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SUBMISSION - FNC Water Strategy

As a resident and rate payer in The Channon since 1985, I am keen to express my concern about any local water management strategies that involves the construction of the Dunoon dam.

Whilst I am aware that the DPIE has done a lot of work in the preparation of the Far North Coast Regional Water Strategy and has a large range of supply option I do note that there does not seem be sufficient attention to demand management strategies. Consultation with Dr Stuart White, the director of ISF, suggests that Rous County Council, by implementing water efficiency programs, could defer the need to implement new supply options in the region. Dr White and ISF have been involved in water efficiency programs for Sydney Water and water utilities in South East Queensland. These programs have dramatically reduced water consumption and reduced the pressure to find new supply sources in these jurisdictions. It is therefore disappointing to see that the Strategy's description of water efficiency options makes no mention of introducing major new water efficiency initiatives.

This option of a new dam is expensive, destructive of wild life habitat and importance sites for the local Widjabal Wivabal people and unnecessary. It also poses some risk to the residents in The Channon village should the dam overflow during times of heavy rains causing destructive flooding and damage to both lives and property, We have already experienced severe flooding in 2017 which completely cut off our village.

In the WSAA report states that: 'All options on the table: urban water supply options for Australia' and that dams are 'high risk investments as they rely on rainfall and are less resilient to climate change than other options'. I would encourage that Rous County Council to adopt a range of supply and demand options, including those that are not dependent on rainfall, in order to protect the region against the risk of running out of water during prolonged drought,

Like many of my fellow community residents I urge you to reject the proposal to build a large new dam in the Rous region.

Yours Faithfully

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