

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: [REDACTED]
To: DPIE W Regional Water Strategies Mailbox
Cc: office@pavey.minister.nsw.gov.au
Subject: North Coast Regional Water Strategy; proposed Dunoon Dam; encourage Rous Water to eat humble pie.

To the Minister and relevant officers

SUBMISSION: PROPOSED

My doctoral research was conducted with Rous Water in 1998 and 1999, involving the community in a cultural valuation of their water supply. It involved significant dialogue about the importance of maintaining a successful water supply in a region serving large seasonal coastal communities.

The success of the project was in the community's focus on water at the tap. All participants, from technical operators and engineers to dogwash owners, plumbers, school teachers and children and the broader general community identified this as a vital convenience linked interdependently with the pristine forest and catchment environment surrounding Rocky Creek Dam.

At the exhibition that resulted from the project a participant noted:

I sensed the Rous representative wasn't quite sure what he had on his hands there. I sensed him seeing possibilities ... 'There's actually a community out there, that's actually interested.' I sensed an opening of possibilities – the operator, the Chair, the school kids all doing their thing together.^[1]

I now live in Melbourne and have just learned that Rous is again being shown new possibilities by the community. Rous and Lismore City Council did not provide DPIE with an adequate appraisal of a new dam. The Dam proposed is sited in pristine forest that should never be bulldozed.

I asked many questions of locals in the course of the Doctorate, and this Doctorate led me to work with the Department of Sustainability & Environment in Victoria (now DEWLP), University of Melbourne and RMIT teaching Catchment Management and Sustainability Policy and Management.

I'm deeply concerned about the Dam proposal.

I believe there's much to be learned from my Doctoral project, [new dimensions in Water Conversation](#) (University of Technology Sydney)

The event was saying we've got something precious and not to abuse it. We don't really know what we're holding in our hand.^[1]

^[1] Alan Waters, *ibid.*

Rous needs to acknowledge that we do not know what we're holding in our hand and this should make us cautious.

Water circulates across the north coast region, precipitating into precious forests and streams to give us a glass of water and its contents.

Please ensure that this plan is taken off the table.

Yours sincerely

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