

SUBMISSION – Far North Coast Water Strategy

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Dept Planning, Industry & Environment (DPIE)

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I am a long-term resident of The Channon district (44 years).

I live on a 100 hectare property at Terania Creek and have been actively involved in restoring much of the property to its natural forested state to encourage the survival of the local flora and fauna and to protect the land from degradation.

I appreciate the time spent by DPIE in developing the Far North Coast Water Strategy.

I would like to think that little attention is paid to Rous Water's 'Future Water 2060' project as the proposed Dunoon Dam, highly favoured by RCC, is highly contentious and should not be an option for future Far North Coast water supply. Lismore City Council and Rous County Council did not provide DPIE with an accurate assessment of the proposed Dunoon dam. The dam idea is highly unpopular in this area with many people concerned about the potential destructiveness of the dam and the failure of Rous County Council to properly plan for water resilience using current smarter technologies.

1. I object to the proposed dam for the following reasons: -
 - the dam would destroy The Channon Gorge and its endangered ecological community of lowland rainforest
 - the dam would destroy important indigenous cultural heritage
 - the dam would encourage continued inefficient and often wasteful water management by local councils

I have a personal concern for the 62 hectares of Lowland Rainforest Endangered Ecological Community on the site and the Warm Temperate Rainforest in The Channon Gorge. I am also aware that local landcarers have expended many hours of labour weeding existing forest and planting new trees within the proposed dam area to extend existing wildlife corridors and provide habitat for koalas and other wildlife.

I note that in Hydrosphere Consulting's report to RCC on "Course Screening Assessment of Options", Option 4a (Dunoon Dam) it is stated "Environmental and cultural heritage impacts will need to be assessed and potentially offset." I contend that the loss of sacred indigenous sites and endangered rainforest cannot be compensated by an 'offset'. Little remains of the vast Big Scrub rainforest (1%) that existed at the time of white settlement of the Richmond River area and therefore, in my opinion, any remnants should be preserved at all costs.

In conclusion I am in favour of strategies to reduce reticulated water consumption and opposed to the construction of a new dam for the area.

Yours sincerely,

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