

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: SUBMISSION - FNC Water Strategy

Hi,

My name is [REDACTED] and I have spent the better part of my 29 years on earth living in the Northern Rivers. Much of that time has involved outdoor activities in the region. I may be biased, but I believe it to be one of the most beautiful and unique natural areas in the world.

As you may know, the Northern Rivers is in fact a severely altered landscape. Since European arrival it has been dramatically altered. First with the cedar-getters who decimated the Big Scrub rainforest at breakneck speed, and since with the introduction of cattle grazing and sugarcane farming on a massive scale.

Now don't get me wrong, I believe these aspects of the area are an important part of the history of this area. But a big part of the reason why I believe they are important is that they hold the potential to be a huge lesson that could influence the future of the local ecosystems and health of the natural world. We who live here have learnt over generations that European ways of expansion are sometimes at odds with caring for our natural resources like water, food and the air we breathe.

I fear the Dunoon Dam proposal ignores our history and the potential lessons we could learn. I understand our increasing needs for water supply, due to a pretty rapid expansion of population in the area. I see it every day in the amount of cars on the road and the numbers of people in the surf. I think we have an opportunity to find an alternative approach to the issue - using new technologies and improving water usage in the region.

I have spent many days and weeks walking through different areas of the Big Scrub. I can tell you it is a truly breathtaking experience. There are trees so big you'd need ten people holding hands to line their circumference; the sounds of the unique Wompoo Fruit Dove always puts a smile on my face every time I return to these areas, as I look up and try to catch a glimpse of their vibrant purple and yellow plumage.

The proposed dam threatens a percentage of what little Big Scrub we have left. Once it is gone, it will not return. I have read enough books, spoken to enough scientists, and spent enough time observing those areas to know they will never come back.

For me, this is a case of where we place our value. Do we value the unique and rare remnant landscapes that give us a window into the ancient past of this Country? Or do we opt for convenience to satiate the demand?

I plead with you to consider this proposal and whether it would be wise to continue with it. I would be more than happy to take anyone who reads this on a bushwalk through the area - to give you an opportunity to see these lands for yourself. As an Outdoor Educator, I believe that once

people have the chance to see what's at stake, they are gifted the opportunity to be open to changing their mind.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. I hope you consider my thoughts carefully.

Cheers,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I acknowledge the original custodians of Bundjalung country upon which I am fortunate enough to live, love and learn. I am grateful to elders of the past and those who continue to care for country for our shared future.