

MEDIA RELEASE

Phil Costa
Minister for Water
Minister for Regional Development



1 September 2009

NEW DRAFT WATER SHARING PLAN FOR TWEED NOW ON EXHIBITION

New water sharing rules for Tweed are now on public exhibition under a plan to protect water for all users and the environment for the next 10 years, Minister for Water, Phil Costa said today.

Minister Costa today encouraged local farmers, industry groups and the wider community to comment on the Tweed River Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources Water Sharing Plan.

“Water is the lifeblood of our state and this proposed plan will set in place the water sharing rules for the next 10 years to ensure we have clean healthy water supplies well into the future,” Mr Costa said.

“The plan outlines trigger points for accessing water to ensure no water is taken from our natural water supplies when water levels are low.

“These rules are essential for the sustainable management of this important resource – they provide industry with security and certainty of access and recognise the significance of water to Aboriginal people.”

Mr Costa said water sharing plans are a key component of the NSW Government’s State Plan to provide a secure and sustainable water supply for all users and improve the health of our riverine ecosystems.

“Water is a community resource which we all share and is our most vital asset – we need to strike a balance for the environment and for the community,” Mr Costa said.

“Water sharing plans are essential to provide security and certainty of access for industries that rely on this important resource.

“Unregulated rivers and alluvial groundwater aquifers are extremely valuable to the people of NSW.

“They include all but one of the coastal rivers - namely the Hunter Regulated River - but most importantly, they have some of the state’s most significant ecosystems, and the bulk of our aquatic biodiversity.

“The Tweed River area is home to important environmental assets we need to sustain, as well as providing water for the region’s booming coastal towns and significant irrigation industries.

“I think we’ve got the balance right, but we would like to hear what the community has to say.”

The draft Tweed River area plan covers 31 water sources in the Tweed River catchment and

includes the major towns of Tweed Heads and Murwillumbah. The adjoining smaller coastal catchments of Cudgen, Cudgera and Mooball Creeks, including the estuaries, are also covered under the draft plan.

The draft Tweed River River macro water sharing plan is on public exhibition from 31 August until 9 October 2009. A public information session will be held on 15 September 2009 at the Murwillumbah Golf Club from 10.30am to 12 noon - to book call (02) 6676 7380.

The draft plan is available for viewing at the NSW Office of Water's Murwillumbah office, 135 Main Street, Murwillumbah during business hours or online at www.dwe.nsw.gov.au Submissions close 9 October 2009. For more information (02) 6627 0115.

To make a submission visit www.dwe.nsw.gov.au via email, fax or post:

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