

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

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: FNC Water Strategy

I am a long term resident of the Northern Rivers region who works as an academic at Southern Cross University. The biodiversity and beauty of this region is renowned and I am seriously concerned for its environmental health in the face of the current proposed water strategy.

Thus far, the DPIE has developed effective water strategies in the far north coast of NSW. Currently there are 39 options for future development opportunities. The Dunoon Dam is but one of the options and the poorest choice of them all. It has no local support. On the contrary, there is widespread opposition with 91 percent of the 1290 written and online submissions expressing serious concern about the destructive effects the dam will have and the total failure to allow water resilience by utilising contemporary technologies.

Indeed, DPIE has not received an accurate account of Dunoon Dam from either Rous or Lismore Council.

The Dunoon Dam has been emphatically rejected by local communities on economic, environmental and social grounds. As the Water Services of Australia point out, new dams reliance on rainfall leave us highly vulnerable. We need a resilient water system that uses a mixture of methods including purified water and desalination, as well as roof and stormwater harvesting. For many residents such as myself, we practise water efficiency as part of our daily lives and are appalled that Rous County Council (RCC) appears to have no understanding of water management. The NSW Productivity Commission Green Paper has recommended water efficiency options but again, it seems that RCC has not familiarised itself with these contemporary water management strategies. Rather the RCC considers water efficiency as such a low profile that it did not employ a Demand Management Officer for two years and now only employs one on a part-time basis. In contrast to RCC, local residents are keen water efficiency practitioners and familiar with strategies to increase our water supply. Hence the strong community resistance to the ill-thought out plan of constructing a dam at Dunoon.

I would also like to point out the global significance of the remains of the big scrub rainforest. The warm- temperate rainforest on sandstone at the Channon Gorge is a rare occurrence and should be protected. But if the dam is constructed, its wall will destroy 92% of our priceless rainforest. It would devastate nine threatened flora species (2013 Terrestrial Ecology Impact Assessment Report) and have dire international scientific consequences. In addition , 17 fauna species have been identified as vulnerable under the TSC Act NSW. These species are namely, the koala, one fruit bat, six microbats and eight birds and one frog. All this devastation would result because of incompetence on the part of RCC and Lismore Council that propose a

severely flawed water strategy.

My suggestion is that RCC and Lismore Council engage in meaningful research about water efficiency and management and listen to the community they are supposed to be serving because residents here are practising water efficiency and do value our glorious rainforest and unique flora and fauna. Thus there is no place for a dam at Dunoon and in this 21st century, we need leaders who value and protect our region as we do.

Regards

