

# Regional Water Strategies Public Exhibition 2



## Submission Questionnaire

### North Coast Regional Water Strategy

#### Challenges and shortlisted actions

The NSW Government is taking action to improve long-term water security for the North Coast. The North Coast Regional Water Strategy sets out a shortlist of proposed actions to help deliver healthy and resilient water resources for a liveable and prosperous region.

#### Your voice is important

This is your opportunity to let us know which actions you support and think should be implemented to help set the region up for the future.

This questionnaire will take approximately 15 minutes to complete, and your response can remain anonymous if you wish (see question 7).

Questions marked with an asterisk (\*) require an answer.

If you have any questions about the questionnaire, please email: [regionalwater.strategies@dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:regionalwater.strategies@dpie.nsw.gov.au)

You can also provide feedback via [our submission platform](#).

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## 1. Your details

\* Email address:

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\* Name:

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\* Address:

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\* Contact phone number:

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\* **Do you identify as an Aboriginal person?** (select one)

Yes     No     Choose not to answer

\* **Are you making this submission as an individual or as a representative of an organisation?** (select one)

Individual     Organisation

## 2. Organisation or business details

**If making this submission as a representative of an organisation, who do you represent?** (select one)

**Government** (select one)

- Commonwealth
  New South Wales
  State other
  Local
- Local Water Utility

**Peak representative organisation** (select one)

- Environment
  Industry
  Business group or business chamber
  Community

**Aboriginal organisation** (select one)

- Yes
  No

**Other** (select and provide details) \_\_\_\_\_

N/A

## 3. Regional water challenges

We have identified **6 water challenges** that are the current immediate priority for the region. More detail about each regional challenge is available in the Consultation Paper.

### 1 Declining catchment and river health

Poor catchment and riparian management, combined with changes in catchment and river hydrology, are affecting river health, hydrologic connectivity and raw water quality.

### 2 Competition for low flows

Competition for water during low-flow periods is restricting access for landholders and industries and placing many of the region's waterways under stress.

### 3 Saltwater intrusion into freshwater sources

Sea level rise, groundwater extraction and changes in catchment hydrology are projected to significantly impact coastal waterways and aquifers. We need to better understand the magnitude of this threat and how best to manage it.

### 4 Aboriginal people's rights and access to water

Historical dispossession of land, effects of colonisation and government water management processes continue to impact Aboriginal people's access to water and their ability to care for Country.

### 5 Water security for North Coast region industries

The viability and growth of regional industries is constrained by the uncertainty of future access to water supplies.

### 6 Water availability for local towns

The reliability of town water supply sources is likely to be reduced with projected climate change.

**Do you agree that these are the priority water challenges for the North Coast region that we need to focus on?** (select one)

Yes     No

**If no, please outline what you see as the priority water challenges in this region over the next 20 – 40 years?**

## 4. Addressing the challenges

We have developed three regional priorities with actions under each. We want to know which of the actions you support.

The regional priorities are:

- 1 Take a holistic approach to land and water management.
- 2 Ensure water resource development and use is sustainable and equitable.
- 3 Prepare for future climatic extremes.

### Priority 1: Take a holistic approach to land and water management

The actions shortlisted under this priority will:

- Incorporate Aboriginal knowledge and culture into land and water management
- Undertake whole-of-catchment planning, decision-making and project delivery
- Support local landholders to adopt best practice land use and water management
- Improve our understanding and management of the region’s water resources.

Proposed action		Do you support this action?
1.1	Develop ongoing collaboration with local Aboriginal people in water management	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
1.2	Support place-based initiatives to deliver cultural outcomes for Aboriginal people	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
1.3	Support improved governance	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
1.4	Deliver a river recovery program	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
1.5	Support landholder adoption of best practice land management	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
1.6	Assess the vulnerability of surface water supplies to sea level rise and saltwater intrusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
1.7	Identify environmental water needs to support healthy coastal waterways	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
1.8	Characterise and plan for climate change and land use impacts on coastal groundwater sources	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
1.9	Protect ecosystems that depend on coastal groundwater	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
1.10	Improve monitoring of water extraction	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

**A) Do you have any comments on the proposed actions identified?**

**Priority 2: Ensure water resource development and use is sustainable and equitable**

The actions shortlisted under this priority will:

- Reduce the impact of water infrastructure on native fish populations
- Better manage competing demands for water.

