

Environmental Action Plan - Draft plan consultation



1. Where do you live?



		Response Percent	Response Count
Taree		45.6%	125
Harrington		8.0%	22
Hallidays Point		15.7%	43
Wingham		16.1%	44
Old Bar/Wallabi Point		14.6%	40
Other (please specify)			125

answered question	274
skipped question	121



2. Do you pay rates to Greater Taree City Council?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		93.1%	366
No		6.9%	27
answered question			393
skipped question			2



3. Do you support the draft Environmental Action Plan?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		72.4%	281
No		27.6%	107
answered question			388
skipped question			7

4. Do you support an Environmental Levy to implement the plan?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		64.1%	252
No		35.9%	141
answered question			393
skipped question			2

5. Do you have suggestions to improve the draft Environmental Action Plan?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		46.2%	174
No		53.8%	203

Details of suggestions: 209

answered question			377
skipped question			18

Q1. Where do you live?

1	Moto	Oct 16, 2013 9:30 AM
2	Moto	Oct 16, 2013 9:24 AM
3	Tinonee	Oct 16, 2013 9:17 AM
4	Not specified	Oct 16, 2013 9:10 AM
5	Tinonee	Oct 16, 2013 9:07 AM
6	Elands	Oct 16, 2013 9:03 AM
7	Killabakh	Oct 16, 2013 9:00 AM
8	Elands	Oct 16, 2013 8:57 AM
9	Tinonee	Oct 16, 2013 8:42 AM
10	Stewarts River	Oct 16, 2013 8:38 AM
11	Cundletown	Oct 16, 2013 8:35 AM
12	Burrell Creek	Oct 14, 2013 2:32 PM
13	Wherrol Flat	Oct 14, 2013 12:43 PM
14	Upper Lansdowne	Oct 14, 2013 6:46 AM
15	Caparra	Oct 13, 2013 6:11 PM
16	mount george	Oct 13, 2013 3:51 PM
17	Upper Lansdowne	Oct 11, 2013 8:08 AM
18	Rainbow Flat	Oct 11, 2013 6:50 AM
19	Cundletown	Oct 10, 2013 1:25 PM
20	Upper Lansdowne	Oct 10, 2013 10:04 AM
21	Tinonee	Oct 10, 2013 9:22 AM
22	Tinonee	Oct 10, 2013 9:19 AM
23	Tinonee	Oct 9, 2013 5:46 PM
24	Hillville	Oct 9, 2013 7:49 AM
25	Wherrol Flat	Oct 9, 2013 7:45 AM
26	Cedar Party	Oct 9, 2013 7:10 AM
27	Cundletown	Oct 9, 2013 7:08 AM
28	Mt George	Oct 9, 2013 7:07 AM
29	Crowdy Head	Oct 8, 2013 2:28 PM
30	Crowdy Head	Oct 8, 2013 2:15 PM

Q1. Where do you live?

31	Crowdy Head	Oct 8, 2013 2:14 PM
32	Diamond Beach	Oct 6, 2013 1:21 PM
33	mitchells island	Oct 5, 2013 5:12 PM
34	Mitchells Island	Oct 5, 2013 5:02 PM
35	Mtchells Island	Oct 5, 2013 4:39 PM
36	Sydney	Oct 4, 2013 8:01 AM
37	Johns River	Oct 4, 2013 7:55 AM
38	Bootawa	Oct 4, 2013 7:29 AM
39	Cundletown	Oct 4, 2013 7:27 AM
40	Mondrook	Oct 4, 2013 7:20 AM
41	Bootawa	Oct 4, 2013 7:12 AM
42	Nabiac	Oct 3, 2013 2:28 PM
43	Mondrook	Oct 3, 2013 2:12 PM
44	Cundletown & Wherrol Flat	Oct 3, 2013 2:01 PM
45	Bootawa	Oct 3, 2013 1:56 PM
46	Cundletown	Oct 3, 2013 1:55 PM
47	Cooperook	Oct 3, 2013 1:45 PM
48	Lansdowne	Oct 3, 2013 1:45 PM
49	Manning Point	Oct 3, 2013 1:44 PM
50	Manning Point	Oct 3, 2013 1:44 PM
51	Cooperook	Oct 3, 2013 1:43 PM
52	Manning Point	Oct 3, 2013 1:42 PM
53	Kundle Kundle	Oct 3, 2013 1:41 PM
54	Cundletown	Oct 3, 2013 1:41 PM
55	Taree/Purfleet	Oct 3, 2013 1:39 PM
56	Tinonee	Oct 3, 2013 1:38 PM
57	Cundletown	Oct 3, 2013 1:38 PM
58	Chatham	Oct 3, 2013 1:36 PM
59	Cundletown	Oct 3, 2013 1:35 PM
60	Wang Wauk	Oct 3, 2013 1:31 PM

Q1. Where do you live?

61	Rainbow Flat	Oct 3, 2013 1:26 PM
62	Cundletown	Oct 3, 2013 1:07 PM
63	Sunshine Coast QLD	Oct 3, 2013 12:58 PM
64	Rainbow Flat	Oct 3, 2013 12:50 PM
65	Bobin	Oct 3, 2013 12:38 PM
66	Cundletown	Oct 3, 2013 12:34 PM
67	Tinonee	Oct 3, 2013 12:28 PM
68	Tinonee	Oct 3, 2013 12:26 PM
69	Cundletown	Oct 3, 2013 12:24 PM
70	Tinonee	Oct 3, 2013 12:24 PM
71	Coopernook	Oct 3, 2013 12:23 PM
72	Cundletown	Oct 3, 2013 12:18 PM
73	Moorland	Oct 2, 2013 7:27 PM
74	TINONEE	Oct 2, 2013 6:20 PM
75	Coralville	Oct 2, 2013 9:40 AM
76	Mount George	Sep 30, 2013 3:25 PM
77	Upper Lansdowne	Sep 30, 2013 2:01 PM
78	Mitchells Island	Sep 30, 2013 8:14 AM
79	Forest Downs Estate	Sep 28, 2013 11:01 AM
80	cundletown	Sep 27, 2013 12:05 PM
81	Tinonee	Sep 26, 2013 1:13 PM
82	comboyne	Sep 25, 2013 8:17 PM
83	Killawarra	Sep 25, 2013 10:22 AM
84	Coopernook	Sep 25, 2013 10:13 AM
85	Crowdy Head	Sep 25, 2013 10:11 AM
86	Moto	Sep 25, 2013 10:07 AM
87	Upper Lansdowne	Sep 25, 2013 10:06 AM
88	Marlee	Sep 25, 2013 8:39 AM
89	Hannam Vale	Sep 25, 2013 7:33 AM
90	Mondrook	Sep 24, 2013 7:12 PM

Q1. Where do you live?

91	Central Lamsdowne	Sep 24, 2013 4:58 PM
92	Bootawa	Sep 24, 2013 2:17 PM
93	Forster	Sep 24, 2013 11:36 AM
94	Mondrook	Sep 24, 2013 11:10 AM
95	Coopernook	Sep 23, 2013 6:15 PM
96	Dyers crossing	Sep 23, 2013 5:45 PM
97	Coopernook	Sep 23, 2013 5:16 PM
98	upper lansdowne	Sep 23, 2013 11:55 AM
99	Comboyne	Sep 23, 2013 11:29 AM
100	Killabakh	Sep 20, 2013 9:17 AM
101	Johns River	Sep 20, 2013 7:00 AM
102	wang wauk	Sep 19, 2013 3:04 PM
103	Bobin	Sep 19, 2013 2:49 PM
104	Forster	Sep 19, 2013 2:00 PM
105	ELANDS	Sep 19, 2013 1:30 PM
106	Pampoolah	Sep 19, 2013 12:33 PM
107	Pampoolah	Sep 19, 2013 12:23 PM
108	Tinonee	Sep 19, 2013 5:35 AM
109	Elands	Sep 18, 2013 8:16 PM
110	Elands	Sep 18, 2013 8:16 PM
111	Manning Point	Sep 18, 2013 7:48 PM
112	Killawarra	Sep 18, 2013 6:37 PM
113	Dyers Crossing	Sep 18, 2013 7:40 AM
114	Bootawa	Sep 16, 2013 3:10 PM
115	downtown Burrell Creek	Sep 16, 2013 2:25 PM
116	Cundletown	Sep 16, 2013 9:59 AM
117	Bobin	Sep 15, 2013 9:49 AM
118	Bobin and Hallidays point	Sep 13, 2013 5:24 PM
119	Coffs Harbour	Sep 10, 2013 3:05 PM
120	Coopernook	Sep 4, 2013 6:58 AM

Q1. Where do you live?

121	Johns River	Sep 2, 2013 7:43 AM
122	Elands	Aug 28, 2013 9:46 AM
123	possum brush	Aug 22, 2013 3:15 PM
124	Diamond Beach	Aug 22, 2013 2:24 PM
125	firefly	Aug 22, 2013 4:03 AM

Q5. Do you have suggestions to improve the draft Environmental Action Plan?

1	<p>An installation of proper walking path/foot path around Old Bar eg from Surfclub along ungala Rd, passed the school, down Pacific Parade, down Rose St, linking up with the path through Badger park, down Rushby drive toward Joel Dr - linking up with the park on Belle Villa Pde, then linking with the slops area of Old Bar. This would be a scenic walkway which would attract people to walk and be more active instead of getting in their cars. Consider places such as Foster, Coffs Harbour and Port Macquarie who have these walkways. Construct a bike path from Old Bar to Taree South. Taree is already a great bike path along Manning River Dr from Purfleet to Taree. Why not extend this down Old Bar Rd/Saltwater Road? The few cyclists that cycle along this road are placing themselves in so much danger at present. If a designated bike path (like along Manning River Drive) was in place it would encourage more people to ride to work Taree from Old Bar (I certainly would), therefore making them more active and less people driving cars - again decreasing car emissions. eg again, look at Coffs Harbour to Boambee/Sawtell bike path; Nelson Bay - Shoal Bay - Fingal Bay. I thought with the "upgrade" of Old Bar road in 2012 they could have widened it just another 1-2 metres in most sections, I was very disappointed to see only a "white line" of 50cm width if anything separating cars from bike riders. I love this area, and hope you will consider the above suggestions. Thankyou.</p>	Oct 17, 2013 6:23 AM
2	<p>No I prioty is fix our roads and streets. They are more important than funding money for tree hugger. And we need more overalls and less suits. Reduce indoor staff. Administior is taking all our rate monies. People could not get out when people were flooded in before it was drained, and now all drains are being filled in. I wish Council would look in the past before this action is taken.</p>	Oct 17, 2013 6:15 AM
3	<p>Use voluntary help, which has worked well for over 200 years. eg past working bees, wingham brush, wingham entrance, browns creek, showgrounds. I believe only rate payers should have input into any rate related matters. eg Multiple poeple renting a house would have multiple input - where as the person paying the rates has one. The environment has been capable of doing an excellent job of looking after itself over the last 200+ years - let nature takes its course. It is my belief that a rate levy is just a way of gauging money from rate payers. Taree is a low income earning area and rates increase the burden on families. This proposal would just create another beurocrate. Council's past does not seem to have been real successful in obtaining government grants. We have not seen any dramatic improvements since the raod levy was introduced. People did not aprove of this levy) which was undemocratic!</p>	Oct 16, 2013 9:43 AM
4	<p>Terminate the employment of GTCC General Manager Gerard Jose and Environmental Project Coordinator Andrew Paget and Mayor Paul Hogan.</p>	Oct 16, 2013 9:33 AM
5	<p>Refer to the attached for other options - Friends of Browns Creek.</p>	Oct 16, 2013 9:31 AM
6	<p>This levy will cost me \$6/week not \$1.52. I am not against looking after the environment. I am against this councils ability to manage extra funding when they cannot manage their own budget. I have seen first hand Council's ability with NHT funding. \$73,000 to clean out a drain between Moto Road and the Old Highway junction through to the Old Coopernook bridge. If farmers done that work it would only cost 1 to 2 thousand dollars. Council spent at least 20 years income of the land they drained. Other waste was South Moto ASS project where against the advice of local farmers large sheets of high grade stainless steel was pushing into drains to form a bund wall to hold back the water. This was a failure and the sheets were eventually removed after 2</p>	Oct 16, 2013 9:30 AM

