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Sent: [REDACTED]
To: DPIE W Regional Water Strategies Mailbox
Cc: office@pavey.minister.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Submission - FNC Water Strategy

SUBMISSION -FNC Water Strategy

I am a long-term Northern Rivers resident having moved here in 1991. I have lived and worked in the region since then and have a great interest in the way Government of all levels manages the area and resources.

I have read through your "Draft Far North Coast Long List options" report and see that there has been a great deal of work done to identify and formulate options and am very pleased to see that they include water recycling and maximization of existing resources. I note also that you have yet to extensively consult with indigenous groups, the results of which may impact on the options discussed in the report.

My particular objection is with your considered option of the proposed Dunoon Dam and more generally with seeing the construction of more dams as a water supply solution.

In September 2020 the Rous's Future Water 2060 project came to my attention and along with many other North Coast residents I made a submission against the proposed Dunoon Dam. There is widespread community objection to the proposed Dunoon Dam and you should be aware that any attempt by Rous Water to develop their proposed Dam will be hard fought and so your long-term plans should not rely on its construction.

Adding another huge infrastructure project like a dam is late century thinking. It does nothing to encourage more efficient water consumption. We should be developing a suite of smart water options. I believe investment in a system-wide water efficiency scheme would be an economical and fast route to ensure supply/demand balance. The construction of new dams also negatively affects your stated intention of "protecting and enhancing natural systems", It will destroy an already scarce animal habitat with platypus and koala particularly vulnerable.

No large-scale infrastructure programs can advance without conducting Cultural Heritage Impact Assessments and I believe that, although a 2011 Assessment stated "the site should remain undisturbed", Rous County Council have asked for another assessment to be undertaken so, at the time the Rous Water Project 2060 was announced, must have been unaware of whether their project would have a favourable CHIA.

Whilst I acknowledge the difficult task you have in planning to ensure water supply to the region in the future, I sincerely ask that modern solutions and alternative approaches are sought to meet this need.

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