959*	*3,695*	*4,460*	*5,228*	*6,000*
BASIX/efficient single residential	372	893	1,635	2,397	3,158	3,920
BASIX/efficient multi-residential	117	299	527	761	996	1,230
Total BASIX/Efficient Residential	*489*	*1,192*	*2,162*	*3,158*	*4,154*	*5,150*
Non-efficient single residential	4,465	4,243	4,036	3,838	3,650	3,471
Non-efficient multi-residential	234	223	212	201	191	182
Total Non-Efficient Residential	*4,699*	*4,466*	*4,247*	*4,039*	*3,842*	*3,654*
Total Residential	*5,188*	*5,658*	*6,409*	*7,198*	*7,995*	*8,803*
Rural consumption	142	142	142	142	142	142
Total Consumption	*7,797*	*8,759*	*10,246*	*11,799*	*13,365*	*14,945*
NRW	1,303	1,464	1,712	1,972	2,233	2,498
Total Production	*9,100*	*10,222*	*11,959*	*13,771*	*15,599*	*17,443*
Raw Water Losses	626	704	823	948	1,074	1,201
Raw Water Extraction (Total Demand)	**9,727**	**10,926**	**12,782**	**14,719**	**16,672**	**18,644**

1. Sub-totals are provided in *italics*. Differences are due to rounding.
2. Industrial Connections include electricity generation, manufacturing and other industrial connections.

Total Supply needed:
2015: 9,727ML
2036: 12,782ML

We only actually need an extra 3,055ML by 2036- a very similar amount to 5 years ago

This is achievable with a variety of different water saving technologies

Conclusion

- We would like to defer this decision until early next year.

Points taken from the CWG Statement March 2010

5. We would like an independent review of assumptions made in the water supply selection process (population growth, demand management adoption and alternative supply options, prior to the commencement of detailed planning or environmental impact assessment of the preferred water supply option by Council. (*specifically ,the Institute for Sustainable Futures)*
6. We request Tweed Shire Council's demand strategy and water options selection process is in line with national and international performance standards, and appropriate to Tweed shire's beautiful environment.

- We also request that there be a Community Workshop held in February 2016