

## Media Alert

From: Tweed Water Alliance  
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The Tweed Water Alliance, backed by state members for Lismore and Ballina and the Mayors of Tweed and Ballina Shires call on the Minister for Water, Melinda Pavey to stop water mining for the bottled water industry now, particularly during drought.

Spokesperson Pat Miller said “The Minister has extensive powers over water extraction. She can order the temporary cessation of water extraction and she needs to do this immediately to the bottled water industry in our region. We are in the worst drought on record and we are on fire, our water resources are being drawn down at rapid rates, firefighters are struggling to find standing water to protect our communities, yet the water extractors are still pumping water out of the ground and profiting from sending our water out of our region.”

“We need to take a precautionary approach right now. We are experiencing unprecedented fires and drought. The NSW Office of Water confirms our surface and groundwater systems in the Northern Rivers are inextricably linked.”

“People are resorting to their long unused bores to keep their stock and crops alive, only to find them dry. Our water courses are drying up and there is so little standing water the fire trucks have to use whatever they can find. Which isn't much.”

At a meeting of representatives from across the Northern Rivers on Friday November 15, convened by the Tweed Water Alliance, a pact was made between the attendees to work through ways of ensuring the water mining industry was wound back to ensure preservation of groundwater stocks.

“In our view, this means stopping the water mining industry completely.” Mr Miller said.

“The NSW Office of the Chief Scientist's second and final report on the sustainability of water extraction for bottling is on the minister's desk. We look forward to its release.”

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