

From: [REDACTED]
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Subject: SUBMISSION - FNC Water Strategy

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I am a 63 year old mother, grandmother, public health professional and international development specialist. I live in a rural context on the northern rivers. I appreciate the work done but the DPIE in development of the Far North Coast Water Strategy, which is wide ranging and does seek to address the reliability of water supply into the future for the region. However, the Strategy should not be overly reliant on the Rous's Future Water 2060 project when that plan hinges on the proposed and highly contentious Dunoon Dam. The Dunoon Dam should be removed as an option within this because there is widespread concern about the destructiveness of Dunoon Dam and also the failure of RCC to plan for water resilience using modern technologies.

- 91% of 1290 written and online submissions to RCC opposed the dam option. Over 300 of the written submissions are identified as individual and not pro-forma submissions, demonstrating a high level of engagement. Exhibition ran for 2 months "with strong promotion" (VAXA, FWP2060 Outcomes from Public Exhibition - 2020, 2020) .
- Social rejection demonstrates the dam option fails the "triple bottom line" test [economic/environmental/social]. A broad suite of other effective options were preferred by respondents.

Water Services Association of Australia has described new dams as high-risk investments because they are too dependent on rain – instead complimentary mixes of strategies are recommended. This includes purified recycled water (something already being done in many locations in Australia), desalination plants, with both possible using renewable energy sources making them low cost in the long run. Improved water efficiencies should also be developed and promoted with some great options already in place - and the lack of foresight in proposing these demonstrates Rous's lack of water literacy.

Additionally, the location proposed for the dam comprises a unique and rare environmental and Aboriginal heritage area. With companies flagrantly destroying sites like this across the nation, we do not need local government to join this trend. The Aboriginal stakeholders have already stated the area should be left undisturbed and it's time to listen and respect such statements. There are also 62ha of lowland rainforest Endangered Ecological Community within the dam site that is of global significance. With less than 1% of the Big Scrub remaining we need to ensure these areas of biodiversity are protected for ever!!

Promotion of much more rigorous water harvesting at a household and business level, desalination plants, recycled purified water and improved water efficiency would make the need for a dam like this null and void. Let's get with the future and do our best!

Sincerely
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