Q5. Do you have suggestions to improve the draft Environmental Action Plan?

	years. That project resulted in Ghinni Creek having an acid plume for 17 days instead of the normal 3 days. If Council wants food security and a viable farming community then start looking after the genuine farmers.	
7	Better management of rate payers money as this extra 'Tax' is not needed.	Oct 16, 2013 9:24 AM
8	The proposals in the outline give with this survey is very useful, however for one point, the amount of money proposed for fishing sites, pontoons, clean fishing tables etc should be user pays as the majority of the population here in Taree do not use such facilities. Why should these people have to pay for a minority to use such facilities. Thankyou.	Oct 16, 2013 9:24 AM
9	Although we support the levy, there would be many people that couldn't afford it?	Oct 16, 2013 9:22 AM
10	Better management of the huge amounts of money already collected in rates and levies. Not much to show for our rates in Old Bar. Too much money is wasted on consultants & surveys to no avail. Entrance to Old Bar is a disgrace - grass needs cutting either side of the road. Hardly any footpaths in Old Bar. Area around Crowdy Head fishing Coop is a disgrace, huge amount of rubbish & uncut grass. How many years, surveys & consultants have there been over the last 10 years, for dunal restoration & dunal erosion prevention at Old Bar. What has actually been done - Nothing! It all sounds good on paper & the ideas are good, but in practice it is a different story!	Oct 16, 2013 9:21 AM
11	More resources need to be spend at Blackhead.	Oct 16, 2013 9:16 AM
12	Road from Blackhead bowling club to back beach is used for walking fitness by many people - needs signposting 'Pedestrians on road; cars tolerated'. There is no path etc.	Oct 16, 2013 9:15 AM
13	Swap compost bins for the under used compulsory green bins.	Oct 16, 2013 9:14 AM
14	Greenbins - shouldn't be compulsory for people who use mulching machines for re-mulching their property as we don't use that bin but we still have to pay for it!	Oct 16, 2013 9:13 AM
15	A specific targeted amount to go to existing landcare groups who have managed on grant money and donations for many years.	Oct 16, 2013 9:12 AM
16	Not quite as motivated regarding dredging & boating improvements	Oct 16, 2013 9:10 AM
17	I would like to be able to support a levy but pensioners are at a bottom just to pay rates etc. Now as prices rise with every bill arrives.	Oct 16, 2013 9:09 AM
18	I think the plastic waste is a major problem as it frequently ends up in our waterways and travels to the sea. Could Council negotiate/liaise with supermarkets and other businesses in our area and ask them to reduce and stop using plastic bags at the checkout? Perhaps an education programme at schools could encourage students not to expect their shopping to be put into plastic bags; they should be encouraged to use their own shopping bags. They might even convince their parents to do the same thing. I feel that education is the key to implementing any changes. Can Council do education/information sessions about our area and the need to care for our environment and take those sessions to local schools?	Oct 16, 2013 9:07 AM
19	Dredging and boating improvements seem to me not items that should be funded by an Environmental Levy. However I can see that it was included for	Oct 16, 2013 9:03 AM

Q5. Do you have suggestions to improve the draft Environmental Action Plan?

	political reasons to get people on board who would otherwise not support a levy. Review garbage collections and introduce a user pays system where ratepayers pay for number of bins emptied. Covert green collection to methane. Capture methand at existing tip.	
20	Fix the roads (Comboyne road a disgrace) revent excessive runoff and hazards in region of 80/100km zone near Yarratt Road.	Oct 16, 2013 9:00 AM
21	Recognise the environmental impact of planned and possible coal seam gas and coal exploration and mining in our area and surrounding areas. Recognise and register Council support for the intention of gasfield free communities within the GTCC area to defend their properties from mining development.	Oct 16, 2013 8:59 AM
22	Will there be rate payer participation in any committee that is formed?	Oct 16, 2013 8:45 AM
23	Not before time	Oct 16, 2013 8:45 AM
24	Stop access to 4WD on all our beaches.	Oct 16, 2013 8:43 AM
25	Need a Environmental Officer (or equivalent) to run Bush Regeneration activities involving interested residents perhaps organize a training day to create interest. Need more road signs in an attempt to slow traffic on roads outside city to prevent hitting wildlife.	Oct 16, 2013 8:42 AM
26	I support the Environmental Levy provided the Council puts greater effort into receiving external funding on every occassion it is available and NOT have an outcome as in the case of the Cundletween Transport where (as reported in the local media) after 7 months no application had been received by the relevant department. The delay in due process would be detrimental to the securing of much needed funds and thus the Environmental Levy would be of no help whatsoever unless a more urgent approach to funding applicaions in adopted.	Oct 16, 2013 8:41 AM
27	Theme 2 Biodiversity: Ensure if noxious weeds grow on private land the landholder is required (& monitored) to address removal.	Oct 16, 2013 8:38 AM
28	Here is some comments/suggestions etc in no particular order of importance: Dredging strategy has already been done. Just REF's need to be done and farquhar is already done. the EL meeds to be used for all the valley. To me the impacts by foxes and cats are the biggest threats to our wildlife. Funding for nation wide eradication needs to be implemented and sustained. Stream bank erosion and ass to be ramped up and Support a fulltime grants officer. Nothing of 50%the is nothing. A grant is a win win. Dredging and maintenance dredging is also for navigation safety, waterway access, wq flows, better benthic and fishery, with all the users benefitting including flora and fauna. Need to promote poi, along waterways, run tours, promote connections/tourist routed. Protection of the environment can only occur with a strong economy. Care mustmake be taken that economic opportunities for the valley and residents are rejected by kneejerk reactions from non scientists. Work with the gas industry not against. Forget about wasting money on "studies" on climate change and sea level changes. Keep onto dealing the ass valley projects, especially the big swamp. I want to see that many pied geese that we can have an open season on them like at kakadu. Need to ensure that "studies" reports approvals etc are implemented and not put on the shelf. Use the 1956big aerial photos to see how the regrowth recovery is happening. Don't get too carried away with replanting programs. Nature is doing it ss	Oct 16, 2013 8:28 AM

Q5. Do you have suggestions to improve the draft Environmental Action Plan?

29	Here is some comments/suggestions etc in no particular order of importance: Dredging strategy has already been done. Just REF's need to be done and farquhar is already done. the EL needs to be used for all the valley. To me the impacts by foxes and cats are the biggest threats to our wildlife. Funding for nation wide eradication needs to be implemented and sustained. Stream bank erosion and ass to be ramped up and completed, especially the big swamp. I want to see that many pied geese that we can have an open season on them like at kakadu. Use the 1956big aerial photos to see how the regrowth recovery is happening. Don't get too carried away with replanting programs. Nature is doing it ss	Oct 16, 2013 8:08 AM
30	The amazing saltwater lagoon and Khapinghat creek should also be listed as a significant water way in the environmental plan. It is pristine and unique along the gtcc coastline and should protected and enjoyed by the community.	Oct 14, 2013 8:53 PM
31	Saltwater lagoon should also be listed as a significant waterway as it is culturally important to the biripi nation and is an amazing piece of the natural environment enjoyed by hundreds if not thousands of people every year. It is a under utilized tourism draw card.	Oct 14, 2013 8:50 PM
32	Saltwater lagoon and Khapinghat creek should be highlighted as a significant water way for it's almost pristine condition, no development and high water quality. It is environmentally significant and unique	Oct 14, 2013 4:53 PM
33	No increase in rates	Oct 14, 2013 12:44 PM
34	Don't spend it on coastal protection works that have mainly private good outcomes. Hire some staff with ability to manage projects. Work with community groups. Partner with others eg Landcare eg Local Land Services eg MidCoast Water	Oct 14, 2013 12:43 PM
35	My concerns stem from my opinion that GTCC is not competent to manage the environmental plan or the levy that would be generated. A more common sense and less theoretical approach would be beneficial.	Oct 14, 2013 10:56 AM
36	Some of the levee should be made available to improve our existing parks and playgrounds that are in desperate need of improvements	Oct 14, 2013 8:59 AM
37	i pay enough in rates now I cant get the kerb fixed now and we had special variation for that and now Im about to get charged \$150 ayear to check my pool I value the enviroment but what are my rates spent on	Oct 14, 2013 8:52 AM
38	While I do technically support the idea of an environmental levy, I am sceptical of Greater Taree City Council's ability to actually manage the funds correctly and proceed with high quality environmental projects that have a lasting impact. In the past they have not proven they are able to manage any funds correctly, nor have they shown an ability to use funds they do have to apply for grants from other organisations that can double the benefit of their funds. In reading through the plan I also have some other issues... • We are already paying money each year for the Stormwater levy, from this funds are supposed to cover the implementation and maintenance of stormwater quality improvement devices including GPTs. Why if there is already money from this charge are additional funds being sought from an environmental levy for GPTs? Will this levy be removed if the environmental levy goes ahead or will we instead be paying 2 different levy's to fund the same projects? • Why have you identified funds in order to hire consultants in to undertake environmental works? Consultants can charge upwards of 3 times	Oct 14, 2013 8:44 AM

Q5. Do you have suggestions to improve the draft Environmental Action Plan?

the amount of money it would take to complete things in house. Instead of constantly farming out work to others and paying huge fees to cover these projects shouldn't Council be working harder to source qualified people into the area (or more importantly talk to those that are already in the area) that can be employed directly by Council and complete these projects for at least half the cost of getting in consultants? • Why are dredging and boating improvements receiving more funding from the levy than sustainability projects? It is an ENVIRONMENTAL LEVY! Boating and dredging projects while beneficial to the community cannot be identified as environmental projects! In fact often times if these projects are done incorrectly they can actually cause more damage to the environment and I do not trust Greater Taree City Council to undertake them correctly. • I can see no education components identified in any of the projects. What sort of education or other information will you provide to the community so that we can see how our money is being spent? This is just the main issues I had after reading through the plan, though there were many more. As I said, while I agree with the levy in theory I am extremely concerned about the ability of the Council to actually undertake any works correctly, particularly while they still don't have an dedicated environmental department. If it is to go ahead I would definitely prefer that more funding is given to sustainability than to dredging and boating and would hope that the projects that the funds are being spent on are far more transparent and that we as a community would be able to see information on proposed projects and be able to have a say about them before they go ahead.

