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# Draft Far North Coast Regional Water Strategy - shortlisted actions – consultation paper – Council submission

Responsible Officer: Group Manager Planning and Delivery (Andrew Logan)

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## Recommendation

That Council receive and note the attached submission on the draft *Far North Coast Regional Water Strategy: Shortlisted Actions – consultation paper*.

## Background

The draft *Regional Water Strategy Far North Coast: Shortlisted Actions – Consultation Paper* has been released by the NSW Government for a second round of public exhibition, with submissions closing on 11 December 2022.

Due to the closing date for submissions, the intention of this report is to table the Council's submission that has been provided to Department of Planning and Environment – Water.

The NSW Regional water strategies are seeking to use a consistent approach across the State to evaluate the opportunities and threats so actions can be implemented that balances the needs of different water users and delivers the right outcomes, for the environment, communities and businesses across NSW.

The Strategy acknowledges that there is a different underlying approach to service levels used to determine regional actions and priorities to that which is required by Local Water Utilities for the provision of town water supply. The method that has been used in the draft Strategy was to ensure a consistent approach across the state for both urban and non-urban water resources, in the context of assessing regional opportunities and priorities.

The Strategy was not intended to replace the Local Water Utilities strategic planning process. However, the difference and relevance of these differing approaches may not be apparent to the broader community on reading the draft Strategy.

The draft Strategies', priorities and associated actions, will form the basis for a future regional water strategy implementation plan. Council's submission focuses on ensuring that these priorities deliver tangible benefits and outcomes for both the environment and our community.

## Consultation

The attached submission on the draft *Far North Coast Regional Water Strategy: Shortlisted Actions – Consultation Paper* has been prepared in consultation with the General Manager, relevant Group Managers, staff and Councillors.

## Conclusion

This report provides an opportunity for Council's submission on the Far North Coast Regional Water Strategy: Shortlisted Actions – Consultation Paper to be made publicly available.

## Attachment

1. Rous County Council submission on the Regional Water Strategy for the Far North Coast: Shortlisted Actions – Consultation Paper dated 9 December (**Note this will be tabled as a late item prior to the meeting**)