



Caldera Environment Centre Inc.

m. PO Box 5090, South Murwillumbah NSW 2484

e. caldera@calderaenvironmentcentre.org

w. calderaenvironmentcentre.org ABN 64 266 757 407

Tweed Shire Council

Tumbulgum Road

Murwillumbah

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Response to Clarrie Hall Dam Wall Raising EIS

The Caldera Environment Centre accepts that the raising of the Clarrie Hall dam wall is the preferred option to providing water security into the future after years of consultation and investigations of alternatives. We would also like to see a lot more inventive ways of harvesting water in urban environments and encouragement of water saving measures and recycling. We need to not only add to capacity but use that resource responsibly.

Our concern now is the compensatory habitat that needs to be found to replace what will disappear under the water. According to the flora and fauna studies there's critical habitat and threatened species in the area to be flooded and the ecosystem credits needed to compensate for that loss have been enumerated in the report. The area to be flooded is significant in terms of area and we can ill afford to be sacrificing important wildlife habitat when we need to be adding to the National Estate.

Finding equivalent ecosystems will be difficult but it's essential that it's a genuine and transparent process that is open to scrutiny. All too often sacrificed landscapes are not replaced like for like as healthy intact environments are a diminishing resource.

We urge Council to follow through on a commitment to investigate and secure compensatory habitat for what is a significant loss for Tweed Shire.

Regards Cynthia Brook (Secretary CEC)