

Ban plan is a bottler

By council writer
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TWO rural councils are considering joining Bundanoon in banning bottled water.

They are yet to convince shopkeepers, but Cobar and Coolamon councils in western NSW say the idea is inspiring.

"I think it's a great idea," Cobar Mayor Lilliane Brady said. "We've been lucky to have rain here this year and we all have rainwater tanks.

"I can't honestly see why

people buy bottled water. I think it's a waste of money and it's bad for the environment.

Coolamon Shire general manager Terry Kiss said he is also in favour of the idea.

"I support them. I reckon it's a great idea," he said. "I'm happy to raise the issue at our next council meeting and see what the response is."

Most councils contacted were not considering a ban.

Wyong mayor Bob Graham — an advocate of tap water — said his council would consid-

er an educational approach.

"We recommend people drink our tap water, but I don't believe in banning bottled water," he said.

"It's like cigarettes: we'd love to ban them, but you can't — so, you talk to people through an education campaign."

Gosford mayor Chris Holstein labelled the bans "tokenism" and "not realistic".

"Why don't they pick on Pepsi?" he said. "It all sounds warm and fuzzy but, in reality, how the hell do we control

these things? It all comes back to the consumer."

Nambucca mayor Rhonda Hoban said she would not seek to ban bottled water across NSW because not all areas had good-quality tap water.

Manly council banned bottled water in 2007 and City of Sydney followed last year.

Other councils with a no-bottles policy include Ballina, Ashfield, Leichhardt, Sutherland and Woollahra, while Blacktown and Waverley provide reusable drink bottles.