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**Subject:** SUBMISSION - FNC Water Strategy

I would like to acknowledge the work that has been done by DPIE in developing the Far North Coast Water Strategy. This is a wide ranging strategy and seeks, quite rightly, to address a reliable water supply into the future. I would like to emphasise that this Strategy should not rely on Rous's Future Water 2060 project, because this plan hinges on the highly contentious Dunoon Dam which should no longer be an option. I would like to see, as an alternative, that the DPIE work with Rous and the local councils to explore and research other options which benefit the nation and its environment. The key to our future and that of future generations is to secure a drinking water supply that does not include the extinction of an entire ecosystem.

I am a landholder on Terania Creek and have lived in this region for over 20 years. Although our property was cleared well before 1970's we still have some pockets of natural rainforests within our boundaries which we have diligently protected and expanded through careful regeneration practices. We maintain good fencing between pasture and water courses including Terania Creek and between the regenerating bushland and pasture. My family and I consider ourselves so privileged to be able to watch wild platypus frolic in clear waters at our doorstep. We are not on the town water supply and manage through careful water conservation, to maintain a family and farming and agriculture through water harvesting and recycling. Although I do realise we would not be directly impacted by this particular dam project I am aghast at the prospect of the impact this project would have on one of the few remaining natural pockets, affecting countless endangered species of flora and fauna. To date Australia has a reputation of causing the extinction of so many rare native species already - why must we continue with this strategy. Whilst I can appreciate that with increasing populations, water consumption is increased hence the need to find a solution, it is my opinion that more research must be undertaken before finalising a decision on building the Dunoon dam.

I strongly do believe we need to take action on smarter water options and proven alternatives as well as carrying out further investigation into new initiatives. These options would be far preferable to yet another dam in an endangered and pristine environment.

Thank you for your time and further investigation into this project.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]  
Terania Creek NSW