

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

SUBMISSION - FNC Water Strategy

Dear Sir or Madam

I am a resident of Brunswick Heads and write to you out of concern. Just as alternative electricity generation and renewables is now seen as the way forward as we phase out fossil fuels, so alternative water sources must be explored as we phase out dams which have such huge impacts on our embattled planet.

I acknowledge the work done so far by DPIE in developing the Far North Coast Water Strategy. It's a wide-ranging strategy and seeks to address reliable water supply into the future.

I urge you to ensure that **the Strategy must not rely too much on Rous County Council's Future Water 2060 project**, especially because that plan hinges on the contentious Dunoon Dam.

The Dunoon dam should no longer be an option in the strategy. It has been rejected numerous times in the past. It is old technology and does not capitalise on the latest understandings of how to best manage water supplies to growing populations.

A major concern I have is that Rous and Lismore Council failed to provide the Department of Primary Industries and Environment with an accurate appraisal of Dunoon Dam. The dam is highly controversial, and there is much resistance in the community to it being built. There is widespread concern about the destructiveness of Dunoon Dam and also about the failure of RCC to plan for water resilience using modern technologies.

Ninety one percent of 1,290 written and online submissions to RCC opposed the dam option. Over 300 of the written submissions are identified as individual and not pro-forma submissions, demonstrating a high level of engagement.

It is obvious from the above that there is no social licence to build the dam among the community who would be most affected and who would potentially benefit from it being built. In this time it is important to take informed community views into account. The triple bottom line test: economic/environmental/social must be applied to all new projects in order to fulfill the aims of community consultation.

A broad suite of other effective options were preferred by respondents. Water efficiency is cheap and effective. It is also recommended by the 2020 NSW Productivity Commission Green Paper. (NSW Treasury, Productivity Commission Green Paper: continuing the productivity conversation, 2020. Accessed at <http://productivity.nsw.gov.au/green-paper/water-energy>)

Rous County Council omitted water efficiency from its 2020 Integrated Water Cycle Management Development options for increasing supply and undertook no specialist studies on it. (<https://rous.nsw.gov.au/page.asp?f=RES-HOV-71-65-36>)

Professor Stuart White identified significant potential increase in Rous supply through efficiency Measures neglected by Rous. (<https://waternorthernrivers.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Prof-Stuart-White-Brief-Review-Rous-Water-augmentation-20200904-1.pdf>)

The lack of attention to water efficiency is evident from the fact that during the past 2 years there was a significant amount of time in which RCC did not employ a Demand Management officer. The position is now filled part-time, reflecting the low priority that RCC still attaches to water efficiency.

There are so many other reasons to reject the dam: impact on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage, impact of the river system, impact on platypus and koala populations and impact on the entire forest system of the creek. This must all be taken into account when assessing building a new dam. The impacts are far too great to consider this as the preferred option.

We need to be smarter and more efficient. Climate change impacts us all and we need to take responsibility for minimising its impacts wherever possible. A new dam destroys too much and threatens yet more of our natural heritage.

Please take into account my submission in determining the way forward.

Best wishes

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