

**Submission**

**No 16**

## **INQUIRY INTO MANAGEMENT OF DOMESTIC WASTEWATER**

Name: Mr Michael Wright

Date Received: 14/12/2011

**From:** Michael & Jodi [REDACTED]  
**To:** <environmentregulation@parliament.nsw.gov.au>  
**Date:** 14/12/2011 9:52 pm  
**Subject:** Waste Water Contamination

Perhaps our story is worth thinking about,

For over 3 years the Kalang River has been contaminated by sewage from the local shire. The contamination comes from a variety of sources all governed by the local Bellingen Council, these include the sewage treatment works, local caravan parks, boat sheds on the river and many OSMS's in the shire that have been wrongly placed and mismanaged/unregulated. This contamination has prohibited oyster harvest from the Kalang River. Our oyster business has been decimated, and after 3 long years we are now dissolving the business, as it can not be sold as an oyster farm. Council takes no responsibility for the state of the waste water issues, justifying the situation by saying they are under staffed and under resourced. All advice we have received including state government representatives is that - it is up to the individual to take council to court if there is a problem, as no department oversees or regulates councils sewage management. We have found this to be a big slap in the face, a community problem caused by our local council and we have to deal with it. We have nowhere else to turn but to sell up everything. The system has failed us.

The Wright Oyster Farm - of over 20 yrs in the Kalang River

Michael & Jodi Wright  
[REDACTED]