

Submission to The Community consultation on the draft Far North Coast Water Strategy. [REDACTED]

Sir, I was all set to Whistle Blow on Tweed Shire Council in August this year, but due to Covid, as NSW council elections were deferred until Sept 2021, I had to put off my action for a year. Though TSC have a fair idea of what I plan to do, I would rather that this submission is not printed. By the time that you have read this submission, I feel pretty sure that you will understand why. Following my approach to The ICAC, I received a letter from a lawyer acting for the TSC's current GM.. I did not read it because it was obviously sent to frighten me off. Law Firms are not in the habit of inviting one around for a cup of tea! And I am not going to be frightened off, so I wasn't going to spoil my day by even bothering to read their letter.

Before I get to the Water Security bit, the in between paragraphs might be interesting reading, if nothing else.

Now you may say that what I write has no bearing on a NSW Water Strategy, so I would like to explain how I believe it is very relevant. Before the last Federal Election, I went to The Electoral Commissioner, stating that I intended not to vote at the next election...and that as The Electoral Commissioner, it would be his job to see me in court, where I could finally produce the documentation collected by Tweed Accountability Inc concerning corrupt behavior by people within and around TSC. I explained that in 2013 a group of us had formed Tweed Accountability Inc...to bring accountability to Tweed Shire Council after the unjust and unfair dismissal of our then GM. He replied that I should not take this course of action. I told him that we had irrefutable evidence of corrupt behavior by persons within TSC. To cut a long story short, his advice was to wait until TSC acted improperly again...then go to the ICAC, and present our acquired documentation of corrupt goings on. He said that though they would have passed their use by date [Statute of Limitations]...they would conclusively show just how Tweed Shire Council has operated over recent years in the interests of a few...NOT the majority as was their mandate..

The act that precipitated this action was in relation to the TSC Rural Land Use Strategy. It took 7 years to complete. It acquired our begrudging acceptance [because the Strategy always was based upon a preconceived outcome...as the TSC officer preparing the document said to me...look...it does not matter what any of you put into your submissions. I have ALREADY been told, even before I take control of this study, exactly what TSC demands I find in the so called conclusion. If I want to keep my job, I have got to do exactly as they demand of me!

Thus, having passed through our hands... it too got the tick from TSC councilors. All that was left was for the document to get the final approval from TSC Management to send it to the Minister. However, between the final acceptance by TSC...[and that included the mayor....meaning that she had given her approval to the document that she had approved with all of the other councilors], and going before TSC Management, our Mayor [at the time] Ms K Milne, made 27 personal amendments to the agreed upon 167 catalogued parts of the strategy. She had allowed the altered document to be presented on behalf of ALL TSC councilors, without either their consent or approval. That is/was fraud. She had deliberately tried to dishonestly obtain a benefit by deception. As I just wrote, this document was presented

without the knowledge, consultation or approval of the alterations she had made, of all involved. When I wrote to the ICAC...as well as our current GM, both they, and he replied...we/I can see NO evidence of the mayor having been involved in any corrupt behavior or of her having acted improperly in any way. So it just heightened our belief that even the ICAC preferred to act corruptly to support "The System", rather than deal with our problem. If her act of interfering with an agreed finalized document was not fraud...then just what is fraud?

In all [we] Tweed Accountability Inc wrote over 50 letters to MPs, The Ombudsman, The ICAC., The NSW Premier, Ministers...we employed a Barrister, people involved with the proposed National Integrity Commission, The General Manager's Association etc etc. We got nowhere....just doors shut in our face. The rest of our group said...there's nothing we can do, so we might as well give up.. I said..no..I will stand up and speak out before the next TSC Election. My intention is to return ownership of our council, and our shire to The People. It is now 7 years on and I have most certainly NOT given up.

TSC has whittled its councilor numbers down to 7. We MUST to go back to 9 at least. The reason for wanting such a low number is to retain an easy split. It is easier to retain a 4/3 split with 7 councilors than a 5/4 with 9 councilors, because as you would understand, if the split is in your favor...then you control the total running of any council. And this is how Tweed Shire Council has held control of our Shire for many years now.

