

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

I am a resident in the Far North Coast, and a long term local to the Lismore area. I am a volunteer wildlife carer and day in, day out, care for sick, injured and orphaned animals from our local area.

While acknowledging the importance of planning for water security in our area I am completely dismayed at the proposal to establish a large dam at Dunoon/The Channon.

This area is of critical importance in our region. It is a remnant of our much valued Big Scrub rainforest. It is crucial to the survival of many threatened species. This alone should ensure it is protected. But aside from this, it is the home of many plants and animals that will simply not survive if the dam goes ahead. Australia is losing biodiversity at such an alarming rate that any further, unnecessary destruction should be considered unacceptable.

As wildlife carers we are on the front line seeing the carnage wrought by humans on our wildlife. We see the macropods hit by cars and attacked by dogs, with limbs broken and wounds bleeding. We see the possums with their faces and eyes diseased by stress dermatitis because they can't find anywhere to live. We see the diseased koalas, the gliders and birds attacked by cats, the flying foxes orphaned by heat events, made worse by global warming and by humans destroying their lush vegetation around their roost sites. To think that our local area would condone the further slaughter of wildlife which is inevitable if the dam goes ahead is unthinkable

I also understand that there are Aboriginal cultural heritage sites in the area. We need to listen to the original owners of this land and respect what is important to them... their culture should be important to us all.

There are so many more progressive and logical ways of ensuring water security. Incentives to houses to retrofit tanks and a requirement for new developments to be water sustainable. Other newer high tech solutions such as purified recycled water and desalination would seem much less environmentally damaging.

Please hear the wishes of the community on this issue. We are overwhelmingly opposed to the dam going ahead.

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Regards,  
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