My submission concerns the draft North Coast Regional Water Strategy.
My suggestions to minimise the waste and inappropriate use of water, both the direct and embedded use of fresh water apply to water anywhere.

One additional suggestion I did not put in my submission was to encourage the public and local councils to plant more native plants and trees, preferably those of local provenance and less exotic species of flora because native flora has a far lower demand for water than exotic flora.
And who knows [redacted], we, the people, may now have elected a government that actually believes that clean water, air, soil and species diversity are vital resources, not just useful trinkets subservient to a truly viable economy. We may now start to value water so our children's future won't be "nasty, brutish and short." (Thomas Hobbes.)
For Australia's children's and non-voting species' sake I hope so.

We have 4 vital needs for the survival of humanity: clean, carbon-constrained AIR, unpolluted WATER, uncontaminated SOIL and SPECIES DIVERSITY.
Fresh water is a finite, essential resource and we can live only 3 days without drinking water. Drinking water can be produced by desalination plants but the process to convert sea water to fresh water is energy-intensive and expensive.
If we plan to be permanent residents on the Earth we must treat water for what it is, namely an essential, finite resource. As such, we should treat it accordingly, so that there will be a viable tomorrow for future generations, for the future is what we choose.

More community education should provided about the manufacturing inputs of every product we choose to manufacture and choose to use.
Manufacturing inputs include- materials, water, energy, air and water pollution and landfill waste generated during the manufacturing process.
All these manufacturing inputs are locked into a product for the entire life of products such as durable, reusable products such as wheelie bins, chairs, bicycles, fishing rods etc. These manufacturing inputs are also locked into repairable products for the entire life of repairable products such as watches, washing machines and lawn mowers etc.
However, all these manufacturing inputs are incurred in the manufacture of every single-use disposable or recyclable product we choose to manufacture or choose to use.
Consider this : " The product itself contains on average only 5% of the raw materials involved in the process of making and delivering it." William Mc Donough and Michael Baumgart. "Cradle to Cradle" 2002.
Have we been conned to choose the short term convenience of a single-use product despite its long term environmental cost, in preference to a reusable or repairable product in which the water used in its manufacture is locked into a reusable product for its entire life?
So if we want to use less water we should choose to manufacture and choose to use many more reusable and repairable products.

The price of a product makes us pay attention. So if we want to use less water we should consider the price we now pay for tap water.
Today the cost of 1 litre of tap water is $0.001966. Our generation is the generation who have never had it so good. But if we truly value our children and grandchildren as much as we value ourselves, can we look them in the eye and honestly tell them that we value tap water so much, water being such a valuable, essential finite resource that we only value tap water at 2 cents per litre?

So apart from deciding to manufacture and also use many more reusable and repairable products and not continue to be conned by the convenience of using so many disposable or recyclable items, what can we easily do to use far less vital and valuable tap water?
In Australia 50% of fresh water is used outside the home for gardens and lawns and for washing vehicles, paths, walls, windows and our pets.
None of these applications need high quality treated tap water, with a high treatment and transport cost from storage dam and treatment plant to our homes.
All of these uses as well as for washing clothes can be provided by rainwater from a large rainwater tank adjacent to our homes. Our own rainwater tanks are in effect mini-dams that collect rainwater exactly where it falls and compared to water storage dams, rainwater tanks have minimal evaporation and minimal transport costs from our tanks to our homes and no water treatment costs.
In time we will be forced to recognise that water is such a precious and scarce resource, so too is some land that might be considered as a possible site for a future water storage. How many millions of ratepayers' dollars would it cost to buy possible farming or forested land for a water storage, construct the dam and treatment plant and then transport the treated water for use outside our homes? But if we're serious about generating many basic jobs, with the same investment of ratepayers' dollars, how many local rainwater tanks could be manufactured and installed at our homes, schools, libraries, bowls clubs etc to provide basic water for outdoor uses?
A point about the fact that water embedded in recyclable products isn't wasted because the recyclable product is recycled into another product.
That's fine in theory, but there is no point in collecting a recyclable product unless there is a genuine viable market for that recyclable product.

A final point I believe is this. If we are going to be able to hand onto future generations a world that is viable in the long term, far greater cooperation will be essential. Cooperation between all three levels of government, between States, between business and other interest groups and media outlets so that at long last we all start singing from the same song sheet. Then we will be able to look our trusting children in the eye and say that knowing what we now know we have given it our very best shot.
I wish you well in your important deliberations at a time when we don't have a great deal of time to get it right.
All the best in the future you choose for those you cherish and for those still too young to vote for their future world.