

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: [REDACTED]
To: DPIE W Regional Water Strategies Mailbox
Cc: office@pavey.minister.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Fwd: Re The proposed Dunoon Dam within the Future Water Project 2060

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Department of Planning, Industry & Environment

SUBMISSION - FNC WATER STRATEGY

I live on Fraser Road with my husband and our two teenage boys. We are macadamia farmers and have lived here since 2016. We understand first hand the challenges of water management on our farm, we seem to swing wildly between trying to manage too much water all at once or even worse, not enough. We are committed to farming to the best of our ability - and always open to new methods - whilst maintaining deep reverence and respect for this beautiful land, our changing weather systems and being responsible custodians for future generations.

First, I wish to acknowledge the DPIE's work in developing the Far North Coast Water Strategy, which is wide ranging and seeks to address reliable water supply for our future. Thank you to all involved.

I write to voice my concern that Rous's Future Water 2060 relies heavily on the contentious Dunoon Dam proposal. The Dunoon dam should no longer be an option in the strategy. My main concerns regarding the proposed dam are :

Our existing water supply is not being efficiently or sustainably managed .

In addition to macadamia farming, we have an erosion control and revegetation business. Over the last 2.5 years our family business has worked on the Pacific Highway Upgrade from Ballina to Woolgoolga. We do the hydromulching revegetation work. We use onsite water storage ponds to do this work. However, all the concreting work including 150kms of dual lane highway and all the bridges have been constructed with the use of local town water. This project is nearing its completion, so that immense drain on our local water resources is coming to an end.

I propose that all users of town water be held accountable for their water use and that drinking water should not be wasted on large scale civil projects. Across all walks of life water as a resource is not treated with the respect it deserves. On a domestic level we should not flush drinking water down toilets, we should be harvesting rainwater off roofs, recycling and reusing water where appropriate. Auditing and monitoring big and small business use of town water. I am concerned that if we build this new dam, there will be no real incentive to manage what we have mindfully and innovatively. I note that by focusing on water system efficiency, Sydney added an additional 950,000 water users without an increase in water consumption! (Metropolitan Water Plan 2006, NSW Government) ⁽¹⁾.

The proposed Dunoon Dam would destroy identified sites of Aboriginal Heritage.

Sacred Indigenous burial sites would be lost if the dam were to be constructed (Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment, 2001) ⁽²⁾. This would show further disrespect and disregard to our Indigenous people, we need to be building respect by acknowledging the past and honouring a better future. I fear this is yet another example of European Australia's insincerity regarding respecting Aboriginal Heritage sites and ultimately reconciliation.

The proposed Dunoon Dam would destroy the Channon Gorge

The Channon Gorge exists in the proposed inundation area. This area of subtropical rainforest growing on sandstone is extremely rare and has never been cleared. It signifies old growth low land rainforest forest and is very unusual.(Terrestrial Ecology Impact Assessment, 2011)⁽³⁾.

The proposed Dunoon dam would destroy important habitats and wildlife corridors for threatened fauna and flora species.

The proposed dam requires the destruction of 57 ha of significant native rainforest vegetation (Terrestrial Ecology Impact Assessment, 2011)⁽⁴⁾. This is a significant remnant of Big Scrub Rainforest - it is our duty to protect it, not flood it!! This area is a known habitat for koalas, platypus and native fish - all which are under extinction pressure. We need to be protecting and extending this habitat, not destroying it.

I support the following alternatives to the proposed dam;-

- an investment in system-wide water efficiency and strong demand management.
- water re-use, including purified recycled potable water
- water harvesting, urban runoff, water tanks
- contingency planning for times of drought
- use of groundwater where environmentally safe.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

References

- (1) Metropolitan Water Plan 2006, NSW Government. Exec Summary section of the doc <https://www.dropbox.com/s/pu9898oq6kocrph/NSW%20Govt%202006%20MWP%20summary.pdf?dl=0>
- (2) Ainsworth Heritage, Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment, 2011
- (3) SMEC Australia, Terrestrial Ecology Impact Assessment, 2011
- (4) SMEC Australia, Terrestrial Ecology Impact Assessment, 2011