

Dear Sir/Madam  
RE: Submission to Inquiry

The Clarence River should not be exploited to provide water supplies for SE Qld. It belongs to future generations of Australians as well residents of the Northern Rivers of NSW.

It is in the long term interest of both the State & Federal governments to factor in the following considerations when seeking water supplies for SE Qld.

- **Inter-generational equity:** Decisions should be made which benefit all Australians; We must ensure that our children's children are at least able to enjoy what we have – socially, economically and environmentally; All people have the right to an environment that supports and improves their health and wellbeing
- **Conservation of biodiversity and ecological integrity:** A healthy environment - and river system - means a healthy economy; Biodiversity and the web of life is worth protecting and conserving in its own right
- **Improved valuation, pricing and incentive mechanisms:** We should identify and acknowledge the real costs of what we do, including the costs of production, use, management and disposal; Our decisions need to recognise the full range of values of the Clarence River system, even if these cannot always be quantified; The community needs to be made aware of the full costs of development and activities that will impact on the river's flow
- **Global perspective:** We should look beyond our own backyard – think globally, act locally; Our region is not an economic island (nor an environmental one) and our river systems provide much more to the region than drinking water
- **Qualitative development:** Development means more than just economic growth; Development should enhance our quality of life (recognizing that this means different things to different people) without compromising our environment along with environmental flows of the Clarence; Conservation of resources needs to be an integral consideration in all planning and implementation of development and activities especially as they pertain to the Clarence River
- **Limits on natural resource use:** We must care for our region's natural water resources: we must use them efficiently – aim for the optimum sustainable yield and look for alternatives; we must recognise our region's limited water resources and its limited ability to assimilate waste
- **The precautionary principle:** We must think before we act and take responsibility for what we do; We must take steps to ensure the prevention of serious or irreparable damage to the the Clarence Rivers and its environment even in circumstances where we have no firm knowledge that significant damage will be done

Yours sincerely,  
Lynne De Weaver  
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