

SUBMISSION - FNC Water Strategy

We are farmers in the Richmond Valley Council area who are concerned to see a reliable water supply for the future so commend the work done by the DPIE developing the Far North Coast Water Strategy.

We are concerned that the Strategy should not rely on Rous's Future Water 2060 project because the plan relies on building the Dunoon Dam.

In our opinion the Dunoon Dam should definitely not be considered an option.

Both Rous and Lismore Council failed to provide the Department of Primary Industries and Environment with an accurate appraisal of Dunoon Dam, and Rous has failed to consult with the community.

There is very strong community opposition to the Dunoon Dam with an unsurprisingly widespread concern about the destruction it would cause to farmland, rainforest and important wildlife habitat. Koalas and Platypus are particularly vulnerable, facing extinction from habitat destruction.

Rous County Council is so determinedly focused on, or wedded to, the dam option it has failed to consider any other available innovative water management techniques or to plan for water resilience using any of the modern technologies adopted successfully elsewhere. No consideration given to simple options such as water efficiency, roof tanks and stormwater harvesting, purified recycled water and desalination that don't depend on rain.

We understand that the population is expected to increase over the years but new housing developments should have modern built-in innovative water systems with the developer bearing the cost.

Water efficiency is a cheap and the most effective water strategy (which is recommended by the 2020 NSW Productivity Commission Green Paper) yet Rous did no studies on this option and totally failed to consider water efficiency in its 2020 Integrated Water Cycle management Development for increasing supply.

New dams are high risk investments depending as they do on reliable rainfall, something that must be considered as climate change progresses. The Water Services Assn of Australia confirms this concern.

Yours Sincerely

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