Please read on. Though you will say...this has nothing to do with a water strategy, I'd first like to give you a few words on other Tweed Shire Council corrupt behavior, just to set your understanding of how things are done here, so that you can make your own decision as to just how trustworthy Tweed Shire Council is. Remember, it will be them who will be accepting...or rejecting your advice re a Byrill CVreek Dam.

In 2013, TSC instantly dismissed our GM...citing ...he was dismissed for Performance Related Issues. How could that be...when only a few weeks before his unjust dismissal, all 7 councilors gave him an above satisfactory ranking.... when they were required to give an assessment after he had been employed for 6 months. There were three choices...being, below satisfactory, satisfactory and above satisfactory. So they ALL gave him the highest appraisal. In dismissing him, the 4 councilors gave personal reasons only...that is illegal; it is a crime....the crime of malfeasance. But The OLG refused to stand with our GM or us. Here we maintain that The Acting Head of the Office of Local Government...Mr S.Orr acted corruptly...that The Office of Local Government, under his control, showed absolutely NO procedural fairness within the act of allowing our GM to be dismissed when they allowed purely personal reasons to be the sole reason for the dismissal. This is the truth, because, after the dismissal, the 3 honest councilors went to a local Barrister and each gave a statement as to what had transpired at a meeting where the 4 were ordered to attend, to give the other 3 their reasons for instantly dismissing the GM. It was The Office of Local Government who spoke out telling us that the GM had been dismissed for Performance Related Issues. The OLG never knew that the 3 councilors had given the local Barrister A Stat Dec outlining exactly the reasons given as to why the GM was dismissed. And as one might presume that a Stat Dec would be THE TRUTH THE WHOLE TRUTH AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH....then one has to conclude that The Office of Local Government, under Mr S Orr's guidance FABRICATED A LIE. He,

the dismissed GM, was not allowed to speak in his own defense...he was not even allowed back into his office to collect his personal belongings. So just how does one come to terms with the basic facts...a/ that the 3 councilors were present when the 4 were ordered to attend, and give a FULL explanation as to why they instantly dismissed the GM

b/ That NO officer of The Office of Local Government was present at the hearing

c/That NOT ONE REASON was given by any of the 4 councilors that had any connection to the categorical claim by The OLG...that the GM was dismissed for Performance Related Issues. Come on...how can that be? Not one? Yes..Democracy Australia style... so much for INTEGRITY AND TRUST!!! And gutless Australians still say...who cares...there`s nothing we can do about it.

To quickly elaborate..this was a very preconceived act. One of the councilors came from our Local ALP Office...you know...the first step on the ladder of getting into State Government. We know that the decision to get rid of the GM was discussed prior to the dismissal....but here the ALP put their Party`s interest ahead of the peoples. The Cr concerned was Cr Michael Armstrong. He did not want to dismiss the GM...but was ordered by Mayor B Longland to be a part of the team of 4 and give his approval for the dismissal. Don`t believe me? If you or anyone read the three Stat Decs, they can read that Michael Armstrong was ordered by the mayor to vote for the instant dismissal of the GM. Which he did..

The then mayor, Mr B Longland, the ex gm Mr M Rayner, and the Director of Planning had been named in allegations presented to the outgoing GM Mr M Rayner by a local development firm ,The LEDA Group. TSC did an inhouse "investigation" into the said allegations...and gave themselves a "no case to answer" result. The LEDA Group were furious, so wrote to The Office of Local Government objecting to the way TSC had handled their Allegations. So The OLG had ordered the new GM...[soon to be dismissed...Mr D Keenan] to employ a Law Firm out of the area to investigate the allegations. They responded that prosecution should go ahead. But, as soon as the group dismissed the GM, they terminated the investigation...by Henry Davis York..a Sydney Law Firm. We have a copy of a confidential email sent to Mr Longland, on the morning of the dismissal...telling him, in no uncertain terms that quote...he must not do anything that might interfere with the Henry Davis York investigation. Yet here he was, 12 hrs later deliberately flouting the OLG`s directive. The OLG refused to stand by its own directive!. This group then, themselves...the people named in the allegations were allowed by The OLG to select their own Law Firm to investigate the LEDA Allegations..ON THEIR TERMS. How could this ever be allowed...where those named in Allegations can do such things? Their terms were..that before the findings were printed, SINK Solutions would present the three named people with a draft copy...for them to alter, adjust or modify as they saw fit. Which they did. The altered document was returned and printed...and TSC were found once again to have no case to answer. Was the NSW Government interested? Of course not! The Office of Local Government wrote in reply to our anger...that we were just a bunch of trouble makers!

