

From: [Hugh Nicholson](#)
To: [State Water Strategy Mailbox](#)
Subject: Submission to Draft NSW Water Strategy 2021
Date: [REDACTED]

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft NSW Water Strategy Feb 2021.

I am a farmer, photographer and publisher of books on rainforest plants. I have lived in the Northern Rivers of NSW for 47 years and raised my family here.

My interest in the issue of water sources and water supply has been piqued by plans proposed by the local water authority, Rous County Council, to construct a water-supply dam in a gorge upstream from my property. If constructed, this dam would destroy significant areas of an endangered ecological community including rainforest growing on sandstone. It would also inundate Aboriginal burials of inestimable importance to the Traditional Owners.

The issues which leapt from the page for me are Priority 2 - Recognise Aboriginal rights and values; and Priority 4 - Increase resilience to changes in water availability.

I appreciated reading of the emphasis on innovative water sources such as storm water harvesting and the need to invest in recycling and re-use of water. These options make much more sense than a large dam which, in times of drought, becomes an expensive hole in the ground.

This diversification of sources will become ever more relevant as the forecast alterations in rainfall and weather patterns due to climate change become our reality.

I am excited to see that you re taking seriously the threat posed by climate change. None of us really know what will happen but the models are showing that we all need to be aware; to conserve; to re-use and to diversify supply systems rather than relying on the old-fashioned thinking of constructing another big dam.

Again, thank you for being open to community input and accepting my submission - brief though it might be.

Yours sincerely,

Hugh RW Nicholson

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