From: [redacted]
Sent: [redacted]
To: DPIE W Regional Water Strategies Mailbox
Cc: office@pavey.minister.nsw.gov.au
Subject: SUBMISSION - FNC Water Strategy

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To the DPIE,
I have been a resident of the Far North Coast Region for more than 45 years and have lived for 37 of them with my family on the Nightcap Range.

In my opinion, the DPIE has been doing a good job of developing a Far North Coast Water Strategy but I am deeply concerned that the Strategy should not rely too heavily on Rous's Future Water 2060 project, particularly as that plan hinges on the Dunoon Dam which is a highly contentious and deeply flawed option.

There is wide-spread local opposition to this dam and I feel that Rous & Lismore Council have failed to provide the DPIE with an accurate appraisal of it. 91% of the 1290 submissions to RCC opposed the dam option. As such, the dam option definitely 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 describes new dams as high-risk investments because they depend on rain. They recommend a mix of complementary water strategies such as Purified Recycled Water and desalination, both of which can be powered by renewable energy. Rous Future Water 2060 completely ignores these options and seriously examined only groundwater and Dunoon Dam. A very short-sighted and rather dated approach that demonstrates clearly that it must not be used to underpin the Regional Strategy. RCC have consistently ignored system-wide water efficiency which is cheap and recommended. They have completely omitted water efficiency from their 2020 Integrated Water Cycle Management Development options for increasing supply, undertaking no specialist studies on it.
The destructive impacts of Dunoon Dam have been noted in numerous reports.

In 2010 Terrestrial Ecology, Aquatic Ecology, and Cultural Heritage reports all found serious impacts from a dam in this location on Rocky Creek. Members of a Public Reference Group voiced their concerns and opposition. (SMEC, Dunoon Dam Terrestrial Ecology Impact Assessment , 2011).

In 2013 a Technical Report noted that the dam was constrained by significant environmental and social impacts, high capital cost, and the fact that it was 'highly climate influenced" (p52).

An Integrated Water Planning report in 2014 noted that although the dam was 'technically viable', it had 'significant environmental and social constraints associated with threatened and endangered terrestrial ecology and culturally significant Aboriginal heritage".

The ecological impacts of Dunoon Dam and the ensuing destruction of Aboriginal Heritage sites are completely unacceptable. The Dam will destroy large sections of the remaining Big Scrub Rainforest and its threatened species including 9 threatened flora species and 17 fauna species (the koala, one variety of fruit bat, six varieties of microbats, eight bird species and one frog species). It would also increase extinction pressure on platypus and native fish.
All of these threatened fauna & flora are of considerable local, national & international environmental & scientific significance. To allow a dam that is only really being proposed to aid the budget of a few developers is incredibly short-sighted and irresponsible. Real Estate development and the growth of population are all very well but there comes a time when the environmental health of what remains of this beautiful and unique region must take precedence over the financial benefit of a handful of individuals.

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