Next...We are an aging population. We need a light rail...to take us to the medical facilities in Brisbane, or on The Gold Coast. But, without any consultation with we residents, we read that TSC had been granted 13 million \$ to remove our rail lines and create a Rail Trail ...for the lines to be ripped up, so that

tourists can ride their bikes...or horses along the old railway easement.. Surely, TSC MUST have had to prepare an evidence based cost structure analysis to who ever gave them the money? It must have been a conclusive document...secretly prepared behind our backs! How easy it is to attend to personal agendas when the State Government can not be bothered to listen to our complaints.

SO FINALLY TO WATER SECURITY

So to Water. TSC in 2016 held a Water Security Strategy Meeting...TO DISCUSS ALL OPTIONS for a water supply security strategy...for the next 20 years...and for the benefit of the expected 20,000 new residents in the next 20 years to the Tweed. Councilor Allsop [a current TSC councilor] went to this meeting. They were told in no uncertain terms...the Byrill Creek Dam is NOT on the agenda... do not bring it into contention. So in reality, there were to be no options. Such an easy fait accompli! When you know that the State Government will always agree with whatever TSC proposes.

We raised points..The Snowy Mountains Energy Authority had prepared a document on locations for possible extra water retention through the NE of NSW...that included Tweed Shire. You, your office will surely have a copy of this document at hand! The Byrill Creek Dam was high on the list. Raising The current Clarrie Hall Dam was low on their list. Yet The Clarrie Hall Dam got the go ahead from our council...who in truth had absolutely no knowledge of serious water retention hydrology.. One reason given to us was...to protect valuable agricultural land. The Byrill Creek Dam site is in a very cold area...agricultural production ...for food, is non existent due to the many frosts in the area each winter....whilst the land resumed for the supposed increase of water within the Clarrie Hall Dam was all prime agricultural land! So much for protecting prime Agricultural land!

The Clarrie Hall Dam group told us that the Byrill Creek Dam would cost twice the Clarrie Hall Dam. However, In years gone by, TSC council had acquired much of the Byrill Creek Dam site for a future water security dam ...whereas now we have had to pay land owners handsomely for the land taken around the Clarrie Hall Dam area. As I have just written,their land was Prime Agricultural Land too!

But the main concern expressed by us was that two dams would immediately double the water catchment area. Raising the Clarrie Hall Dam wall by 8.5m will retain more water...assuming that we do get rain. As a farmer, we have seen a most definite swing to dryer times. In November 2020, we only had 9.5mm of rain....and this is Storm Season...this is with a La Nina weather pattern ...a .supposedly wet year. So when the stupidity of building a much taller wall goes into construction, we have been told that they will have to drop a big percentage of the currently retained water out to waste. So what happens then if we get a prolonged dry period? Of course, what should have happened was to build the Byrill Creek Dam...immediately, to double our catchment area and water thus retained. Then, with that as a back up, finally go ahead and attend to raising the Clarrie Hall Dam wall in years to come, when deemed necessary.

A local, who has lived all of his farming life on land first selected by his family many years ago.... Mr A Cram said that the other old farmers who lived in the Doon Doon area, all knew of a sandstone/limestone strata just above the old road in to the Doon Doon area [closed when the new road in via Midgenbil was opened]...where the Clarrie Hall Dam is situated. When ...[IF!] the Clarrie Hall

Dam ever fills up, this strata will be below the proposed new water level. Eventually it will break through, then God help the Roland's Creek residents. So who will be held accountable then?