39	No more Taxes thankyou	Oct 14, 2013 8:33 AM
40	- I would love to see GTCC take a much stronger role in looking after our magnificent local environment across the whole LGA. - Environmental levies have been a very successful tool to fund this in other areas. I would hope to see it used here efficiently and effectively. I am cynical about GTCC's ability to do this, and hope to see mechanisms put in place to make sure the process is robust and transparent, these should be mentioned in the plan. - I completely disagree with including boating and dredging in an 'environmental' levee. At least in Great Lakes it is a seperate 1% levee and their economy is much more dependent on these activities to be able to justify it. Ours is not, and many of the dredging activities proposed by the people you are trying to placate will not have good outcomes for the environment. This is why I don't support the plan, I do support the other elements of it.	Oct 14, 2013 7:43 AM
41	Water quality Identify more clearly importance of water quality & riparian biodiversity in upper parts of the Manning River catchment within Theme 1 and b) River Health. Although understandably the main focus of the plan is on waterways of the lower catchment where degradation is the greatest, I consider sustainable recovery of the lower waterways will depend on identifying and addressing such sources of pollution, weeds and degradation higher up. Construction of roads too close to waterways, damaging road maintenance practices and lack of engineering expertise are issues that I would like to be addressed more specifically under d) Erosion Control & 7a (environmental management). Biodiversity suggestions: 1. Identify & promote values of roadside corridors and stock routes for conservation & as part of climate change initiatives. I would like to see community adoption of roadside natural areas promoted. 2. I support a biodiversity survey including on private lands; information on threatened ecological communities, populations & species to be available on Council's website. I suggest the survey includes biodiversity on farms or rural properties with information	Oct 13, 2013 6:11 PM

Q5. Do you have suggestions to improve the draft Environmental Action Plan?

useful to future initiatives in this area. 3. Council to formally identify environmentally sensitive or significant lands with appropriate environmental zoning (e.g. land protecting water catchments, wetland & riparian zones, corridors away from waterways, threatened flora & fauna habitat, core habitat & refuge areas). Such zonings should be used to constrain inappropriate location of developments including CSG. Guidelines for asset protection zones (for fire, water & biodiversity) to be developed & used in assessing development proposals - preferably enforced through LEP. 4. Council to develop an offset policy. Agricultural land - I would like to see a broader classification of agricultural land with land not deemed to be "prime" in the narrow sense it has been used previously (e.g. in relation to CSG) still recognised for other agribusiness (there is now considerable diversification beyond traditional beef/dairy grazing & crops) and indirectly for biodiversity values & water protection. I believe this is important to developing a diverse & sustainable Manning region.

- | | | |
|----|--|-----------------------|
| 42 | A levy is a form of rate increase. As rates this year have increased by approx. 4.25 % I think council should work within the finances currently available to it. Council ,in recent years has increased rates by a special 10% levy and I think another levy is to much to soon. | Oct 13, 2013 4:14 PM |
| 43 | Find savings in existing council budget to fund works, and not rely on rural ratepayers who will pay a disproportionate amount towards funding an environmental plan that costs rural landholders far greater than the \$1/ week quoted in the newspaper. Rural ratepayers achieve many of the goals stated in the draft environmental plan at little or no cost to the community, as well as supporting vital local industries such as Wingham Abbotoirs. I think the people who support the plan should pay for the plan, it is very easy to support something when it costs you nothing or very little. | Oct 13, 2013 3:51 PM |
| 44 | Saltwater lagoon should be identified as an area that should be protected as it is an amazing natural waterway that so many people use and appreciate, with good quality water and great habitat for numerous birds. | Oct 12, 2013 5:46 PM |
| 45 | Saltwater lagoon should be identified as a significant spot. Hundreds of people use it during summer for swimming especially with kids. It's great for fishing when it's open and beautiful for canoeing all year round. | Oct 12, 2013 5:43 PM |
| 46 | Council should 'live within their means' and not expect ratepayers to be a bottomless pit of money to fund Council ideas. Why should all ratepayers subsidise the pleasures of a few. | Oct 10, 2013 1:25 PM |
| 47 | Draft plan fine. Levy necessary but will they be managed appropriately? | Oct 10, 2013 1:24 PM |
| 48 | instead of a "wish list" of, sometimes grandiose, projects it should be re-drafted to fit within the existing income stream available to the Council. With unemployment rising and most incomes under severe pressure now is definitely not the time to introduce a new financial impost on the community. All tiers of government should learn to live within their means and no tax changes/increases should exceed the rate at which average incomes are increasing. | Oct 10, 2013 10:04 AM |
| 49 | This all sounds very good and sounds fantastic..... BUT... at what cost..(sure you have quoted figures of some so called plans, but will all ways way over your so called budget) and those costs of preparing this draft. would be expensive.. How much???.. a lot of good ideas.. BUT the cost of implementing will be horrendous) One thing is incorrect is the lies about Carbon Foot print.. Carbon does not cause any environmental problems. and | Oct 9, 2013 5:46 PM |

Q5. Do you have suggestions to improve the draft Environmental Action Plan?

Climate change is normal day to day natural changes. It maybe feel good to be environmentally sound BUT the costs will Blow out as all ways they do with any local, state and Federal scheme.. The extra staff needed to carry out all this and our roads are falling behind in repairs.. how many people have you employed in GTCC OFFICE and how many Coal faced workers in the field... generally there is a huge Discrepancy in amount of workers pushing paper and pens.. totally useless staff... before any environmental issues are enforced, and tax's/levy's introduced need to get rid of 50% of Office staff... as I can Guarantee no matter what so called environmental fees and taxes/levy's etc you make up will NEVER be enough and our roads will keep getting worse and worse... Too much emphasis is put into environmental issues.. As I have heard you have received a letter from a particular group demanded to put a environmental Levy on GTCC rate payers... how much is it going to increase each year... and our roads and general infrastructure will keep on disintegrating into oblivion.. Fix the roads and major infrastructure BEFORE hitting ratepayers with more levy's which will get people up in arms once again..

50	Done separately - will drop into Council Tuesday.	Oct 9, 2013 11:49 AM
51	Better management of limited funds. Saving Old Bar beach erosion. RE: Noosa Shire Council operates a similar infrastructure - the use of solar operated air lift pumps at the mudbishops entracne to the Manning River. The area I's suggesting is the area referred to as 'soft rocks' at the start of the old bar. The solar operated pumps would only run on the change of tide. Once the opening created by mechanical means. The pumps would then pump the incoming outgoing sand to the beach (reef) off Old Bar beach (or where required). The sand would then build it's own banks and could be manipulated by simply lengthening the outlet pipe to where the sand is required. As the sand returns to the entrance it is simply pumped back to the beach by the sun. This is environmentally and cost effective in both capital and ongoing with minimal maintenance costs. Tourism and boat use increased to the area by the boat ramp at mud bishops being operational. And the protection of housing and a sandy beach.	Oct 9, 2013 7:54 AM
52	Humans need protection too, especially with back and joint related problems. Travelling on Taree roads (Becketts Way in particular) is hazardous to their health & wellbeing. Don't we deserve pleasant, safe roads to use. Shouldn't we be protected too. I strongly believe in animal protecting and improvement of environments - but we should count too!	Oct 9, 2013 7:49 AM
53	Council should live within its means. Use 'work for the dole' to clean up things. We pensioners & farmers cannot afford more rates.	Oct 9, 2013 7:45 AM
54	Take sand and more (? illegible)	Oct 9, 2013 7:44 AM
55	Levy should come from waste management people because they cause most of the road damage. Stopping-starting stps water flow in gutters. Tenders to include road management.	Oct 9, 2013 7:43 AM
56	More predoma (? illegible)	Oct 9, 2013 7:14 AM
57	Reef for Old Bar	Oct 9, 2013 7:10 AM
58	Environment great - lift for falls at Ellenborough. Promotion of natural areas.	Oct 9, 2013 7:09 AM
59	A certain % of the levy should be allocated to assist farmers on the Manning River to maintain their river banks - assisting the CMA and Landcare to keep	Oct 9, 2013 7:07 AM

Q5. Do you have suggestions to improve the draft Environmental Action Plan?

our river health for the whole community.

- | | | |
|----|---|----------------------|
| 60 | GTCC astounds not only rate payers but politicians and any others with a knowledge of its complete inaction and shocking record of incompetence. I would not for one minute place ANY trust in GTCC in delivering on its proposals, let alone another levy. What has been achieved with previous rate increases? To our disgust, government funding grants that could be applied for have been let go because of complete inaction and negligence by GTCC. All we hear is more pathetic whingeing of Councillors and GTCC staff that they are short of funds. Furthermore, consultation on any proposals is simply a joke. Residents of Crowdy Head have had a long history of experiencing GTCC's incompetence and more seriously, its arrogance in not taking any suggestions or points of view on board. A level playing field? What a joke. And you wonder why GTCC is regarded as one of the worst Local Government Councils in NSW? For goodness sake, get a handle on what your clients, yes those who pay you, actually want! | Oct 8, 2013 2:28 PM |
| 61 | I am totally opposed to any Environmental Levy on ratepayers. GTCC has an appalling record of failing to meet commitments to recent rate increases and to previous environmental levies. Our last federal Member, Rob Oakeshott, delivered amazing opportunities for special grants etc. to GTCC. I understand that some of these were not accessed because of apparent failures of GTCC to lodge necessary documentation - you need to lift your game! | Oct 8, 2013 2:15 PM |
| 62 | I am totally opposed to any Environmental Levy on ratepayers. GTCC has an appalling record of failing to meet commitments to recent rate increases and to previous environmental levies. Our last federal Member, Rob Oakeshott, delivered amazing opportunities for special grants etc. to GTCC. I understand that some of these were not accessed because of apparent failures of GTCC to lodge necessary documentation - you need to lift your game! | Oct 8, 2013 2:14 PM |
| 63 | sack the present council and start again from scratch every decision they make has been wrong on so many levels you seem to forget you work for the community not law firms or any other group who thinks they have the right to make the policies ask the people what they want before you make any other decisions they put you there to work for them not for your own glory or benefit. | Oct 6, 2013 12:43 PM |
| 64 | Improve flow of lower reach tributaries by building a southern wall and maintenance of the flow in these tributaries. What guarantee do we have the environmental levy be used for environmental purposes and not corralled for other purposes and staff number increases or wages. For example 3 office staff going to a two day chain saw training day. | Oct 5, 2013 5:12 PM |
| 65 | The highest level of acid sulphate is the river according to DCP No. 48 Acid Sulphate Soils. This sulphuric acid could be neutralised by more salt water flow in the river. This could be achieved by building a southern training wall which would keep the entrance open and enable a deep high flow of salt water. This would have additional benefits; Better water quality for the oyster industry. Beach rejuvenation from manning point to Old bar. Higher flow for the run off from the Cattai area. Increase tourism and income for the Taree area. | Oct 5, 2013 5:02 PM |
| 66 | Part of my land is partly acid sulphate it grows coastal oaks and rushes, it seems to be regenerating by itself, though it would be helpful to fence it off from cattle, the council could fence it off. I would support the plan if the | Oct 5, 2013 4:39 PM |

