



**Janet Cavanaugh**  
**Greens Candidate for Clarence**

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## **Greens Candidate demands clean up of Evans Head effluent**

Greens senator-elect, Lee Rhiannon, today joined with Greens candidate for Clarence, Janet Cavanaugh, to outline alternatives to the proposed ebb-tide discharge in the Evans River for disposing the effluent from the Evans Head sewerage treatment works.

Ms Rhiannon said: "The treatment of sewerage at Evans Head has been a long-running saga that I followed while in the NSW Parliament.

"However I was surprised to learn that Council has still not put in place any measures to dispose of the effluent from the sewerage treatment plant (STP) which was commissioned in 2007.

"Options put forward by the community included a dual reticulation system or an artificial wetland adjacent to the STP. Artificial wetlands which filter and naturalise the treated effluent have been proven to work in a number of inland towns, including Casino, and so it is surprising that this option has not been put in place."

Ms Cavanaugh said: "Instead of directing Council to implement this simple solution, the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW) has been letting Council waste time by investigating every option other than the artificial wetland.

"We've had the proposal for an ocean outfall, and the proposals to irrigate the aerodrome, school and golf course, all of which were found to be unfeasible. They are now considering an ebb-tide release into the river.

"The community however has staged an 'orange' experiment to demonstrate that this would pollute the main beach at Evans Head, with 76% of the oranges turning up within 200 metres of the surf sheds. And on the incoming tide the oranges washed back into the river.

"Richmond Valley Council and DECCW are not listening to the community. The artificial wetland is a pragmatic and proven solution to the excess effluent problem. Instead it appears that Council wants to despoil the Evans River which is already burdened by the effects of flood mitigation and overflow from the Richmond River during flood time. There is nothing sustainable about the council solution."

**ENDS**

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**media release**