Though we wrote to The State Government...asking how....asking why...all they could say was...our job is to lend the money....what your council uses it for is of no concern to us...it is up to them!. Yes, The Green Light for Personal Agendas! There seems to be no need accountability in Tweed Shire, or within our State Government..

But how can our council be allowed to risk the water security for everyone here now, and then including the expected 20,000 new residents for the next 20 years? It seems that personal agendas rule the roost!

After the unjust dismissal of David Keenan, another group rose to prominence here..the Northern River's Guardians. They are Right Wing extremist group. I often wonder if they instigated the burning down of the old Moobal wooden rail bridge. No one was ever charged...but, how convenient for a group trying to stop trains...and promote a Rail Trail. They were/are a wealthy group of retirees who have come here with the belief that...now that we are here close the gates...we must stop people being allowed to come here [primarily by terminating future dwelling allowance in rural areas...that was what mayor Milne's fraudulent act of interfering with the finalised Rural Land Strategy was all about....she had personally put a line through every mention of rural dwelling possibilities...all 27 of them...every single one]... and now that we're here we will make sure that we are the one's who have council's ear. A great showing of Tweed Democracy in action.

Other reasons floated have been 1/that wealthy land owners in the Byrill Creek area do not want a dam there. 2/ that there are rare and endangered species of frogs etc which will die when the dam is built 3/ there is a commune that has been in existence for many years, and council does not know how to remove them....and 4/...a previous mayor, Mr M Boyd made sure the area would be jinxed when he deliberately encouraged a plantation of cabinet timbers to be established on the proposed dam area..

When TSC chose the Clarrie Hall Dam up grade, they told us that it would solve our water shortages for ever. Since TSC got its way with the intention of raising the Clarrie Hall Dam wall, TSC have been given a further 12 million \$ to connect a pipeline to the Gold Coast. TSC told us that...TSC will be able to recoup the cost of the Clarrie Hall upgrade by selling water to The Gold Coast. Rubbish. Have a good look at the catchment area and you will see that the Clarrie Hall Dam in its upgraded form will only ever be able to completely fill through extreme rain periods....thus in truth, this 12million dollar pipeline is being put in , just in case the Tweed runs out of water, and needs to get hold of water in a hurry.!

So What have I got to say?

1/ Firstly understand that TSC have a group [Northern River's Guardians] who have contacts within State Government whom they believe they can call upon to derail any attempt to build the Byrill Creek Dam.

2/ When I whistle blow, on Sunday 16, at 2pm in Knox Park, August 2021, I will be asking those who come to listen, to vote our current Political Party councilors out of office. To vote 7 new councilors in, who will put the wishes of the majority before any political party's desires..

3/ To put an abrupt stop to the current building of both The Rail Trail...and The Clarrie Hall Dam. If this can be done, then it should send a clear message to the State Government to listen to the voices of the majority of residents. We have never agreed to either the Rail Trail or The Clarrie Hall Dam wall upgrade. It should send a clear message to The State Government, ...if you think that you can impose your agendas on us, then think again.

As I wrote earlier, when we, Tweed Accountability Inc had complained some years ago now about the TSC choice of The Clarrie Hall Dam wall upgrade....the State Government had replied...our job is to provide the money...what your council does with the money is their business. Well, if I can encourage people to remove our current Councilors, then, how can The State Government complain if we change our list of priorities....and on stopping The Clarrie Hall Dam wall....redirect the funds to securing our water security by immediately building the Byrrill Creek Dam?