Q5. Do you have suggestions to improve the draft Environmental Action Plan?

council buys it or stops charging me rates,

67	The plan is fine, and I believe already has access to funds that if better managed and spent would finance the [plan	Oct 4, 2013 3:16 PM
68	Attached is a submission raising concerns about the Draft Action Plan and issues that we (Harrington Action Group) believe should be considered in conjunction with the Plan and two issues that have already be raised with Council (copies attached). How can an ordinary person fully understand the Draft Action Plan when it refers to at least 10 other plans associated with this plan? Believe there is TOO many of theses plans and TOO much RED TAPE involved. 1. The Manning River which would include the entrance to the river - construction of a southern wall - the river is the key to the whole Manning Valley and should head the priority list as it will benefit industry, jobs, tourism and will also be a great benefit to the local residents. Don't believe there is sufficient emphasis being placed on the importance of the river. This would also include the dredging and boating improvements. 2. Don't believe sufficient investigations have been carried out on the effect the BIG SWAMP project will have on Harrington in the time of flooding. Know that a study has been carried out and they say that the water from the Big Swamp does not go into the creek that feeds Harrington but goes into Cattai Creek. On talking to long time residents with first hand experience believe this is not to be correct. 3. Government documents need to be written in every day language, not in the legal type interpretation that the average ratepayer finds it difficult to understand. 4. Attachment - Operation of release valves in the time of flooding in Crowdy Bay National Park - this in turn has an effect on flooding in Harrington as all waters in the National Park swamp eventually come out at the back of Harrington/Wards Creek/Creek reserve between Josephine Bvd and Electra Pde. Eventually if the Cattai Wetlands, Big Swamp project and Crowdy Bay National Park swamp all link up what will happen in flood times? 5. Attachment - Investigating and controlling mosquitoes in stagnated water areas - this has been of concern for some time and nobody seems to want to take responsibility - with so much emphasis on wetlands and acid sulfate soil remediation should not consideration be given to controlling mosquitoes? We know that mosquitoes are very prevalent at the Cattai Wetlands! 6. Erosion of beaches along the coastlined area of the Manning Valley especially Old Bar and Manning Point must be high on the agenda of all levels of government - after all the Council and in some cases the State Government are responsible for permitting these people to build on this land.	Oct 4, 2013 8:08 AM
69	I would like to ensure that Biobanking is not used as an easy offset to development proposals in sensitive coastal ecosystems. I would also like to question the use of such a levy for the construction of essentially recreational facilities such as dredging and boat ramps, etc. These matters are more properly dealt with under other financial categories.	Oct 4, 2013 8:01 AM
70	The only question would be why has GTCC taken so long to adopt/establish a Environmental Levy to support the EAP when other Councils have had such a levy for several years. Comment - How can smaller villages, such as Johns River get involved in making a contribution to the plan? There are areas in Johns River that could benefit from remedial works and it would be good for this to happen. What other communit consultation will occur in outlying areas of the GTCC catchment? Happy to get involved - Chris Bawn, Johns River COmmunity Hall & Recreation Reserve Trust.	Oct 4, 2013 7:55 AM
71	If Council need extra funding a few suggestions - do a time & motion study on Council workers - findings will prove we could put most of them off (save	Oct 4, 2013 7:51 AM

Q5. Do you have suggestions to improve the draft Environmental Action Plan?

millions). Also re: cleaner water for fishing. Its would be good if there were more fish in the river but there is talk of halving the bag limit - so waste of time. 91c per week another \$47.32 per year on top of everything else. Just more big brother tactics. You go on about looking after the environment but let houses fall into the ocean eg Old Bar. Council is paid not to be responsible but home owners cannot legally do anything to save their own homes. Instead of wasting another \$30,000 or so on more useless studies, use the money to put in a sea wall of rock and stop the bullshit. Also more quotes needed for boardwalks @ \$450/m and concrete recreational paths @235/m. If this is correct price, can I have the job please. All these ideas might sound like a good thing for GTCC but most are just a very expensive whim by people with too much time on their hands, who would be better served if they went out and get a proper JOB, instead of being a burden on us ratepayers. PS I also thought the storm water charge was a once off! - still being charged.

- | | | |
|----|---|---------------------|
| 72 | <p>Cancel clean up. Its absolutely disgusting encouraging people to throw their rubbish on the street and to be left for a month or longer to be scavanged through, blown about, tossed around and lit up as a bonfire. Are we really serious about having tourism industry in the Manning? Replace the current Council clean up programme with a one month tip amenity twice a year (mid year and post xmas) so people can be responsible and deliver their own excess garbage or pay the people who make their living from doing this exact clean up works. Excess litter in the Taree area is an obvious ongoing rather major issues. How about getting appropriate authorities to hand around a few fines to hel encourage people to be responsible and a little more thoughtfull about waste. In regards to tourism improved clear signage throughout the drives around parks etc is badly needed. Congratulations on Cattai Wetlands. Great work in progress. I cant wait to see Jabiru. Continued publicity and encouraging school & volunteer groups & general public to be actively involved so the general public has a sense of pride and ownership is vitally important.</p> | Oct 4, 2013 7:44 AM |
| 73 | <p>This is written in almost total ignorance of local government accounting systems and processes but given that $2+2-4 = 0$ there must be processes, protocols and governance systems within Local Gov which should permit the frugal and prudent establishment of an environmental infrastructure maintenance trust or investment fund or special purpose insulated account, limited to site defined infrastructure maintenance, this being in essence and environmental infrastructure 'sinking fund'. The central objective being to grow the capital of the fund/account to a level to permit the self funding environmental infrastructure maintenance eg project funding ~ 50% like 4 like. Works: \$100,000 ~ external funding \$50,000 Council \$50,000 Sinking fund \$10,000 (10%). Sinking fund capital contribution \$10,000. NB \$10M of environmental projects provides contribution of \$1M and with some judicious and prudent thought the account/trust could well become a negotiable collateral component of Council's asset base. While some will say this cannot be done, it is clear that infrastructure maintenance presently has failed and it should be remembered that the entire acropolis, the rome colosseum and the great wall of china all fell down for want of a sustainable sinking fund! Congratulations on your excellent work & best wishes for a positive outcome.</p> | Oct 4, 2013 7:37 AM |
| 74 | <p>Prevent the loss of public access to rivers, estuaries and beaches and wetlands through sale of access roads and tracks. Use all available processes to restore and enhance public access to waterways. Engage with local, state and federal governments to prevent introduction of carp to the</p> | Oct 4, 2013 7:29 AM |

Q5. Do you have suggestions to improve the draft Environmental Action Plan?

Manning. Provide safe disposal for batteries.

- | | | |
|----|---|---------------------|
| 75 | The inclusion of a specific programme of street tree planting and maintenance. The LGA is losing many street trees due to age and conflict with overhead electricity wires, similarly many street trees are in bad condition. Trees have the ability to regulate the local microclimate by providing shade and combat the 'heat island' effect of urban development. Leafy green areas can be degrees cooler than treeless areas, with the added benefits of reduced air pollution and somewhat cleaner stormwater runoff. Not to be overlooked are the contributions trees make to biodiversity and their aesthetic value. | Oct 4, 2013 7:26 AM |
| 76 | It seems obvious that placing the swimming pool facility so far out of town is fine for Chatham and Cundletown but robs Tareans (particularly the aged) of an invaluable health improving facility. At the same time the Oval complex in the centre of town is used less and less each year apart from the skate park which is invaluable to the youth though seemingly very few girls. There is ample space around the oval to take a pool facility and it would seem likely that the grandstand and its dressing rooms could be utilised in conjunction with the pool complex. If the aged health aspects could be satisfactorily detailed it seems likely that both Federal and State governments would almost certainly provide funds. | Oct 4, 2013 7:23 AM |
| 77 | Overall I support the environmental levy as we need to care for this beautiful area in which we live. However I have concerns about how this levy has been calculated in a "one size fits all" approach regardless of ratepayer's financial situation. Many ratepayers are aged and living on either fixed incomes with currently low interest rates or wholly supported by an Aged Pension. Some businesses are struggling as well as others on small farms while others are living relatively luxuriously as residents in town. It seems totally unfair to add further burdens to those already struggling to keep their heads above water. Also a number of those on farms are already making significant and sometimes costly contributions in Landcare projects eg weed control, fencing off riparian areas, erosion control etc. Maybe the levy could be calculated according to a ratepayer's income tax and/or whether the land holder is a recipient of a pension? | Oct 4, 2013 7:20 AM |
| 78 | Support levy as long as every person contributes, not just ratepayers. All very impressive, except that you avoid the most major issue in the area - that of beach protection for Old Bar. Forget the over-priced reef - for goodness sake put in low cost groynes at right angles to the beach, many of them, about 100m apart. Council has done NOTHING productive about the erosion problem, and next year it is 50 years since Mr John Sorby wrote to Council with his concerns about erosion. What a very sad indictment that NOTHING has been done in all that time!!! Come on Council, make us proud of you in 2014. Groynes. | Oct 4, 2013 7:15 AM |
| 79 | Support levy if money stays with environmental projects! Much more care and notice should be taken by Council when doing works along roadside reserves. A high degree of intact native vegetation is along roadside reserves. 90% of native fauna is sited along our roadside (wildlife corridors). Listed points below to consider: 1. Maintain control of weeds such as Lantana, Giant Parramatta Grass and other Environmental and pastoral weeds along roadside reserves to prevent these weeds from spreading into neighbouring private property and help maintain healthy native vegetation along roadsides. 2. Have qualified environmental assessor check when felling so called dangerous dead trees for fauna habitat. Are there other | Oct 4, 2013 7:12 AM |

Q5. Do you have suggestions to improve the draft Environmental Action Plan?

options like lopping rather than complete removal of such trees and other native trees that happen to be in the way? 3. When grading gravel roads ensure sediment runoff is contained on roadside reserve not running into private property sedimenting water holes and dams and spreading roadside weeds into neighbouring properties. Thanks for the opportunity to make some suggestions.

