

From: [REDACTED]
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Subject: SUBMISSION - FNC Water Strategy

To whom it may concern

I am a resident of Dunoon, NSW, 2480. I have lived in the village of Dunoon for 16 and a half years with my husband and two sons, 18 and 9. For the past 8 years we have owned a business in North Lismore, prior to that we both worked in education.

Thank you for allowing us to put a submission in as part of developing the Far North Coast Water Strategy. It would be of great concern if this Strategy for future water security in this region relies on Rous County Council's Future Water 2060 project, as that plan hinges on the contentious Dunoon Dam. I believe the dam should be ranked LEAST important as a solution option because it fails to provide security in drought & fails on environmental and Indigenous heritage grounds.

I believe the Dunoon dam should no longer be an option in any future water strategy. To be extending a dam seems ludicrous in our continually warming planet. We are having longer and dryer periods than ever before in this region. To build a mega dam that is rainfall dependent seems superfluous in the driest inhabited continent of the world.

There are other reasons I believe the Dunoon Dam should not proceed. These are as follows:

The local Indigenous Wujabul people as stakeholders are clearly of the opinion that the site should remain undisturbed and that no level of disturbance is considered acceptable to them.

There are 62 ha of Lowland Rainforest Endangered Ecological Community (EEC) on the site. Only 1% of the Big Scrub Rainforest remains. This rainforest is of global significance. The Channon Gorge contains warm-temperate rainforest on sandstone, a rare occurrence. The dam wall construction would destroy 92% of it.

17 fauna species have been identified that are listed as threatened under the TSC Act NSW (the koala, one fruit bat, six microbats and eight birds and one frog).

Koalas are commonly seen and heard in the area of the proposed dam wall and The Channon. Whian Whian Landcare has planted almost 3000 koala food trees to rebuild corridors in the proposed dam area - linking to tracts of forest to the north. This southern corridor would be destroyed.

There are breeding platypus on Rocky Creek. The Dunoon Dam would hasten the decline of this species. Construction of the dam will reduce platypus habitat downstream, due to sediment load smothering. Both of these precious species are at risk of extinction.

There are many alternatives to a mega dam. Such things as a water recycling depot at the already existing Rocky Creek Dam site. I believe the water needed for the future of this region is to provide the urban sprawl from both Byron Bay and Ballina. Would it not be a brilliant idea to have a desalination plant that could be used when required. Another idea would be for all new houses to have plumbed in water tanks and compulsory roof water harvesting systems.

Rous County Council I believe had not done a system wide water audit for a number of years, would it not be a smart idea for this to occur before planning a dam extension? Lismore City Council have just opened a water park where they are flushing thousands of litres of drinking water down the drains on a daily basis. Rous County Council should be insisting that these types of new projects use recycled water.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely

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