So would you like another corrupt act? A certain person, in the recent history of the Tweed...ie, since the unjust dismissal of our much liked GM David Keenan, sexually assaulted a female TSC worker. Obviously I have to be discrete...not to actually name anyone; but one might believewould TSC go out of its way to sweep a sexual assault under the carpet, if the transgressor was a humble laborer with TSC? Or might it be that the person who committed this crime was fairly high up....putting TSC's control of the power base at risk...so something drastic had to be done. Now, TSC has always needed to retain the 4/3 split.....so though the girl left the office in tears...though the girl gave a statement to a local Barrister...TSC HAD to take action before the police, who had been called, could arrive. The current GM acquired this girl's statement. That has to be interfering in a criminal case...after all sexual assault is a crime...isn't it? The next we heard of it was...the police couldn't act, because the GM had bought? Threatened? the girl...so she was not willing now to give them her statement. So TSC retained their group of 4 controlling councilors when they acquired the girl's statement...with a declaration from her that she would never divulge what had gone on between herself and the GM over her statement. Understand...the girl left the room in tears...she gave a statement to a Barrister...so was she really likely to tear her statement up and say...oh, it doesn't matter?!!!! As a result, TSC put another desk next to hers, and if one girl left the office, the other would always accompany her....so that the man in question was never ever to be left alone with one girl in the office.. This is another reason why I am whistle blowing...because to me, the whole System appears to be corrupt.

Now, though I do not wish to inform TSC exactly of my plans, IF a female secretary reads this and would like to send it to some contact who might be upset at a sexual assault cover up...then, you have my freedom to pass this on....whence, they may contact me. After all THIS IS MY LETTER...it does NOT belong to any NSW Government Department!

So what do I want? That we residents can once again operate both our Shire and our Council for the benefit of the majority. That anyone elected will become accountable to us.

So to conclude...yes I am an angry farmer who has a belief in Right and Wrong. But be that as it may, two points seem clear.

First, that your job is just to evaluate the consideration of a new dam at Byrrill Creek...that Tweed Shire's corrupt behavior in the past and recent history should not be an influence in your study.

And two...that, if you put all of the pieces of the jigsaw on the table..water security through...raising the Clarrie Hall Dam wall by 8.5m....of putting in a big pipeline to Queensland, for them to sell us their water....or the Byrrill Creek Dam...the obvious pathway has to be...to build the Byrrill Creek Dam to immediately give us two catchments and thus two water storage dams. Then to either build a pipeline...or drop much of the retained water out of the Clarrie Hall Dam, whilst a new dam wall is built for the Clarrie Hall Dam. It makes no sense whatsoever to take the path that TSC has selected to take. For their games...and personal agendas, TSC have put the Tweed's water supply security in a very precarious position for many years to come. Right now, Tweed Shire Residents whether they understand it or not, are facing what might be a really crippling water shortage, if TSC keep going along their present path.....and we do not get any wet seasons.....and they have released much of the retained water to waste

Perhaps you might say that I am cynical...but through our attempts to bring accountability to Tweed Shire Council, since the unjust dismissal of our GM David Keenan, I have lost both faith and trust in all Government Departments. Remember, a couple of years ago a questionnaire had been given to Government workers? The question was....have you seen evidence of what you might call corrupt goings on in your office? 4,000 replied YES! So re my Whistle Blowing, I will put my trust in myself.

As for The Northern River's Guardians, they are an extreme Green Right Wing group. Their first claim to fame here was when they set out to stop The World Rally Championship from proceeding. They achieved their aim. How? They are to a degree very organized....though as you will read in a minute, are still prone to human failings. To stop the WRC, they got members to collect any road kill for weeks before the event and store it for The Great Day. Then, when they were given the nod, they threw out their road kill on the gazetted roads being used by the WRC fraternity. They were found out when a couple of people stopped to examine some road kill...their curiosity was awakened when they saw many more victims in their local area than normal...and their proof? Some of the road kill was still frozen! So I hope you see to just what lengths these people will go. To me...the Byrrill Creek Dam is a necessity...an absolute necessity, so I hope you will take warning...your job surely is not just to evaluate a proposed dam....surely you can exert pressure to see that your knowledgeable recommendations should be adhered to, to guarantee future residents genuine water security for the long term. .

Australians are very brave when they have a beer can in their hand....but take it away and they are plain gutless. So I appear to stand alone. So be it!

By the way...there were still quite a number of irregularities not mentioned here! If you haven't got the gist of how Tweed Shire Council operate...or just don't care, so be it. I have learnt..trust no one but one's self. On Sunday 16 at 2pm in Knox Park, I will be going ahead..

Thank you, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]