- | | | |
|----|--|---------------------|
| 80 | Sir /Madam, As a ratepayer in Wingham for the last 46 years and a resident of Wingham and the surrounding area for 65 years I am totally against any ENVIRONMENTAL LEVY forced onto the ratepayers of Taree ,Wingham and surrounding rural areas. As far as I am concerned It is a waste of time and money to support such an organization run by greenie tree hugging do-gooders. If a levy is to be put on to it should be for the upkeep of the roads,hospitals,etc NOT the environment, it has looked after itself for millions of years without human intervention. Just think --- now think if you can-- what this beautiful valley would be like if we still had the ,timber industry,and milk industry, and the people they supported, both totally stuffed by environmentalists ,these are just 2 industries taken off the top of my head. A BIG NO TO THE LEVY GARY SAWYER 9 FOTHERINGHAM STREET WINGHAM 2429 N.S.W email gsawyer1@tpg.com.au | Oct 3, 2013 3:18 PM |
| 81 | This is the first time I have been informed of the EAP - via handout at Nabiac Farmers Market. How can I write submission by 23/8 when given handout on 30/8? I have owned my own property for 12 years and have put in several applications through CMA for funding for river bank erosion - no success! Note - after inquiring about 1 application I was told that my application was not professional enough as I had hand drawn it and only then did I receive a unsuccessful letter 2 weeks after I inquired about it. Rate notices are sent out every 3 months - why cant reminders/newsletters be sent out to inform ratepayers/landholders about surveys/grants/consultation services which are available? Sewerage inspections fees should be diverted - at present they are only a 'revenue getter' each year as noone ever inspects on-site sewerage disposal. Communication is the key to success of EAPs - I never heard of the two community surveys. Pretty pictures and themes are all very well and appear in the Action Plan Document. They appear to 'favour' tourist or coastal areas. Some but not all of these areas have problems emanating from inland sources - these dont appear to be acknowledged in your action plan. My problems appears to emanate from erosion and run-off on my farm 20kms from the coast. Name provided. | Oct 3, 2013 2:28 PM |
| 82 | Comment - I agree with the Environmental Action Plan providing the monies raised will be specifically used for the above and not filtered into other projects eg new offices, football/sports fields etc or other unnecessary indulgences and wasted! Also will the 5% levy remain or balloon out to much higher rate increases in the future making taree citizens struggling now to pay rates even worse! Suggestion - I don't own a car so all our wonderful environmental wildlife sanctuaries/walks/tourist areas etc I will never see, so how about a 'local tourist' bus at various times (boarded from township not out of town) or have a 'pick up at door' (that would be a dream?) to take the locals to see all these things that Council wants to promote. I can't even get to Bunnings without having to get 2 buses from my home and no guarantee of getting back home! I'm a pensioner so taxis are too expensive if travelling distances, so am virtually isolated from any places I'd like to go (eg Hub Markets on weekends, antique/collectable shows, bird shows, farmers markets etc). Makes life frustrating!. Register cats (higher penalties). More reminders for people to stop feeding lorikeets white bread and feeding the Indian Mynahs and sparrows (a bounty or fine perhaps?). | Oct 3, 2013 2:20 PM |

Q5. Do you have suggestions to improve the draft Environmental Action Plan?

83	Many pensioners, keen to do their bit, live on limited means. If the proposed Environmental Levy could take this into account and make allowances for the people it would lend great credibility to the plan. Rural participation - As a ratepayer with rural acres I would like to congratulate the GTCC on its initiatives in this line as I feel its our heritage and future we are looking after. Weed control and regard to erosion control and local natural habitat are ongoing activities I and my wife maintain in our rural acres and we greatly appreciate all the ongoing (eg Wingham Brush) and new (Cattai Wetlands and coastal wetlands recovering) effort and initiatives by the Council.	Oct 3, 2013 2:12 PM
84	Enhanced access for fishers - walkers need enhanced access to rivers as well. I'm thinking chained sleepers (Nelson Bay has them) between Harrington Bowling Club and Wards Creek would be a good spot. The river bank is being worn away by walkers and children accessing the river. We need a flood plan for Harrington and control of mosquitoes.	Oct 3, 2013 2:08 PM
85	Get back to basics and fix the roads. Don't just keep empire building. Another trick for extracting money (good one). How many more paper shufflers do we need with cars and huge salary packages.	Oct 3, 2013 2:05 PM
86	Dredging & clearing of waterways to assist with flood mitigation. This could attract more funds. Make more use of what we have and earn money. Access to the Manning could back a substantial marine based industry and attract mooring fees and harbour dues. Better access to facilitate what we have.	Oct 3, 2013 2:04 PM
87	Soil health is absent (save for ASS/PASS). Soil health integrates with nutrient management and catchment runoff rates etc.	Oct 3, 2013 2:01 PM
88	Would like to see more emphasis put on the area of fauna corridors to increase connectivity between nature reserves and offer high value habitat areas (in the area of biodiversity).	Oct 3, 2013 2:00 PM
89	A wider community involvement in due process.	Oct 3, 2013 1:59 PM
90	Reduce Costs, dispose of assets that are costing council.	Oct 3, 2013 1:59 PM
91	The proposals in the plan may be worthwhile, but you must learn to live within your income. A levy is a new tax!! Ratepayer pockets are not bottomless. Every \$ taken for a nex tax is a \$ less we can spend in local shops. Work out priorities within your income limits. Dont duplicate services provided by small business.	Oct 3, 2013 1:58 PM
92	Provide more shade trees in the picnic area at Bootawa Dam. This is a favourite spot for visitors.	Oct 3, 2013 1:56 PM
93	1. Annual Council pickup of household rubbish is left out on the verge for weeks preceeding the pickup date. This causes temptation for rubbish to be set alight, strewn around, or thrown into waterways etc. Plus it is a very unattractive look for the town. Must be a better way. 2. Littering, graffiti and minor maintenance of public facilities suggest a permanent member of staff be appointed to clean litter from roadways and parks, clean graffiti and do small paint jobs. This person could perhaps oversee work for the dole recipients on some projects.	Oct 3, 2013 1:55 PM
94	Removal of weeds (eg thistles) from median strips eg Old Bar past Taree service centre. Plant trees in Commerce Street in between opposing lanes. Encourage utilisation of flower pots/hangings in Victoria Street. Once red and	Oct 3, 2013 1:48 PM

Q5. Do you have suggestions to improve the draft Environmental Action Plan?

	yellow bin outside MEC. Extension of signage. Thanks AW Good job that you are doing.	
95	Remove 'dredging' from the plan because I question why this is an important priority for an Environmental Action Plan. Instead it relates to boating use.	Oct 3, 2013 1:41 PM
96	Support levy so long as it is not used for recreational activities	Oct 3, 2013 1:39 PM
97	Begin as soon as possible	Oct 3, 2013 1:38 PM
98	Please see letter from Helen Hannah.	Oct 3, 2013 1:35 PM
99	Absolute support for moratorium on gas exploration (CSG) and the 8 point plan re gas and coal. Support 2.5% Environmental Levy.	Oct 3, 2013 1:31 PM
100	Prioritisation is important as long as items which have been on the list for many years are included and not put to the bottom of the list again.	Oct 3, 2013 1:30 PM
101	Levies that are imposed on rate payers for the green bins which are rated whether they are collected or not should go to GTCC for Environmental works. Ratepayers who dont use green bins should have the option of a levy instead of rating on green bins they dont utilise.	Oct 3, 2013 1:28 PM
102	Implement a second cleanup day ie once every 6 months. Seal more roads. Have a team to find the sources of mud during floods and implement measures to reduce soil loss. Develop a weed control tomorrow.	Oct 3, 2013 1:26 PM
103	Advice on how carbon sequestration can be undertaken & achieved would be helpful. It is hoped that in the achievement of the objects of the action plan that Council's staff can be more conciliatory towards ratepayers & residents that was displayed in reconstruction of Lobban Road on approach to the Bight Bridge earlier in the year and removal of old fuel tanks at Central Garage, Isabella Street Wingham in attitude toward the neighbouring business people and pedestrians.	Oct 3, 2013 1:24 PM
104	Theme Four - Development of additional water access sites (ie canoe & kyak launch sites - Browns Creek, Dawson River). Maintenance of existing shoreline recreational points - ie Andrews Reserve beach-sand replenishment. Theme Five - Environmental Vision. Collection of food wastes for composting. Development of a methane gas recovery facility at the Buckets Way landfill site.	Oct 3, 2013 1:21 PM
105	Reserve as much as you can of the early Manning Valley. I have done interviews with Sue ... Cooplacurripa and early days and secondly has bought properties in the territory and overlanded stock to Coopla. My days go back to Jan 1932 as a school kid.	Oct 3, 2013 1:18 PM
106	Scrap it!	Oct 3, 2013 1:11 PM
107	Support levy but will add to the burden on pensioner ratepayers and while as a pensioner I wish to see the action plan implemented I regret any impost on pensioners who are already struggling to keep up with the continual rising cost of living. With this would include many retirees who are seeing their hard earned nest egg whittled away by decreasing interest rates. In these cases it would be good to see some consideration taken into account such as a discount. In the future I would like to suggest more boardwalks at/along riverside and beach parks to protect the environment and encourage tourists to see beautiful areas. This is especially over dunal areas. These would also	Oct 3, 2013 1:07 PM

Q5. Do you have suggestions to improve the draft Environmental Action Plan?

	be wheelchair and disabled accessible. I congratulate Council in what it has done so far in its recovery of Cattai wetlands - a local style 'Kakadu' without the crocodiles!	
108	GTCC has got to learn to live within its means. Financially and persue state & federal funding within a greater diligence and purpose. Taking the 'easy way out' by slugging ratepayers to support Councils inefficiencies has got to stop.	Oct 3, 2013 1:01 PM
109	I suggest a dual walkway - bikeway from Old Bar beach to Wallabi Point and from Old Bar beach to mudbishops point for everyone to enjoy.	Oct 3, 2013 1:00 PM
110	Crowdy beach has 2 whole bins & they were overflowing (Wed 23 Sept). The Council obviously has no ideas how can 2 whole bins be described as adequate? and this is school holiday time. Council - youre not too hot on the waste scene. David Marsh.	Oct 3, 2013 12:58 PM
111	I support the plan as far as it is practical to implement though it is too far reaching to be practical as far as the cost is concerned. Putting a special levy on for these projects is supported as long as the money is used wisely and within budget, but from past experiences this is not utilised. Once a levy is introduced it is never taken off, and will have annual increases implemented, even if the promise is 'not to'. The plan is OK as far as it is proposed, but to make it cost effective it must be handled wisely and not throw money around needlessly. ie having the job done by dedicated workers who are not motivated by money. Coastal erosion must be handled by using the experience from other countries (such as Holland etc) also a complete ban on 4WD access to any beach. This activity helps to erode the embankments and is unnecessary activity and is a danger to children using the beaches. These replies and suggestions may be cast aside but a few of the Environmental Plans will be past fixing.	Oct 3, 2013 12:45 PM
112	"Inland Councils away from the coast tend not to have an Environmental Levy". 1. In the plan there is nothing for the bush. ie Tourists are directed to the Ellenborough Falls but the road is extremely bad and dangerous. 2. Other Councils with Environmental Levy are on the beaches - Taree Council should serve mountains and the bush. 3. Council should make use of more contractors to keep costs competitive. 4. If the levy is implemented it should be kept only for the purposes stated and not put in the General Revenue.	Oct 3, 2013 12:38 PM
113	Greater control or regulations need to be put in place to prevent people from dumping garden plants, cuttings and refuse in tracts of natural bushland - the result of which means these plants naturalise in sensitive areas and consequently crowd out native flora and possibly fauna. Some ways need to be found to educate fishermen and boat owners about disposing of general rubbish - plastic bags and bottles, fishing hooks and tims and whatever other detritus they dispose of in lakes, oceans, rivers and estuaries. Your Environmental Action Plan is commendable and encouraging for the future of our natural environment. I wish you all the best in the implementation of your plan.	Oct 3, 2013 12:33 PM
114	The Council have recently increased the rates - which I supported. There is no need for further rate rises (other than statutory) at this stage. These plans mostly provide income for administration at Council offices and not onsite improvements.	Oct 3, 2013 12:27 PM
115	Don't adopt it. Council have already increased their rates way above the pegged limit. This is just another money grab to shine the seats of	Oct 3, 2013 12:26 PM

