

INQUIRY INTO ADEQUACY OF WATER STORAGES IN NSW

Organisation: Coffs Harbour Water

Date received: 6/09/2012

NSW Legislative Council's Standing Committee on State Development

Submission to Inquiry into the Adequacy of Water Storages in NSW

Response to Terms of Reference

- a) *"The capacity of existing water storages, to meet agricultural, urban, industrial and environmental needs."*

Coffs Harbour City Council has a 5,600 ML storage dam, Karangi Dam, as well as a share in the Shannon Creek Dam 30,000 ML, which is part of the Regional Water Supply Scheme, in partnership with Clarence Valley Council.

The combined storage was designed to reliably supply water to meet the medium project annual demand to 2021 of 22,766 ML/a. More efficient use of water by the community and population growth less than those predicted have extended the design life of the scheme well beyond 2021.

Most of the time the supply to the Clarence Valley is direct from the Nymboida River and supply to Coffs Harbour includes a mix of water from the Nymboida and Orara Rivers. Both storage dams are off-stream storages. The Shannon Creek Dam has been designed and built to enable raising in the future to a maximum capacity of 75,000 ML.

The Regional Water Supply Project also demonstrates the Council's commitment to environmental responsibility by ensuring the facilitation of higher protection of low river flows (environmental flows) in the future.

- b) *"Models for determining water requirements."*

Modelling was carried out to determine the secure yield as part of the Regional Water Supply. It is proposed to use the latest modelling to determine the secure yield using existing demands and weather conditions (climate change) in the near future.

- c) *"Storage Management practices to optimise water supply."*

There is a Regional Water Supply Operational Plan that will ensure optimisation of the bulk water supply to the region. The region also has an award winning Water Efficiency Plan in place.

- d) *"Proposals for the construction and/or augmentation of water storages in NSW."*

The Council at present has a secure storage system and does not propose any further augmentation of the storages in the near future. We will continue to monitor the situation.

Yours faithfully

Simon Thorn
Executive Manager Operations - Coffs Harbour Water