

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: SUBMISSION - FNC Water Strategy.

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Dear Sir / Madam,

I write to submit my concerns about the FNC Water Strategy. I work as a student advocate at SCU, and I've had a keen interest in environmental issues concerning the Northern Rivers for many years.

I acknowledge that the DPIE is working towards a fair and equitable FNC Water Strategy that is wide-ranging and seeks to address reliable water supply now and into the future.

However, I am deeply concerned about this water strategy relying on Rous Water's Dunoon Dam project. This is a very controversial and radical plan that seems to be short-sighted and dismissive of community needs and concerns. I understand that 91% of the 1290 submissions to RCC opposed the dam option. This indicates a high level of opposition to this project within the community.

One main concern I have is that investing in a dam with climate change imminent is a high-risk, ill-informed solution to our water needs. The Water Services Association of Australia (WSAA) suggests that relying on rainfall into the future is not an evidence-based or logical plan. They recommend a number of other water strategies in their recent plan, including increased numbers of rain water tanks and investment in recycled water. Surely these ideas make more economic and environmental sense than a dam in these uncertain climate times. The cost of this dam could probably subsidise water tanks for every resident in the FNC area, plus recycled water plants.

An even more serious reason for my concerns is the potential destruction of Indigenous cultural heritage sites should the Dunoon Dam go ahead. We are all aware of the recent destruction of the Juukan Rock Shelters by Rio Tinto. This was an absolute travesty, and has earned Rio Tinto the reputation as an irresponsible, greedy corporation. I have read that the 2011 Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment relating to the proposed area for the Dunoon Dam states that "Aboriginal stakeholders are of the opinion that the sites should remain undisturbed and that no level of disturbance is considered acceptable to them". Please respect the wishes of the traditional owners by opting for more culturally and environmentally sensitive and intelligent options than a dam.

I am happy to be contacted to clarify anything in my submission.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