Q5. Do you have suggestions to improve the draft Environmental Action Plan?

	bureaucrats within Council's administration building.	
116	Bush regeneration required at Tinonee	Oct 3, 2013 12:24 PM
117	I would like to see the beaches free of 4 wheel drives.	Oct 3, 2013 12:23 PM
118	Put in more work action plan, so that residents may see what you are doing. Also take staff from roadworks (say 2) and employ them permanently in this area, OK? Give these 2 workmen a set period of time, say 6 months, see visually, then evaluate from their progress?? PS Dont worry about what other Councils are doing but evaluate a plan for a set period 3 months or 6 months.	Oct 3, 2013 12:22 PM
119	Get other council	Oct 3, 2013 12:20 PM
120	An Environmental Education Officer should be funded from the levy, with a particular focus on illegal clearing in sensitive locations/public reserves. Council could use some of the levy to boost its role in environmental compliance. At present it does not have the funds/reserves to ensure compliance with environmental conditions.	Oct 3, 2013 12:18 PM
121	Good plan. Was it worth the money? I don't think so.	Oct 3, 2013 7:21 AM
122	MY WISH WOULD BE TO SEE TAREE COUNCIL CONCENTRATE ON THE IMPORTANT ISSUE FACING WE THE RATE PAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY - THE DEPLORABLE CONDITION OF OUR BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE - FAR TOO MUCH TIME IN OUR HALLOWED HALLS OF POWER ARE DEVOTED TO WINDOW DRESSING IN AN ATTEMPT TO JUSTIFY FAR TOO MANY NONPRODUCTIVE JOBS THAT EAT INTO OUR MEAGER SUPPLY OF FUNDS !!!	Oct 2, 2013 6:20 PM
123	Excellent job done thanks.	Oct 2, 2013 9:40 AM
124	I do not support any move by the Council to obtain more funds from ratepayers. The value I get from current rates is very little.	Oct 2, 2013 6:00 AM
125	There is no project or need to address road side litter. As we know this causes many issues. This is all on council land and I believe it is getting worse and no one seems to address this issue. The road sides get mowed and the litter which also mowed into smaller sizes which flow into our water ways. So is council than responsible for increasing the litter issue. Also the issues of illegal dumping which also effect our environment.	Oct 1, 2013 7:08 PM
126	I have lived in other council areas in NSW and have found that the community is happy to pay environmental levies if they can see the positive results of any work funded by the levy. Lake Macquarie is a good example of this.	Sep 30, 2013 3:25 PM
127	The best course of action is to do nothing, all the areas highlighted are quitey rehabilitating with out human intervention by default as the gradual retreat from rural pursuits caused by gross margin loss, and council not touching their land assets unless it is in Taree township. This council can not be trusted with any money at all. This council has proven record of a bad management e.g. the infrustructure levy for roads and bridges of 12% for three years was used to fund fixed costs of a restructured council where the management positions created have increased costs with no tangible outcomes to council responsibilities, there were less roads and bridges rehabilitated after the levy then before the levy. Why has not this levy been	Sep 30, 2013 8:14 AM

Q5. Do you have suggestions to improve the draft Environmental Action Plan?

taken off the rates as it is more than three years? When will a whistle blower report this corrupt conduct to the ICAC?

- | | | |
|-----|--|-----------------------|
| 128 | An environmental levy is only as good as the team that implements the programs. GTCC does not have a good track record for delivering and enforcing environmental policies. Qualified, efficient members are needed to carry out and enforce policies such as tree preservation and wildlife corridors; river protection and good farming practice. There needs to be an open scrutiny of where the levy goes, who implements the programs and a far GREATER SUPPORT FROM COUNCIL to follow through on these programs. Ultimately, the environment will have its say, just look at Old Bar. | Sep 28, 2013 5:45 PM |
| 129 | We pay way to much for our rates, for what we get in return. We already pay a garbage levy. I will not support an environmental levy. Every one should be looking after our environment, as I do, so why should I pay. K Pullen | Sep 28, 2013 11:01 AM |
| 130 | Consider Council needs to implement other improvements to roads and other infrastructure before implementing a levy on ratepayers for environmental purposes.. Scope of suggestions in plan seems extreme with current state of economy and costs to ratepayers Beach erosion is probably most pressing of need as well as dredging river mouth at Old Bar to keep river healthy A levy if any to improve roads and bridges may be more appropriate | Sep 27, 2013 12:05 PM |
| 131 | I would support the action plan if it were not for the allocation of the levy for works that are really about boating recreation. Remove mention of dredging. This should be funded from other sources. | Sep 26, 2013 8:12 PM |
| 132 | Keep the communication going. Promote the successes of the levy, and hopefully more people will become engaged. | Sep 26, 2013 1:19 PM |
| 133 | GTCC hasn't exactly got a clean track record for using money which was allocated for a specific purpose. All to often we hear of funds or grants being spent on other than its intended purpose. All to often we know about those who fall behind in paying their rates because they cant afford them, only to be sluggish with excessive interest or late dishonour fines.. Who is forced to pay these levies? Pensioners? Is this to be tacked onto our usual rates? There is far too many filthy rich people in this world, when others are starving and struggling to pay their power bills.. Your not justified in taking extra money from people who can least afford it, we get nothing for our rate money now.. Take your levies from the top end of town... | Sep 26, 2013 1:13 PM |
| 134 | Climate change adaptation proposals should be deferred until accurate scientific data is available, unlike the propaganda of the previous federal government | Sep 26, 2013 11:57 AM |
| 135 | stop wasting ratepayers hard earned dollars on council staff toys. | Sep 26, 2013 11:47 AM |
| 136 | Instead of using ratepayers money on this, fix the roads. Remember the three Rs,Rates, Roads & Rubbish first, then start on other things. | Sep 26, 2013 11:07 AM |
| 137 | stop and look at where our council is heading. Explain to the people of the area what the enviromental plan has to do with fixing our roads and inferstructure. If you say it will release funds enough times then you will start to belive it. Tell the people the truth about how much money is owed on loans from our council chambers building to our main street refurbishment. The story of the main street coming in on budget was bull and you know it, duck shoving cost to other areas to make it look good does not wash. Telling | Sep 26, 2013 5:44 AM |

Q5. Do you have suggestions to improve the draft Environmental Action Plan?

people that it will bring money into the area and create jobs is good but the people you will affect already work and pay there bills and with extra cost for power etc don't you think we are already tapped out, its not a bottomless pit as you know. Do the things that are needed now first then come back to the people of the area and ask for more.

138	Your Plan is not holistic, it's chaotic and disconnected	Sep 25, 2013 8:38 PM
139	From reading the plan it looks like a thorough research process was involved in establishing this plan. I do believe that there are benefits in having "Environmental or Sustainability Education" as a specific deliverable and priority. Sustainability education - for adults (not school kids) - on a range of different issues is important to ensure that the community can fully participate in Council/community sustainability initiatives and has long term benefits encouraging positive behaviour change.	Sep 25, 2013 8:17 PM
140	More action and authority should be of utmost importance by Environment Dept. With all the lists of approx. 10 senior council staff over the past 18 months nothing has been done to Wards Creek since 1995. These senior staff all realise the absolute neglect by the 'Developer Friendly GTCC" since 2004 .It appears that executive staff completely ignores senior staff and expect Government funding by State and Federal grants to be the only future for sustainable environment for the Manning Valley. \$Dollar for \$Dollar grants by DPI (Fisheries) have been available since 2010 to my knowledge. The General Manager, Mayor and Councillors and including Executive Staff should take a 2 hour visit to see the degradation of Wards (Vinegar) Creek since 1995. Earle Dagger --- Harrington	Sep 25, 2013 1:02 PM
141	All money collected through the levy should be accountable for. A large percentage of the levy should be restricted to being able to be used only if matching funding is collected to ensure that the community gets a 'greater bang for the buck'.	Sep 25, 2013 11:52 AM
142	Not at this stage. But will continue to be interested	Sep 25, 2013 10:25 AM
143	Concentrate more on preserving existing forests, especially in the upper catchment. Old rainforests are like huge sponges that capture water and release it slowly whereas young forests and trees use water and are a fire hazard. An old forest collects water from the mist or moist night air and drops it regularly throughout the night like rain. It is most distressing to see these hugely important features of our environment destroyed.	Sep 25, 2013 10:22 AM
144	I do think our environment is very important, but rate increases are not the way to do it. Our rates are almost unaffordable now. Try getting rid of some of the Council staff---might help.	Sep 25, 2013 10:18 AM
145	This is just another way to get a rate increase. No !	Sep 25, 2013 10:15 AM
146	No rate increases of any sort	Sep 25, 2013 10:13 AM
147	We view the suggestion of an new levy with deep suspicion and believe that Council should be caring for the environment with the current rate payments. Perhaps we could suggest less office staff as that would surely free up more money for services to rate payers. Goodness knows, we get very little for our rate dollar.	Sep 25, 2013 10:11 AM
148	Reimplement tree preservation orders	Sep 25, 2013 10:07 AM

Q5. Do you have suggestions to improve the draft Environmental Action Plan?

