



1 June 2016

Ref: A560948

DRAFT NORTH COAST REGIONAL PLAN

Director Regions, Northern
Locked Bag 9022
Grafton NSW 2460

MIDCOAST WATER SUBMISSION TO THE DRAFT NORTH COAST REGIONAL PLAN

MidCoast Water welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the Draft North Coast Regional Plan, acknowledging that the Hunter Regional Plan will consolidate the land use and infrastructure strategic planning considerations for 13 local government areas and will replace the *Mid North Coast Regional Strategy 2006–31*.

MidCoast Water is responsible for water and sewerage services in the Greater Taree City Council local government area, (population 40,000) in the North Coast region, as well as Great Lakes Council and Gloucester Shire Council areas (population 40,000) which are in the Hunter region. As of 12 May 2016, these three councils have merged and are known as MidCoast Council.

The Manning District Water Supply Scheme is MidCoast Water's largest scheme and provides water for residents in both the North Coast and Hunter regions from Harrington in the north to Pacific Palms in the south. Water is sourced from the Manning River and treated at the Bootawa Water Treatment Plant, which is located in the Greater Taree LGA. The Manning catchment extends up from Greater Taree into Gloucester Shire, and then upward into the Upper Hunter and Tamworth Regional Council local government areas. The recent proposal for Coal Seam Gas development in Gloucester has brought catchment management into sharper focus for the people of the Manning and Great Lakes.

The NSW Government's vision of the North Coast, in particular "a natural environment that is protected" (Goal 1) and "a prosperous economy with services and infrastructure" (Goal 4), aligns with MidCoast Water's mission "to manage the provision of sustainable water related services to meet our community's needs". MidCoast Water supports regional growth and also needs to ensure existing communities ultimately receive sustainable water and sewer services.

MidCoast Water has recently reviewed and adopted its long term Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy, *Our Water Our Future*, in line with the DPI Water requirements. *Our Water Our Future* was developed in collaboration with our community, regulators and local councils, and sets out the direction for sustainable management of water and sewer services in our area over the next 30 years. MidCoast Water would like to see the goals of *Our Water Our Future* aligned with the North Coast Regional Plan, and it is encouraging to see that several of the directions and actions in the plan do indeed align with those in our Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy. Particularly, actions from Direction 1.3 "Safeguard aquatic habitats and water catchments" that are related to protecting catchments and groundwater sources, and finalising water sharing plans, and Direction 1.4

MidCoast Water ABN 33 274 464 218 All correspondence to PO Box 671 Taree, NSW 2430

General enquiries 1300 133 455 Fax 02 6555 8516 Web midcoastwater.com.au

Forster Customer Service Centre 16 Breese Parade Forster Taree Customer Service Centre 26 Muldoon Street Taree





"Adapt for natural hazards and climate change". Our Water Our Future outlines how we plan to implement a long term solution within the next 15-20 years to secure the water supply for the Manning scheme, and also reiterates our commitment to catchment management. The Our Water Our Future strategy is available at <http://www.midcoastwater.com.au/site/our-water-our-future> and a summary of the strategy is attached to our submission.

Key Infrastructure

Key infrastructure to be developed by MidCoast Water in the North Coast region over the coming years includes:

Project	Estimated cost	Estimated completion date
Nabiac Inland Dune Aquifer Water Supply System – this will provide an additional drinking water source for the Manning Supply Scheme and will increase the security of supply for the scheme.	\$34,600,000	Late 2018

Our key infrastructure plans also align with NSW 2021 goals and objectives including to "Invest in critical infrastructure" (Goal 19), "Secure potable water supplies" (Goal 21), and "Protect our natural environment" (Goal 22).

Consultation and Collaboration

As a water utility and a county council, MidCoast Water would like to be a supporting group for the Coordinating and Monitoring Committee. Catchment management is a priority for MidCoast Water and we would like to ensure that we are consulted on any upstream activity that might increase risks in our drinking water catchments. Please contact Tracey Hamer, Section Leader Planning on 6591 7552 or Daniel Brauer, Group Manager Planning and Development on 6591 7501.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "T. Hamer".

**Tracey Hamer,
For and on behalf of Daniel Brauer
Group Manager Planning and Development**

