

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

Please accept the following as my personal Submission concerning the proposed Far North Coast Water Strategy, in particular concerning Rous County Council's proposed Dunoon Dam, which I oppose.

My name is [REDACTED]; I am a resident of Wilsons Creek in the Byron Shire and a retired water and sanitation engineer with a Masters degree in Public Health Engineering and a career as an engineer spanning fifty years and work in over 30 countries throughout the world. My work has included 20 years as an academic teacher, researcher and author at two universities: the University of Southampton, UK, and the International WaterCentre at the University of Queensland. I currently act as a community representative on Byron Shire Council's Water, Waste and Sewerage Advisory Committee.

I acknowledge the work already carried out by the DPIE in developing the Water Strategy for the Far North Coast region of New South Wales, seeking to establish a reliable and sustainable water supply for the region. I am concerned that the Strategy might rely too heavily upon Rous County Council's Future Water 2060 Project for water supply in this part of the region, which hinges on the proposed Dunoon Dam, which is highly contentious and is opposed by many local residents and experts in the field.

I join in opposition to the proposed Dunoon Dam (hereafter 'the Dam') for the following reasons:

1. Rous and Lismore Councils have failed to give the DPIE an accurate appraisal of the Dam.
2. A huge majority of submissions to Rous CC's dam proposal are in opposition, and a large number of these are identified clearly as individual submissions; there is strong and well-argued opposition to the Dam, both here amongst local residents and more widely amongst those with appropriate expertise. Many other options for future water supply by Rous CC are preferred on the basis of economic, environmental and social arguments, and I concur with this position.
3. The destructive impacts of the proposed Dam have been widely studied by experts and noted by numerous commentators and must be taken seriously; they include:
Unacceptable destruction of Aboriginal Heritage,
Very significant ecological impacts on the small, remaining Big Scrub Rainforest and its threatened flora and fauna species, including koalas, which are the subject of much ongoing debate and huge concern as an iconic and unique species of great significance, platypus and native fish.
4. The proposed Dam will leave residents of the region vulnerable to the considerable impacts of a warming climate. The Water Services Association of Australia, correctly in my view, describes new water storage facilities, such as dams, as high-risk investments, as they depend completely on highly variable rainfall.
5. Many experts have expressed the view, correctly in my experience, that a resilient water supply system must have a range of sources, alongside rainfall storage (both in dams and in much more widespread domestic and other local facilities), including treated recycled water and, potentially, desalination powered by renewable energy.
6. The NSW Productivity Greenpaper 2020 recommends an emphasis on water efficiency, which the Rous CC plan ignores. We, as residents in this region and consumers of water supplied by Rous CC are very aware of the need for careful custodianship of all vulnerable resources, including and especially water; a much greater emphasis must be placed, through promotion and education, on water-use efficiency. This need has been recognised by the water industry throughout the world for many years. The water savings achieved in south-east Queensland following the Millennium drought provide a useful example of what can be achieved in this field in Australia.

I, together with numerous other residents of this region, and others with knowledge and experience in the field of water supply, therefore strongly urge you to work with Rous County Council in finding more cost-effective, environmentally sustainable and socially appropriate systems for provision of water supply in the 21st century. The proposed Dunoon Dam is not the best answer in the area served by Rous CC and must be rejected.

Thank you for considering this submission.

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