



Mr Hugh Durrant-Whyte
NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer
Office of the NSW Chief Scientist & Engineer
GPO Box 5477
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Mr Durrant-Whyte

Thank you for your correspondence regarding the planning proposal seeking to prohibit water bottling facilities in the RU2 Rural Landscape zone in Tweed Shire.

I appreciate your concerns that the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's assessment of the proposal misrepresented the position of the Office of the NSW Chief Scientist & Engineer.

A review of the Department's assessment report confirms that statements such as "*The Chief Scientist commented that councils should not determine any extraction proposals until the review is complete*" were made by another party and have been incorrectly attributed to the NSW Chief Scientist & Engineer.

I wish to acknowledge this inaccuracy and apologise on behalf of the Department.

I have written to Tweed Shire Council advising them of this matter and arranged for this advice to be placed on the Department's public LEPs Online system. I have also reminded Council of the need to ensure that the findings of your review into the impacts of the bottled water industry on groundwater resources in the Northern Reivers region of NSW when released are fully considered prior to finalising the proposal.

I look forward to continuing to work with your office on this matter.

If you have any more questions, please contact Jeremy Gray, Director, Northern Region, at the Department on 6643 6402.

Yours sincerely

28/10/2019
Monica Gibson
Executive Director, Local and Regional Planning
Planning and Assessment