

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** DPIE W Regional Water Strategies Mailbox; DPIE Water Enquiries Mailbox  
**Cc:** office@pavey.minister.nsw.gov.au  
**Subject:** The proposed Dunoon Dam

**From:** [REDACTED]

To whom it may concern,

We are long-time Locals, representing 3 generations in the area and 3 generations in Terania Creek residing on Kookaburra Community and we are concerned that the Dunoon Dam water management strategy for this area is shortsited not only for local residents but also considering the challenges that our country is facing to manage scarce supplies such as water.

While climate change and water shortage is understandably an important resource for the future, we do not believe the Dam proposal is the way to safe-guard water.

I DO NOT support the proposed The Channon-Dunoon Dam because:

- The dam represents outdated water management strategies that does not respond to the changing community needs and environmental responsibility required for the 21st century.
- Alternative solutions have not been assessed comprehensively. (solutions include de-salination, water tanks, water recycling, etc. should be comprehensively assessed before the dam is constructed.
- In a world where individuals as well as governments need to take responsibility and manage resources effectively, this response continues to encourage water wastage, rather than conservation and care of such a precious resource. Incentives for individuals and governments to do things differently are highly important as we must make many changes to safe guard the future.

- Destruction of important Indigenous cultural heritage, including burial sites, the approach represents yet again, a disregard for our first Nations people of whom we have a responsibility to support safe-guarding of their culture.

- Destruction of The Channon Gorge and its endangered ecological community of lowland rainforest (including regionally rare warm temperate rainforest on sandstone), and its threatened flora and fauna species.

Rous is planning to offset the loss of rainforest on sandstone with regeneration of degraded land in the buffer zone. Offsetting is problematic because the type of vegetation offered as recompense is never equivalent. This example is worse than most. ([REDACTED]) Councils are required under State planning regulations to: "Focus development to areas of least biodiversity sensitivity in the region and implement the 'avoid, minimise, offset' hierarchy to biodiversity, including areas of high environmental value." NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment 2019,

Rous is required to avoid this destruction because there are economically viable and more effective solutions.

- The Dam will in fact increase consumer costs four-fold and expected revenue is based on population/water use estimates that are flawed:  
The small population increase predicted for the four Rous-supplied councils of 12,720 (5) between 2020- 2060 does not justify such a large and destructive dam. The dam risks being an expensive white dinosaur, diverting expenditure away from more sustainable, flexible, and effective solutions.
- Catastrophic flooding downstream in worst floods, particularly for the first 3 kilometres below.

I SUPPORT these alternatives:

I believe we need to examine all the smart water options and proven alternatives available, and act.

The tide is turning on renewable and sustainable power. It is time for the tide to turn on how we meet our water needs too. This is 21st century thinking.

- An investment in system-wide water efficiency and strong demand management. Analysed, costed and deployed, creating jobs. (I understand Rous has not costed this in creating their future water plan) E
- Water re-use in various ways, including Purified Recycled Potable water. A wealth of global research and experience already exists regarding potable reuse of water as set out in Water Research Australia's report
- Water harvesting (urban runoff; rain tanks): Water tanks on all new (and existing) developments.

This builds community resilience - much needed, as the recent extreme bushfire season has shown. The Australian government advises that: "Depending on tank size and climate, mains water use can be reduced by up to 100%. This in turn can help: reduce the need for new dams or desalination plants; protect remaining environmental flows in rivers; reduce infrastructure operating costs."

Rainwater harvesting also decreases stormwater runoff, thereby helping to reduce local flooding and scouring of creeks. Rainwater harvesting also decreases stormwater runoff, thereby helping to reduce local flooding and scouring of creeks.

Thanks so much for your consideration,

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