

D2016/63708

Director Regions, Northern
NSW Department of Planning and Environment
Locked Bag 9022
GRAFTON NSW 2460

Dear Sir/Madam

Draft North Coast Regional Plan

Thank you for the letter advising of the exhibition of the *Draft North Coast Regional Plan*.

WaterNSW is responsible for managing and protecting 42 water storages and associated water supply across NSW. WaterNSW's assets in the area covered by the Draft North Coast Regional Plan include the Toonumbar Dam in the Kyogle LGA. Although Toonumbar Dam is not currently a critical component of the water supply systems in the region, WaterNSW is investigating options for its future, which may or may not include drinking water supply. It is noted that this dam is not identified in the Draft Regional Plan, and requests that Toonumbar Dam is included as a consideration in future planning processes.

WaterNSW notes the *Direction 1.3 Safeguard aquatic habitats and water catchments, Action 1.3.1 Protect marine environments, water catchment areas and groundwater sources*, and *Direction 2.3 Focus growth to the least sensitive and constrained areas to protect natural assets* and *Action 2.3.3 Minimise the impact of rural residential development*.

WaterNSW has responsibility under the *Water NSW Act 2014* to manage and protect catchment health and water quality in declared catchment areas. At this stage the Sydney catchment area is the only declared catchment area.

In the Sydney catchment area, a requirement for development to have a neutral or beneficial effect on water quality has been successfully implemented. This has been facilitated through the use of land use planning mechanisms including section 117(2) Direction 5.2 and State Environmental Planning Policy (Sydney Drinking Water Catchment) 2011. The catchment areas referred to in the Draft Regional Plan are not declared catchment areas under the *Water NSW Act 2014* and WaterNSW has no regulatory role or authority for catchment health or water quality in these catchments.

If you have any queries on the above, please contact Alison Kniha, Environmental Policy and Planning Manager on 4724 2451 or at alison.kniha@watarnsw.com.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fiona Smith", written in a cursive style.

FIONA SMITH

Executive Manager, Water Quality, Catchment Protection and People & Culture