

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

SUBMISSION - Far North Coast Regional Water Strategy.

I have been a resident of the Terania Creek area for close to 40 years, and like many people, was drawn to this region because of the beauty of this rainforest region and its communities. I have worked and volunteered many hours over the years, to protect the natural environment and support the community.

I object to the proposed dam on Rocky Creek at The Channon/Dunoon on the grounds of habitat loss and the impact on the natural beauty of the Northern Rivers region.

Habitat and biodiversity loss is one of the biggest threats to humanity at this time. As big a threat as climate change.

Scientists agree that Earth is facing a biodiversity crisis, losing species 100 to 1000 times faster than the normal background rate of extinction, resulting in the sixth period of mass extinction in the history of Earth. Similarly, the Earth ecosystems that support human life are degrading at an equally alarming rate.

"The biodiversity crisis – i.e. the rapid loss of species and the rapid degradation of ecosystems – is probably a greater threat than global climate change to the stability and prosperous future of mankind on Earth. There is a need for scientists, politicians and government authorities to closely collaborate if we are to solve this crisis", Carsten Rahbek, Director for the Center for Macroecology, Evolution and Climate, University of Copenhagen.

Australia is a signatory to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity. Because it is a treaty to sustain the rich diversity of life on Earth, it is crucially concerned with species extinctions and ecosystem degradation.

The process towards extinction is mainly caused by habitat degradation, whose effect on biodiversity is worsened by the ongoing human-induced climate change.

In NSW and around Australia habitat loss still goes on unabated. (<https://www.sydney.edu.au/news-opinion/news/2020/06/05/australia-isn-t-doing-enough-to-preserve-biodiversity.html>)

We know the proposed dam will destroy koala corridors that have been actively protected by local landcare projects in recent years. As well, platypus populations known to be in the existing creeks will lose their habitat. Dams destroy shallow creek habitats for platypus and also damage the flows to waterways below dams.

In a year when we have lost 3 billion native animals, it is madness to be destroying known habitats where they are thriving in our region. We need to look for other solutions to water management.

Habitat loss, as well as impacting flora and fauna, also impacts on insect populations. Insect populations have decreased worldwide by more than 40% and a third of insects are in danger of extinction. Ecologists say foremost among the factors behind the decline are habitat changes wrought by humans.

(<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/2019/02/why-insect-populations-are-plummeting-and-why-it-matters/>)

Knowing what we do about the impact of the destruction of habitat and ecosystems, we cannot afford to destroy yet another area of natural beauty in our region. I hope you seriously consider my reasons for objecting and look for alternatives to protect our Northern Rivers region.

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