Proposed action		Do you support this action?
2.1	Improve fish passage	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
2.2	Implement fish-friendly water extraction	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
2.3	Establish sustainable extraction limits for surface water and groundwater sources	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
2.4	Implement daily extraction limits	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
2.5	Reduce the take of low flows	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
2.6	Support Aboriginal business opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
2.7	Address catchment-based impacts of increased harvestable rights limits	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

**A) Do you have any comments on the proposed actions identified?**

### Priority 3: Prepare for future climatic extremes

The actions shortlisted under this priority will:

- Support local councils and water users to manage risks
- Optimise use of existing water supplies.

Proposed action		Do you support this action?
3.1	Support local councils to provide a secure and affordable water supply for towns	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
3.2	Provide better information about water access, availability and climate risks	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
3.3	Review water markets	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
3.4	Investigate increased on-farm water storage	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
3.5	Increase use of recycled water for intensive horticulture	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

#### A) Do you have any comments on the proposed actions identified?

## 5. Other comments

**A) Should any proposed actions in this Consultation Paper not be shortlisted and why?**

**B) Should any other options in Attachment 1 of the Consultation Paper be shortlisted and why?**

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## 6. Implementation of the North Coast Regional Water Strategy

An Implementation Plan will be included in the final North Coast Regional Water Strategy.

**A) Which actions should be implemented first and why?**

### Making your submission public

To promote transparency and open government, we intend to make all submissions publicly available on our website, or in reports. Your name or your organisation's name may appear in these reports with your feedback attributed.

#### If you would like your submission and/or feedback to be kept confidential, please let us know when making your submission.

If you request that your submission is to be kept confidential, it will not be published on our website or included in any relevant reports; however, it will still be subject to the *Government Information Public Access Act 2009*.

Your submission will be stored securely, consistent with the department's Records Management Policy and you have the right to request access to, and correction of, your personal information held by the department.

Further details can be found in our privacy statement available on our website.  
[www.industry.nsw.gov.au/privacy](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/privacy)

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## 7. Information on confidentiality and privacy \*

I give permission for my submission to be publicly available on the NSW Department of Planning and Environment website.

Yes     No

I would like my personal details to be kept confidential.

Yes     No

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## 8. Would you like to be kept updated on progress on the development and implementation of the North Coast Regional Water Strategy?

Yes     No

If yes, please provide your details below.

\* Email address:

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\* Name:

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\* Address:

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\* Contact phone number:

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## 9. How did you hear about the Public Exhibition of this strategy?

We are interested to know how you heard about the opportunity to make a submission. Please indicate the communication methods below:

- Newspaper
- Radio
- Department of Planning and Environment website
- Direct email
- Social media
- Have your say NSW Government website
- Communication from peak body
- Word of mouth
- Other (select and provide details) \_\_\_\_\_

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## 10. Additional information

If you would like to provide any supporting documents to help us understand your feedback, please email these from the same email you provided in this form or attach supporting documents to this form if you are returning your submission by mail.

All submissions on the draft North Coast Regional Water Strategy will be reviewed following the Public Exhibition Period.

**Please email your completed submission and any supporting documents to:**

[regionalwater.strategies@dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:regionalwater.strategies@dpie.nsw.gov.au)

**Or post to:**

Regional Water Strategies  
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment  
Locked Bag 5022  
Parramatta NSW 2124

**Submissions close Sunday 19 June 2022, 11.59pm**

Further details on all regional water strategies can be found on our website  
[www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/regional-water-strategies](http://www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/regional-water-strategies)



Thank you for your submission.