

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: [REDACTED]
To: DPIE W Regional Water Strategies Mailbox
Subject: Feedback re Dunoon Dam

I am writing to give feedback re water options for the northern Rivers. It appears the govt has a strong belief that a new dam just below Rocky Ck is the most preferred option. This would be a big mistake in my view. Indeed a dam would be the worst option and probably very difficult to get all the approvals and money to build this. Furthermore, you are dealing with the Northern Rivers. We stopped Coal Seam gas in this region and we will probably defeat a dam as well.

We all know that the impact on flora and fauna will be huge, and we have lots of it that a dam would kill. I have read some of the papers, and I have a B.Arts (majors in Env Studies, Geography & Sociology) from CQU Dams have been very questionable for years.

There appears very little discussion about the downstream effects of this dam. We already know the Richmond River estuary at Ballina is in very poor condition, and so is the state of the Richmond and Wilsons River. The Wilsons is a failed river. Another dam will impact on those other catchments below it. The fishing industry is very poor in Ballina. This will only exacerbate that problem.

And what about water tanks. I did some rough figures. The water that could be collected from the roofs in the Rocky Ck catchment that supplies 100,000 people, would collect 15.5 GL in my rough estimation. Just a little more than the dam holds! Yet tanks appear to be an issue that gets seriously overlooked. I wonder why? Is it because the skills required to get tanks on as many buildings as possible in the Northern Rivers are beyond the capacity of Rouss Water to organise? Or maybe its the issue that tanks don't provide a source of income for Rouss Water. Perhaps Rouss Water could investigate that. Maybe don't leave it up to Engineers to work on that. Perhaps other people with educated capacity to consider how tank water could make Rouss some money. We know it will save money in some sense, because the dam will cost a motza, but how to make money from tanks?

And what is happening with Toonambar Dam? It doesn't get used much and is a financial burden, it keeps it level fairly high. Can that water be used? Would a transfer be economically and ecologically possible? Finally, dams fill up with sediment often. I look at the Wilsons. Its full of sediment. What about sediment filling the new dam. How long will that take? 50 years typically says my Uni text book Living in the Environment. What do you say?
Finally, don't go for a dam. Its trouble for everyone and everything.

I could go on with lots more, but I will leave that to others. Thanks for doing this consultation.

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