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Subject: SUBMISSION - FNC Water Strategy

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In the mid 80s I moved to this region drawn by the beautiful wild areas. A keen bushwalker and mountain biker I have spent much time in exploration of this magnificent region. This is such a priceless unique ecosystem.

I would like to acknowledge the work done so far by the DPIE in developing a strategy to improve water security in the Far North Coast.

I would like to stress that the Strategy should not rely on Rous Cc Future Water 2060 project which relies on creation of the Dunoon Dam.

There is widespread community opposition to the Dunoon Dam as evidenced by the fact that 91% of the 1290 written and online submissions to Rous CC opposed the dam.

The creation of the Dunoon Dam would result in a tragic loss of the Channon Gorge with its significant flora and fauna including koala habitat/ corridors. There would also be loss of significant cultural heritage, including burial sites which would be submerged.

The focus on the Dunoon dam by Rous CC does not allow for a focus on smart water solutions and efficiency, especially those solutions which do not rely on rainfall. As our climate changes it is time for us to look at water recycling, green powered desalination and general efficiency.

The proposed Dunoon Dam would come at a huge cost, using all our resources on one project and according to Rous CC will result in a 400% increase in water rates. I can certainly see some people choosing to buy another water tank instead of paying such a price for their water. And how will this huge dam fill up? Being on Rocky creek below the existing Rocky Creek Dam it will fill from overflow from the existing dam as well as a small area on lower slopes. We can't keep Rocky Creek dam full when we are having low rainfall so there's not going to be overflow! In a warming climate it is time to look for smarter options that are not rainfall dependant and give up the idea of the white elephant Dunoon dam.

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