

NORTHERN RIVERS BOTTLED WATER REVIEW

Submission to NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer

16 December 2018

I am the owner of Lot 1 DP [REDACTED] located at [REDACTED] Crawford Lane, Rous Mill, NSW. My property is less than two kilometres from the proposed water extraction on Ellis Road.

Possible adverse impact on livestock

I run up to 50 head of cattle and 5 horses on my property. All are dependent on water held in tank storage facilities. For much of the year there is sufficient rain water from building roofs to fill the tanks and water the stock. However during dry periods I rely entirely on pumping water to the tanks from a small spring-fed dam.

I am concerned that extracting 100 megalitres of water a year from the Alstonville aquifer as proposed in DA 2018/597 submitted to Ballina Shire Council will cause the spring which feeds my dam – already a small flow – to dry completely in the arid periods of the year when I need it most. Should the spring cease to be productive, even for short periods, I would have to de-stock my farm completely, as I would no longer have a reliable supply of water.

Inability of Ellis Road to cope with increased heavy vehicle traffic

I am concerned that Ellis Road – a small rural road serving the local farming community – will not cope with heavy trucks transporting the water. The trucks are likely to have an ongoing detrimental impact on the road surface. The heavy vehicle traffic will pose a danger to other road users and lead to considerable loss of amenity for surrounding residents.