149	Just NO	Sep 25, 2013 10:07 AM
150	No more sneaky rate increases please.	Sep 25, 2013 10:06 AM
151	That the money allocated to this plan is spent on the Environment Action Plan and for no other purposes. That when money is spent the ratepayers are notified of what has been spent and where the funds have gone. Under no circumstances that funds for this plan are spent on anything else such as street beautifications.	Sep 25, 2013 8:39 AM
152	I don't think that the levy should be more than 2% of the rates	Sep 24, 2013 7:12 PM
153	We pay quite enough now and cannot afford any more.	Sep 24, 2013 6:20 PM
154	We find paying our rates very difficult now--especially as we have few services-- an extra levy would be impossible.	Sep 24, 2013 4:58 PM
155	Adopt the Great Lakes Council's protection of 1% for dredging works	Sep 24, 2013 4:04 PM
156	It seems to me that if Council abolished many of the jobs which are salaried [ie men in suits] and concentrated more on services for the rate payers, there would be no need to even consider extra levies for ANYTHING !!!	Sep 24, 2013 3:19 PM
157	It would be wonderful if you could actually talk of a rate decrease !!! This is only an underhand way to get a rate increase.	Sep 24, 2013 3:11 PM
158	I am totally against paying more for ANY purpose. Our rates are already disproportionately high with very few services. Could this be mismanagement ?	Sep 24, 2013 3:09 PM
159	I am highly suspicious of any " grab " for more money from GTCC. My suggestion would be to use our rates which are out of all proportion with our services.	Sep 24, 2013 3:07 PM
160	Don't bother investigating CSG, just say NO! Make the GTCC area a NO CSG Area. Better recycling- a lot of recyclables are going to waste as our area has not got the facility. & did I mention no CSG? yes, I thought I did. Also it would be nice if our council actually made the people of the area aware of anything that may/might be happening in the area so there isn't another Transgrid fiasco. Just a thought, it would have had a huge impact on the GTCC environment & they knew about it but didn't let us know.	Sep 24, 2013 2:17 PM
161	Council would have money to spend on such plans if many of the executive jobs in council were abolished !	Sep 24, 2013 1:21 PM
162	I am concerned that the levy will increase and increase and increase...our rates are already almost unaffordable.	Sep 24, 2013 1:19 PM
163	I am old enough and cynical enough recognise a sneaky rate increase when i see one !	Sep 24, 2013 1:17 PM
164	As far as I can see this is simply a rate increase by stealth---something this council is expert at . Remember the green bins ? I strongly disapprove of this plan.	Sep 24, 2013 1:12 PM
165	Council rates are already high enough as it is.Taree is not an affluent society,so these constant ways of sneakily trying to increase rates is abhorant. Why doesn't council get rid of a heap of dead wood in Head Office	Sep 24, 2013 7:45 AM

Q5. Do you have suggestions to improve the draft Environmental Action Plan?

	then there would be no need for constant 10% rate increases and "environmental levies" to boost council coffers.	
166	We don't need it as it is not a Levy, it is another Tax. Very quietly being put in and slyly by the Council. Always trying to squeeze out a dollar. This is Taree with a dreadful unemployment rate, Pensioners with the backside out of their pants being asked to pay more out of their measley pension which they cannot hardly afford to feed themselves.	Sep 24, 2013 6:28 AM
167	Climate change is not real. The world is only going through a cycle. Believe me many scientists in the world don't believe in Climate Change it is a CON for more money, just like Greater Taree City Council are trying to CON Rate Payers.	Sep 23, 2013 8:11 PM
168	JUST FIX THE ROADS , THEN YOU CAN LOOK AT THE ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLAN. FOR WITHOUT A GOOD ROAD SYSTEM WE ARE GOING NO WHERE FAST.	Sep 23, 2013 8:09 PM
169	more info required and inclusion of prevention of dunes and foreshore erosion at beaches , e.g old bar, wallibi	Sep 23, 2013 6:38 PM
170	If I had known of this situation in our shire I may not have bought and moved here. Significant distress has been caused to me by council utilising Coopernook Action Group to carry out maintenance ON the environment. They have not been held accountable, they have not been told to respect state environmental laws including lighting of fires and destruction of mangroves and riparian and habitat areas in Coopernook. During the last year while council has been trying to cut environmental costs in Coopernook by employing the local drunks to go hell for leather with every loud machine imaginable (see my many emails) bully tactics such as car-burnouts in front of my house because I am opposed to the destruction of native mangroves and other vegetation and habitat where I live. If I were to call council in other shires such as Wyong reporting the cutting down of native trees on public land even on a Sunday, which is when the CAG are most active, that council would send an officer and action was always taken. if nothing else a sign saying "Removal of Trees and any native vegetation - Fine \$xxxx". In this shire the tree haters go ballistic in this area on Sundays and all I can do is listen to the chainsaws and the birds fighting over any remaining habitat. To improve the plan, I would have it implemented now. It is like the Carbon Tax, no penny pinching beer swilling redneck is going to vote for it, but the science is in - we need it. I request that the environment levy be implemented to bring us into the 21st century and so residents who do care for and have been educated in the field of the environment are the ones who get backed up by council, not just the ones with the biggest lawnmowers, poison and chainsaws and connections with council.	Sep 23, 2013 6:15 PM
171	How much more money do you want out of Pensioners???? Is the rates we pay not enough??? It is not an Environmental Levy, it is another tax rort.	Sep 23, 2013 5:54 PM
172	Yes, get rid of it, we have enough problems paying rates, electricity and water as it is. Our roads are a disgrace sort them out first.	Sep 23, 2013 5:45 PM
173	Get back to roads and rubbish and sack a few of the pigs at the trough!	Sep 23, 2013 5:16 PM
174	Stop working from your heads - You are the Keepers of this land, if you were to think of this as your mother what would you do differently?	Sep 23, 2013 4:22 PM
175	don't limit your investigations into the effects of CSG ONLY on agricultural	Sep 23, 2013 11:55 AM

Q5. Do you have suggestions to improve the draft Environmental Action Plan?

land!!! I have a rainforest block and the impacts of CSG on my land are JUST AS IMPORTANT as agricultural land

176	Saltwater Lagoon and Khapinghat Creek should be acknowledged as a important waterway in the GTCC to protect. It is high in biodiversity, does not have urban or rural runoff problems and is classed as one of the most pristine and intact waterways on the Manning Shelf *. *Breen, D.A. Avery, R.P. and Otway N.M. 2004. Broad-scale biodiversity assessment of the Manning Shelf Marine Bioregion. NSW Marine Parks Authority. Saltwater Lagoon is also a major tourism draw card with thousands families accessing it over summer. To ensure council staff can meet timeframes for funding applications. Ideas for projects should be produced and shelved until needed.	Sep 23, 2013 8:48 AM
177	I firmly believe in general that Governments and organisations feel that is easy to tax/levy everyone across the board. Of course this means an uncomplicated and direct method of raising finances. When we look at a 'user pays' method, the system becomes more costly and cumbersome. However the ratepayers like ourselves who do not use the river for recreation or do not have livestock up river or have been very aware of our carbon footprint for decades, feel a little ripped off. It is easy for the Council to put a levy on all landowners (no matter how many people live at that address) instead of looking at a different system of collecting the funds that it feels it needs. Maybe a large increase in fines for things such as illegal dumping or illegal land clearing may raise more of the costs for the cleanup after the environmental vandals.	Sep 23, 2013 7:12 AM
178	Greater engagement with rate payers by better clarity of costs, alternative funding sources and impact to local small business (especially agricultural business).	Sep 22, 2013 8:18 PM
179	What about Old Bar beach? I didn't read anything about addressing the Coastal erosion at this beach?. We've been living here for a year now & It appears that Old Bar beach is largely ignored by the council. Except of course the silly tiny rocks That are continually being dumped into potholes to supposedly fix them, but in the long run is making them worse.	Sep 20, 2013 7:00 PM
180	Prioritising Actions to address Environmental Issues.Does Council have a legal responsibility in this area? consideration of housing development should be taken when the area being developed is in an area that due to human occupation would considerably increase erosion such as in the Old Bar.	Sep 20, 2013 9:17 AM
181	I do not see one reference in the plan to the predation by cats, both feral and domestic, on native wildlife, especially in near urban environments. Education of the public and trapping by council staff should both be options for lessening the serious damage done to small bird and mammal populations in our area. The present council strategies for dealing with roaming domestic cats are laughable.	Sep 19, 2013 4:44 PM
182	2.5% levy. Oppose Coal Seam Gas coal mining.	Sep 19, 2013 3:04 PM
183	Once I have reviewed the EAP I will supply comments. Mick Leon	Sep 19, 2013 2:00 PM
184	Clause 3. Paragraph 3. Are we losing native vegetation? When we compare air photos from the 1950's to now there is apparently quite a large increase in native vegetation. Clause 4. Paragraph 2. Some of the concerned community are focused on a single issue such as the coal seam	Sep 19, 2013 1:45 PM

Q5. Do you have suggestions to improve the draft Environmental Action Plan?

gas issue, which is only concept at this stage and may affect a very tiny percentage of our area. Clause 5. Paragraph 7. I fully support an environmental levy of 5%. It will need to be correctly controlled, possibly by Council's existing environmental engineer with some involvement of affected stakeholders. It should be used to do things, not to waste on consultants reports, not required extra staff. Clause 7a Coal Seam Gas - Leave it be. Council has adopted a statement, end of story. Climate change - There has been a 0.12 degrees increase in the last fifteen years, forget it. Concentrate on reducing pollution. Clause 7b theme 2(b) - Livestock Health and Pest Authority are involved in pest control. Clause 7b theme 3(c) - Need to revisit Council's Risk Plan (2011) in light of current scientific info. Appendix A 10. 3C - delete reference to climate change. Appendix A 13. 3C - delete reference to climate change. Appendix B - Note that the responses relating to Coal Seam Gas and protection of agricultural land are from a highly activated group. Similar to the numbers supporting Brown's Creek. Appendix E Fully support the 5% levy.

- | | | |
|-----|---|-----------------------|
| 185 | Water management emphasis is good. Road run off is a large contributor to estuarine and coastal sedimentation and a council responsibility. As such I wonder if dredging and other (unrelated) 'expansionary' and improvement goals like boat ramps and facilities should be a priority for funds earmarked for environment. It would seem to me that social and economic outcomes have other income streams. Indeed the Browns creek degraded environs are largely related (in many ways) to Councils Sewage facility and proper management should include downstream viability of the watercourse. If an environmental levy is used to reduce the financial inputs from council or special interest groups (I would include road runoff) that are normally their responsibility, It will not get much support. Moneys for environmental purposes need to be used for bigger longer term outcomes that benefit the environment rather than 'interest groups no matter how worthy. I would be very wary of the pressure to mispend such a levy. Waste management is another case in point. We pay to a waste fund at council level and at state level. Those costs should be fully funded through the existing scheme. But there are references to bleeding the e-levy to that area. What happens is the "Environment levy will be larger than needed, do less with the reduced budget and annoy the contributors. Council may find Largesse in their short term interest but will quickly be shown up as misdirected self interested and even corrupt. Strong words? Only we all know the temptations in political bureaucracies. | Sep 19, 2013 1:30 PM |
| 186 | The upgrading of council wharfs to pontoons is wonderful however as there is no easy access from the water onto the pontoon, riverbanks are still being damaged as people are causing damage to the banks as they are trying to get out of the water. With so much watersport activity in our area having some kind of built in steps/ladder to the pontoon would stop this damage (old style wharves had ladders attached to them. thanks | Sep 19, 2013 12:33 PM |
| 187 | Introduction of tree preservation order, I have seen too many cases of non abayonce to the Native Vegetation Act 2003 & as a result have witnessed silting up of creeks, estuaries etc. It becomes all too difficult for regulatory authorities to prosecute/fine these property owners. Perhaps the introduction of the tree preservation order for properties that have water bodies on them or within a setback my help alleviate this problem. | Sep 19, 2013 12:23 PM |
| 188 | A tree protection order urgently needs to be put in place to protect wildlife habitat, and provide shade and visual enhancement, especially in built-up areas. The Council's attitude that residents will act in their own best interests | Sep 19, 2013 10:57 AM |

Q5. Do you have suggestions to improve the draft Environmental Action Plan?

to preserve the benefits delivered by mature native trees is not good enough. Too many significant trees have been lost from especially, but not exclusively, the council's urban areas in recent years.

