

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

SUBMISSION-FNC Water Strategy

To whom it may concern,

We have owned a property at [REDACTED] The Channon via Lismore on the banks of Rocky Creek for over 40 years and are deeply concerned regarding the FNC Water Strategy's draft option 14 - New Dunoon Dam on Rocky Creek. Our 9 hectare property is bordered by Rocky Creek & Little Rocky Creek and is the first property on Rocky Creek below the pristine gorge and proposed dam wall. This is the 3rd time Rous Council has tried to implement this contentious project as part of its future water strategy.

We have just read through the comprehensive draft 136 paged FNC Water Strategy and were pleased to see wide ranging strategies put forward and the acknowledgement of the importance for diversified climate -independent water supplies. The consideration of community social, cultural and environmental values is also commended. However option 14 New Dunoon Dam on Rocky Creek just does not align to the general strategy overview. It is an antiquated and highly confrontational strategy that our North Coast Community has fought off before and are ready to fight off again.

Detrimental impact of dams has been well documented and disseminated among the general community for decades. New dams are high risk investments and many dams built in earlier decades such as Toonumbar Dam have been underutilized. Diverting water from the existing dam out of Kyogle, the Toonumbar Dam mentioned in Option 3 and Option 19 in the FNC Water Strategy has been an option put forward in previous negotiations to rival the option of building a new destructive Dunoon dam in a environmental sensitive gorge. The Toonumbar Dam, however, is having its own problems with cessation of flow in Iron Pot Creek disturbing water habitats and loss of connectivity throughout the river system to name just one.

The destructive impacts of the proposed Dunoon Dam have been noted in numerous reports and the ecological impacts are unacceptable. This environmental sensitive area is one of the last remaining corridors to link up with Whian Whian Forest and the bigger Nightcap Range. Our house looks down on the biggest secluded water hole on Rocky Creek after flowing down from the gorge (the site of the proposed dam wall). We have platypus feeding early morning and at dusk. There are eels, perch, blue fresh water crays etc in this water hole flushed from the rapids that run into it through the forested gorge. The surrounding wooded

sandstone cliffs and riparian corridor along the creek provide a sheltered carriageway for rock wallabies, bettongs, honey gliders, echidnas, forest skinks. The birdlife is amazing both local and migratory. There is a wedgetailed eagle which nests in the gorge; rainbow bee eaters which skim down and feed off insects in the pool; bronze-winged pigeons, azure kingfishers, red & yellow black cockatoos ; and the list goes on. Then there is the amazing flora in this warm temperate rainforest at risk as well.

This FNC Water Strategy must not rely too heavily on Rou's Future Water 2060 Project as it hinges on the confrontational Dunoon Dam and this Dunoon Dam should no longer be an option. Lismore Council and Rous Council have both asked that this dam option be added to the state Government agenda. Yet 91% of 1290 community submissions to Rous County Council opposed the dam option.

We have had this dam (damn) issue over our heads too long. It is time to throw out this destructive proposal and put our collective community energy towards helping local councils get on board urgently with diverse climate resilient water management practices.

Yours sincerely

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