

YOUR SAY

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LETTERS

Project sustainable

I WRITE regarding the Notice of Motion adopted by Ballina Shire Council regarding water extraction in Ballina Shire.

I support council's efforts to sustainably manage water supply for the shire.

Our plans for water extraction at Rous are similarly focused towards sustainable water management and supply for the property and local community.

The current Development Application seeks approval to increase the current licence to up to 100ML per annum and will not exceed this amount.

Our application represents less than 1 per cent of the total water under licence in the Alstonville area.

The independent hydrogeologist's report which accompanies our Development Application was completed by Hydroilex who are one of Australia's most highly regarded hydrogeologists.

The report has confirmed that the volume of water proposed for the property is entirely sustainable.

The assessment confirms that the aquifer and bores at Ellis Road can sustainably produce up to 150ML per year with no adverse effect on other local water sources.

We are committed to water sustainability and we welcome the review by the



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— Tim Carey

NSW Chief Scientist & Engineer on the bottled water industry.

We are confident that the review to be carried out by the highly respected Professor Hugh Durrant-Whyte will be thorough and fair in its appraisal of water extraction for the bottled and packaged water industry.

Furthermore, we are confident that the Chief Scientist will find that the Australian bottled water

industry responsibly manages groundwater sources across NSW, as we and all Australian Bottled Water Industry certified source owners are required to.

The bottled water industry uses just 0.1 per cent of all groundwater extracted across the country, with other agricultural uses comprising the vast majority of all water used.

The review by the NSW Government and Ballina Shire Council's actions represent opportunities to demonstrate the sustainability of the water industry and our project and I look forward to their conclusion.

— Tim Carey, Rous

Bottled anger

WATER mining on the Alstonville Plateau is to be reviewed by the NSW Chief Scientist.

Obviously WaterNSW is not a source of information as they have already approved the licences.

We sincerely hope that the local community will be allowed input.

Meanwhile, a couple of

pertinent reports in the news show that the world worries about water security. These 2 reports as follows:

■ Water scarcity shapes up as biggest threat to China's rise.

In a report by journalist Mathew Carney, it is stated that Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao has warned the lack of water threatens the survival of the Chinese nation itself.

The statistics are alarming over the last 25 years which indicate that 28,000 rivers and waterways have disappeared across the country.

The water table on average is dropping 1 to 3 metres a year around Beijing.

■ In the Northern Territory, Chinese investment buys NT melon farms for \$27.5 million.

includes ground water extraction and licences totalling 10,148 megalitres per year according to NT News journalist Daniel Fitzgerald.

The D/A and associated papers for Ellis Rd, Rous, suggest a short-term trial. Bore 1 = 15 hours pumping

with 8 hours recovery and Bore 2 = 17 hours pumping with recovery of 7 hours.

Both bores exploit the same aquifer.

It begs the question: how do they recover after 12 months? It's too risky.

In view of the above-mentioned news reports, it is apparent that Australia is the go-to country for sourcing water for overseas food and water bottling.

Time for this to stop now.

— C Quick, Rous

Petrol 'rip-off'

THIS is a simple query to all the service stations in Ballina: Why are we always paying the highest petrol price to anywhere comparable in distance to Ballina?

Last week I saw petrol at Lismore being sold for \$1.55, Byron Bay \$1.52, Wardell \$1.55, Grafton \$1.44.

The international price per barrel came down weeks ago, but our petrol prices have remained high -- not to mention the highest.

Why don't you stop ripping off all the local motorists?

Some petrol stations in Queensland are way down. Places in far west Queensland where I recently visited are down around the \$1.35 mark.

Not good enough Ballina. — Nick Wheeler, Ballina

Call for tree register

VERY nice of Sydney man, Mr McIntosh to list the magnificent Norfolk pine tree at the Shaws Bay Hotel on his informal tree register (Advocate, 28/11).

But the question I have is: Where is the Ballina Shire Council's significant tree register?

It's been two years since the petition was presented to the council and an agreement by the councillors to start the ball rolling.

But what has happened? Have they dropped the ball - again?

Myself and many others are not going to let this happen.

Come on, Ballina Shire Council, listen to your residents and actually do something to protect the

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