

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** The Far North Coast Water Strategy

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**Far North Coast Water Strategy**  
**Department of Primary Industries and Environment,**  
[regionalwater.strategies@dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:regionalwater.strategies@dpie.nsw.gov.au)

To whom it may concern,  
Re: The Far North Coast Water Strategy

I am writing to express my opposition to the construction of the proposed Dunoon Dam. A 50 gegalitre dam extending 6km upstream of the dam wall, that destroys First Nations' heritage, and social and ecological assets within its footprint (and beyond) is an old world response, and not a solution, to a new world problem. Our climate has changed and will continue to become drier. We need to develop systems that can supply us with water security in the hotter, drier future we face. Dams are not drought proof. There are alternative options including but not limited to: water efficiency, water harvesting, desalination and water re-use that are economically viable and warrant continued investigation. Another dam will not provide the water security we need for modern Australia. It is a colonialist model and I think we are capable of more with all that we now know. Rous Water have an opportunity to become leaders in what is bound to become one of the most crucial issues our children will face in the future – water security.

As a teacher of primary school aged children I am confronted with increasing and acute anxiety from the 10/11 year old children I teach regarding Climate Change. They know that the natural world they love so much is in peril. They deserve to have the same access to natural places that we all enjoyed as children but these places are dwindling. We need to protect the flora and fauna we have not yet pushed to extinction for our future generations. Big Scrub, Bundjalung Country, was the largest area of subtropical lowland rainforest in eastern Australia. 1% only remains! The proposed dam site would remove 5% of this precious remnant rainforest. It is an area that is being clung to by rare wildlife and tree species as their habitat has been reduced to this. Does Rous Water really want to be responsible for such unnecessary destruction? There are smarter, sustainable ways to manage water and a mega dam flooding critical habitat is certainly not one of them.

Please reconsider your support of the Dunoon Dam project to be on the right side of history.

**The reasons I DO NOT support the proposed Dunoon Dam include the following:**

**Lost opportunity to invest in system-wide water efficiency** - the most rapid and economical way to ensure a balance of supply and demand. Sydney has demonstrated that a focus on system efficiency can allow for population growth (citing an additional 950,000 people) without a rise in water consumption. (Metropolitan Water Plan, 2006, NSW Government) [1]

**There are several water efficiency options** that would be preferable to The Dunoon Dam and support a system-wide approach to water efficiency. Analysis carried out by Rouse of these options and cost investment has, to date, been inadequate. (Professor Stewart White, 2020, UTS, Sydney).

**Poor water management by local government would be perpetuated** by the dam rather than analysis, intervention, and investment being directed into 21<sup>st</sup> century solutions for water security in the region.

**Destruction of a 6-7 hectares of a listed, critically endangered ecological community** of flora (Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)) – Lowland Rainforest of Subtropical Australia. Even rarer for this region as it includes warm temperate rainforest on sandstone.

**Destruction The Channon Gorge and ~55 hectares of Big Scrub Rainforest remnant.** Only 1% of The Big Scrub remains and this 55 hectares of Big Scrub is of huge ecological importance and value. It has avoided centuries of post-colonial destruction to now be threatened by Rous County Council for an unnecessary dam.

**Disregard and destruction of First Nations' cultural heritage** on Widjabal/Wi-abal country of The Bundjalung Nation, including significant burial sites and artifacts (Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment, 2011)(2).

**Destruction and fragmentation of existing habitat and wildlife corridors** of high importance for the movement of fauna, as key habitat and for biodiversity of flora and fauna (including conservation species) (McNally [et.al.](#), 2000; Jensen and Robertson, 2001; Landmark Ecological Services, 2012).