189	Possibility of community consultation as to what projects are implemented.	Sep 19, 2013 10:50 AM
190	I strongly support the plan and the weighting given to CSG monitoring. I would also like to see locally sourced employment for as many sections as possible so that the levy funds will be circulated throughout the community that generates it. I would also like to see as much of the fund as possible put into action rather than paper and reports and excessive statistics. AND PLEASE PLEASE BE VIGILANT regarding CSG activities and proposals. Preventive action is always preferable to remedial action after the event.	Sep 19, 2013 6:03 AM
191	Yes we need an environmental levy in this valley. However I do not agree with the plan in its present form. Too much emphasis on funding infrastructure is included which diverts funding away from the real issues that are well documented in the first three themes. Concrete paths and Stock watering are only environmental considerations from the design perspective, the physical infrastructure should not be funded from an environmental levy. The funding of paths, dredging, and other tourist attractions or business facilitating infrastructure such as Pontoons, Toilet facilities, Fish cleaning stations and Boat ramp improvements should come from the appropriate budgets such as the Engineering budget or other budgets that previously provided for these infrastructures. These infrastructures are only related to water, soil and air quality in as much as they should be so designed as to have a neutral or positive impact on the environment. If these public facilities are constructed correctly in the first place they would have little impact on the environment and the levy would not be needed. It should be an aim to eventually abolish the environmental levy because we have structured our planning so well that it has a neutral impact. It would be the ultimate statement of defeat to accept any other outcome. It would mean that we will always need an environmental levy because we concede that urban planning will always have a detrimental effect on our environment. Clearly this is not an acceptable because we need a levy. Neither is this sustainable situation. If it was acceptable to have a detrimental effect we would not need a levy. You may say that development will always have an impact. Of course but if we are aiming to make those impacts temporary so that the environment can readjust within acceptable limits a levy would be unnecessary. An environmental levy needs to be directly focused on remediation and restoration not mitigation. An environmental levy should not be a back door general revenue option. Mitigation of environmental impacts needs to be a normal part of quality of design and urban planning within all of Councils decisions so that remediation and correction is unnecessary. Mitigation of environmental impacts needs to be built in to Councils developmental planning and decision making processes so that there is no requirement to fix a problem caused by urban development. For example, rarely is any development ever required to keep or maintain or replace any of the original vegetation or habitat existing on a site. Development sites are routinely cleared to bare ground without any consideration to the past, present or future ecology of the site or surrounding areas with the result that no intact biodiversity survives urbanisation. Consequently we then need an environmental levy to fix the problem. Furthermore we have no Tree preservation order in this valley so consequently there is no incentive for people to value trees, habitat or their value to a healthy environment. These types of initiatives also need to be part of this valleys environmental policy	Sep 18, 2013 7:48 PM

Q5. Do you have suggestions to improve the draft Environmental Action Plan?

otherwise a levy will merely serve as an ongoing bandaid not a solution to our environmental problems and we will continue to have the same problems regardless of how much money we spend. I will not support and will actively work against a levy that includes spending on normal tourist or business infrastructure or engineering solutions such as channel dredging or sand re-plantishment for protection of land subject to the effects of climate change or sea level rise. Rarely is it the case that an environmental problem caused by engineering interfering with the natural processes is appropriately corrected by another engineering solution. Such solutions actively work against the normal environmental processes (whatever the outcomes of those processes may be) they also have the potential to cause more environmental disruption (turbidity etc) and they have the potential be a sink for wasting endless amounts of money. Thankyou. David Pritchard, davidpritchard2006@yahoo.com.au

192	I would like to see how the Plan will be co-ordinated or used to complement other Council activities. For instance, some overlap with the Strategic Heritage Advisory Committee would be relevant. Their emphasis is on conserving the built and natural environment, and the work of both the EAP and SHAC could in some cases support each other. Also, how is GTCC going to inform other departments about the EAP? The EAP needs to be known by many workers at GTCC so that there is not unsympathetic work practices which conflict with the Action Plans for the environment. The EAP should have an umbrella effect to other council functions. If it is isolated and treated unsympathetically by some departments within GTCC it will frustrate the outcomes of the plan.	Sep 18, 2013 3:09 PM
193	Conveyed to Andrew Paget direct	Sep 18, 2013 10:28 AM
194	perhaps it would be useful to include weeds and weed control in this strategy as a total environmental issue rather than keeping the two as separate topics. The two are inextricably meshed and should be treated as such	Sep 18, 2013 7:40 AM
195	recycle better, encourage businesses to recycle through discounting of rates, form local community groups to assist in community gardens, sediment trap clean out, educate the public about good recycling.	Sep 17, 2013 12:47 PM
196	Under theme 2 and as part of animal pest control works, the Council needs to consider improving community education and consequences of protected native wildlife being routinely fed, as part of this project activity. If Council wish to increase volunteers then the plan should identify how it intends to attract, recruit and retain volunteers for the long term ... this requires significant investment.	Sep 16, 2013 7:15 PM
197	How about putting more funding towards helping the native koala population which we are lucky to live among.	Sep 16, 2013 3:10 PM
198	before you do anything that is likely to cost MORE taxpayer dollars try monitoring all expenditure against value of works because so much is wasted. Roads repairs especially.	Sep 16, 2013 2:25 PM
199	Spend a greater percentage of funds on initiatives to assist koalas in the area.	Sep 15, 2013 8:16 PM
200	Unable to view the plan online.....reoccurring error message! Cannot view so cannot comment at this stage	Sep 15, 2013 9:49 AM
201	To implement the highest levy so that those who do not volunteer, contribute	Sep 13, 2013 6:27 PM

Q5. Do you have suggestions to improve the draft Environmental Action Plan?

or abuse the environment we live in, may contribute in kind. Maybe then GTCC can become more environmentally friendly to catch up with other thriving communities.

202	Employ extra environmental staff who are skilled in the regeneration of natural areas, weed control and plant identification to run educational programs and work shops to the wider community, land care volunteers and all the schools in the area. (Great Lakes Council) To link with unemployment agencies to carry out environmental works on council land eg Wingham reserve for "get skilled programs" Co ordinated and supervised by by an experienced natural regenerator. (Byron Bay Council) Employ effective experienced environment staff who haven proven abilities in environmental issues and have the character and strength to endorse Environmental protection. e.g. A tree Preservation Order etc. (Ku Ring Gai Council Sydney) Council should insist in new subdivisions which are cleared of native vegetation that plants species endemic to that site are put back vis street tree plantings, council has a nursery and could employ a casual experienced nursery person to oversee this type of project.(Blue mountains Council) In new subdivisions more native vegetation areas to be left a corridors and parks - ethical development If The GTCC allows the destruction of its natural environment it has nothing only the bogans it already has who generally dont care about the environment and this just attracts more bogans and less of the educated people with money ideas and talent..	Sep 13, 2013 5:24 PM
203	Much much stronger emphasis on biodiversity. In 200+ years of European Settlement we have undeniably selfishly favoured development over biodiversity with extinctions seen accepted as inevitable. Many species are on the brink because of this long term short term thinking and history of self interest. Recognition that preservation of the Manning Valleys unique forest, river and landscape attributes are gradually being eroded and lost forever. In my life time Black Head Rd is just one example. It used to be a tunnel of trees all the way in. Today its just like anywhere else you go, cleared right up to the road. The main thing is to begin the fight back via a good environmental plan. We have largely destroyed the Manning Valley's best attributes but many could largely be retrieved and restored with a good plan of management. Any plan of management must focus on achieving widespread community support for boots on ground projects. Council cannot hope to achieve the massive restoration needed without wide and long lasting community involvement. An environmental levy at the high end is inevitable, to take shortcuts in order to serve/protect vested interests must not be on the table. Many of todays farmers/landowners do respect their land and many are trying to redress past abuse although respect for biodiversity is perhaps still lagging. Education of farmers and landowners as to their overall biodiversity and land care obligations and responsibilities must be a critical ingredient of any environment management plan..	Sep 13, 2013 4:27 PM
204	It is most disappointing to have to complete this survey again, as last time I spent A LOT of time making suggestions here. Given my time constraints, suffice to say this time that I strongly support a significant environmental levy to enable Council to undertake as many as possible of the identified tasks. It is time GTCC gave a higher priority to environmental initiatives.	Sep 13, 2013 2:27 PM
205	I will be providing my comments through the Redhead Residents Group to the EAP.	Aug 28, 2013 8:53 PM
206	Those who prepared the draft EAP do not understand our predicament. Once they do understand then they will be able to prepare one that	Aug 27, 2013 7:21 AM

Q5. Do you have suggestions to improve the draft Environmental Action Plan?

addresses this without input from me. At this stage my suggestion is look at the future we are facing and then start a new EAP from scratch.

207	1. KISS - KEEP IT SIMPLE STUPID 2. stop wasting our rates on stupid money gobbling action plans... just do the bloody stuff... 3. stop fluffing around having community meetings to piss in our pockets and make us feel that you care.... you don't, you are there for yourself glorification....and jobs for the boys!!! WE WANT OUR ROADS FIXED, AND WHEN DOING SO MAKE IT SAFE FOR OTHERS, I.E. CYCLISTS AND PEDESTRIANS!!! PRETTY SIMPLE...	Aug 26, 2013 9:00 AM
208	Reduced focus on dredging. I don't believe the benefits of dredging have been clearly demonstrated nor the potential negative impacts been fully considered or assessed. I would prefer to see a greater focus on biodiversity or sustainability programs including stabilising riverbanks and foreshores to reduce erosion and sedimentation. Dredging to improve flushing without addressing what is happening in the catchment is naive and does not consider the flow on effects of erosion on beaches and in the estuary due to changes in energy and sand transport.	Aug 22, 2013 12:34 PM
209	exclude pensioners from the levy	Aug 22, 2013 4:03 AM