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IPART
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Submission for objection to the proposed Waste Water Treatment Sewerage Plant @ 425 Piggabeen Rd Cobaki Lakes

I have lived in the Piggabeen Valley almost all of my life and am currently studying year 12 in high school. My aim is to continue my studies at Southern Cross University next year at Coolangatta because I love everything that living in the Tweed Region has to offer.

I strongly oppose the proposed Waste Water Treatment Sewerage Plant (WWTSP) being built in my local community for the purpose of serving an urban development nearby as this development clearly conflicts with the zoning needs of the community. The Cobaki Estate development is placing their waste water within an outside rural community which is not relevant to the District's wide plan for the rural community. It does not help meet the needs of all members of the community and therefore should remain within the borders of the estate boundary of the development which it is servicing in order that this parcel of land be available to meet the needs and requirements of all members of the community.

As a young person within this community I strongly protest to the way in which the developers have released very little information about the proposed development with the purpose of gratifying their own economical gain without genuine consideration of the negative effects this development presents to all residents in the area, especially for the future of the area that is left for young people like myself to live with.

The property proposed for the waste development is zoned rural and this proposed development is a direct contravention to the zone of this parcel of land and the local community. Clause 106 EPP is not written with the purpose of overriding all other necessary requirements of issues and impacts associated with the activity taking place and yet this development application is relying on this clause to bypass the requirements of the local council in order to avoid properly addressing the negative impacts associated with the development and is clearly taking this clause out of its true and original purpose and design of context.

This WWTSP does not protect or enhance the local environment and in fact very much destroys it. The development is totally against all principles that are taught to us in school, as young people growing up in this area, with respect to the local environment, ecosystems and also to the Bundjalung Indigenous community with which we have been taught to hold great respect.

This site experiences regular flooding throughout the year and any proposed emergency plans could not be put into action in the case of a flood because the site would be cut off from anyone who is to implement the action and the damage would not be able to be prevented and be irreversible. For this reason it should not be allowed on this site and should be placed within the development itself where it would not be located close to the creek and waterways.

The extra traffic that will be added due to service vehicles accessing the site will add more stress on our road and the wildlife. The wildlife carnage on Piggabeen Road is already unacceptable and there is nothing in place to minimise the constant death of wildlife on our road and it will only worsen with this development. As I young person driving on these roads I feel my safety is at a higher risk with this potential traffic increase.

The local creek and inlets are also used by many people in the community for recreation and business reasons. Many local families and young people come and fish in our creek and enjoy the outdoors. A sewerage plant located on a site that borders our creek and is subject to flooding jeopardises the cleanliness of our waterways and therefore poses a health risk to the public.

I also object to the site being used for a WWTSP because it is taking away an area of land that was previously available for people from the community to enjoy the outdoors. It goes against principals to take this open space from our community and prevent future generations of young people having the opportunity to make use of the open space for their benefit and improvement of the quality of life for all people who live and visit in the area.

I also further object because from all research into this type of development my findings have all clarified the fact that it is inevitable that this type of development will leave a distasteful odour in our community that we will have to live with which will also pose a health risk to all who are in contact with the gases responsible for such odours. I find it disgusting that such a development would be allowed to be irresponsibly given to our rural community to deal with and it goes against our Australian way of life to allow big business to "bully" small communities in such a way. This type of bullying is comparable to that which took place in the Australian drama "The Castle" and as a local resident and Australian citizen I intend to fight for what is right and not allow this type of destruction to take place within my community.

There are many reasons to oppose the WWTSP development that is proposed to be dumped in my local community and I strongly believe it would be totally irresponsible for I-part to consider approving an application for this development in consideration of the implications it would have to the Tweed Community and instead it should be placed within the community who it is designed to service of the Cobaki Urban Development where it was originally planned to be built away from the local waterways and out of my rural community.

[REDACTED]