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Dept Planning, Industry & Environment

SUBMISSION-FNC Water Strategy

Hello.

Please accept this email as a submission regarding FNC Water strategy and acknowledge the detail and instrumental ideas and initiatives within the Strategy.

I have concerns as a resident of the area that Rous Future Water 2060 proposal is relying on building a dam just outside of our village, which I believe should no longer be an option in this technologically advanced world. A new dam is not the answer.

I am a long-term resident of the village and hold a position at The Channon Craft Market Inc [REDACTED], I have worked for the markets for 21 years. I have 5 adult children and 5 grandchildren.

Dunoon Dam has been mentioned several times as an option to secure a water source for the expansion of the coast in the future. RCC is ignoring its own reports and lack of community support has stopped them in the past, the proposal is still controversial and not welcomed by the community.

Research and reports both local and global do not see dam building as a viable investment for the future. Catchment in our area is not reliable and Water Services Association of Australia recommends a mix of water strategies. (WSSA, All Options of the Table, 2020). Alongside leaders in Water Management, the NSW Productivity Greenpaper 2020 recommends water efficiencies as paramount in urban development and planning, purified recycled water, catchment management and community sustainability must be entwined in modern day water management.

FNC Water Strategy I can see, engages modern technology and showcases local councils initiatives, addressing social changes and expansion within communities, its contents provide a broad range of strategies that I believe are a wiser investment into the population growth of our region.

It saddens me that our own Water Management Teams (Rous County Council) still rely on the plan that is outdated, expensive and against the communities wishes and that councillors from outlying LGA may favour its development. A new dam is not the answer.

The effect on both the flora and fauna will be detrimental for many species, existing plans for the Eastern Cod Recovery just up stream from the proposed dam will be exposed, with another 16 fish species in the creek being affected.

Below the proposed Dam Wall lies the village of The Channon, including residents and a thriving community hub, known as Coronation Park, the proposed wall is 700m upstream.

The markets established in 1976 is one of our region's favourite attractions, with over 200 small business and community groups attending monthly. Impact from flooding may create challenges for the use of the park and the existing carparks, that were funded and built by members of the market in consultation and with permission from Lismore City Council. The market in its 44th year is integral for the cottage industry and micro business of our regions, any impact from flooding may have negative

results to the people directly below the wall. There has been no community consultation by Rous County Council with the markets or the business it represents in the past.

Alongside the residents and the community, consultation has been minimum if not occurring at all.

Community members have volunteered 1000's of hours of time informing and educating the communities of the Northern Rivers alternative options and solutions that are on the table, to this day Rous County Council refuses to acknowledge and ignores system wide water efficiency recommendations, its lack of leadership in educating the community with sufficient and affordable water options that are suited for our regions climate is evident with its approach of water usage and future recommendations.

I therefore ask that the idea of the proposed dam is not considered within Rous's Future Water 2060 Project, it is the least favourable outcome in the report, I believe that other water saving measures and processes are needed to be considered and formalised for the region if we are going to meet the needs of the community.

Thank you for reading my submission

Kindest regards [REDACTED]

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