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**MEDIA RELEASE**

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***Call to uphold Tweed Water Sharing Plan***

The Northern Rivers Guardians (NRG) has called on the state government to uphold the Tweed Water Sharing Plan, including its prohibition of a dam on Byrrill Creek.

NRG spokesperson Michael McNamara said today that the plan was developed in consultation with a wide cross section of the community, including the Tweed Shire Council, and was firmly based on scientific evidence."

"That Kevin Skinner claims to not understand why the water sharing plan prohibited the dam says more about him not listening at the time than it does about the decision making process"

"Mr Skinner's claim that he 'just wants to know why' the decision was made suggests that he was too focussed on building a dam to actually hear or see the evidence that underpinned the decision"

"Where was the evidence on which he based his decision to ignore the considered views of the community and the recommendations of council staff against the dam?"

"Mr Skinner, if we are to believe what he said at the Council meeting where he voted for the dam, has no evidence. He just believes it is the right decision!"

"Councillors Skinner, Polglase and Youngblutt have failed to pay attention to the evidence in their headlong pursuit of a dam on Byrrill Creek"

"They failed to notice that the extensive consultation with the community, through a Council established working group, came out against a dam on Byrrill Creek"

"They failed to notice that Council Officers, after considering all the evidence, recommended against the dam"

"The community should be extremely concerned that these three councillors seem willing to throw away up to \$100 million of ratepayer funds on a whim."

"Already they have committed around \$8 million of ratepayer funds on preliminary studies, even while the prohibition on the dam remains in place"

"At the same time they seem quite happy to impose massive rate increases on the community and vote themselves a pay rise"

"At a time when they should be focussed on developing sustainable water supply and demand strategies for the Tweed community they have failed that same community through their dogged pursuit of the dam."

"While these three councillors seem steadfastly determined to proceed with the dam, against all the evidence and advice, valuable opportunities to make a real difference and bring about real change in water supply and demand strategies are slipping through our fingers like water"