

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

SUBMISSION - Far North Coast Water Strategy

My name is [REDACTED]. I purchased 102 hectares of degraded farmland and forest, in Terania Creek in 1972 with the aim of engaging in rehabilitation of the land. Since that time the land and forest is thriving through re-forestation and organic and biodynamic farming practices. Half the property has been placed under a conservation covenant and regular bush regeneration work is undertaken. The project

has also attracted grants for Green Army assistance.

I am passionate about protecting the environment and was part of the Terania Forest Action Group which prevented logging of the Terania basin in 1979. The area is now known as the Nightcap National Park. More recently I took a major role in Gasfield Free Northern Rivers which stopped the development of fracking in the area. A film was made of this four year action, called "The Bentley Effect".

Thank you for the thorough and forward looking work that DPIE has done on the Far North Coast Water Strategy.

1. I am concerned about what seems to be a narrow view at Rous County Council, and their failure to frame the issue as an "exploration of water security for the region". Instead they have framed it as a limited range of solutions, one of which is the Dunoon Dam. This approach does not leave room for community input or for the extensive options put forward by DPIE.

Rous County Council seems to be caught in a form of group think as well as reactive management of the issue which leads to me and many others to believe that they are not up to the task of management of water security and water resilience for this region.

Ross County Council does not have a community engagement strategy and is ignoring the public opposition to the Dunoon Dam proposal. All options need to be given good analytical attention including water efficiency, roof and stormwater harvesting (including tanks), and water sources that don't need rain such as purified recycled water and desalination.

2. Ecological Impacts:

The Dunoon Dam will threaten koala habitat (70% of koalas were killed in the 2019 north coast fires);

The Channon Gorge contains warm-temperate rainforest on sandstone, a rare occurrence. The dam wall construction would destroy 92%. 17 fauna species have been identified that are listed as threatened under the TSC Act NSW (the koala, one fruit bat, six microbes and eight birds and one frog).

3. Cultural Heritage:

The 2011 Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment states "Aboriginal stakeholders are of the opinion that the sites should remain undisturbed and that no level of disturbance is considered acceptable to them". This heritage would be destroyed by any dam. There is a 2013 CHIA version in circulation that significantly waters down the original 2011 CHIA. It appears that Rous is now trying to bury this 2011 assessment and replace it with a weakened 2013 "preliminary" version. That is why the 2011 CHIA is not mentioned on the Rous website and that is why [REDACTED] said that it had been "withdrawn". (Green Genius podcast, 21 Sept 2020). It appears that Rous is withdrawing the original 2011 CHIA because the conclusions do not fit with their decision to go ahead with the dam

It is distressing to observe the sidelining of the Wjabul Wia-bal stakeholders. Their heritage is also our heritage and adds to the richness of cultures in Australia.

4. Rous County Council has lost my confidence by displaying, what I and many others, regard as poor leadership, poor decision-making, disregard of indigenous heritage and a failure to properly explore the many available options on the issue of long-term water security for the region.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

