

**Submission  
No 1**

## **INQUIRY INTO ADEQUACY OF WATER STORAGES IN NSW**

**Name:** Mr Roger Graf

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I live in the area of the Tweed Shire Council [TSC] and "The Clarrie Hall option was recommended by a community working group (CWG) and council staff two years ago before it was replaced by the Byrrill Creek dam option by previous mayor Kevin Skinner using his casting vote.

The Clarrie Hall option was resurrected last year by his successor, Cr Barry Longland, who ironically also had to use his casting vote, and last month he used it again to install the ban on any new dam. Greens councillor Katie Milne, who drew flak from the mayor for not supporting his move for the Clarrie Hall option, says she will support raising its wall if a council report recommends it.

But the Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy report is not due for at least six months, by which time a new council would have been elected and the issue would be on the table again. Intending council candidates are being urged to attend Saturday's free public water-wise workshop, to be held at the Red Cross Hall in Knox Park, Murwillumbah, from 9.30am to 12.30pm. CWG member Joanna Gardner said, 'anyone considering standing for council will be well advised to come along, because water management will be one of the first things they will have to decide'. Developers invited Ms Gardner said community groups and business chambers had also been urged to 'spread the word' about the workshop and 'we especially hope private consultants and developers come along and get inspired'.

'Water conservation is a major issue of our time. Lots of people have concerns about Tweed's water planning,' she said."

My concern is that TSC requested a view of four options and Clarrie Hall was the one that was accepted, but no the councillors decided to vote and request the least favourable option and also go against the TSC planning and engineers. I thought councillors were to make decisive decisions upon the majority of the community and its council staff.

Anyway, irrespective of this, two populated areas within the shire are going to be planned without any true sustainable water options by the developers which these two townships will have a population increase on the water supply by 20,000 people.

Surely we can start harvesting a water supply by capturing from new developments the roof water to create within the township a dam specifically for 'grey water' supply to the whole community for gardening, toilets etc?

I'm at a loss as to why these initiatives are not introduced as mandatory for all developments which has housing for greater than 1,000 homes. It makes me think that councils are there to take money from water rates as a means of revenue.