

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

SUBMISSION - FNC Water Strategy

I am a resident of North Lismore in northern NSW, residing at [REDACTED]. I have lived and worked here for well over ten years. I am writing to express concern about the proposed dam in Dunoon and surrounding areas. Despite the DPIE's work towards an integrated and future focussed water strategy, Rous Water's Future Water 2060 project is lacking in evidence, has no social license, and hinges on the bewildering 'logic' behind their dam proposal.

My main concern is Rous Water's lack of adherence to well-accepted cultural protocols for engaging and listening to local Elders and community leaders from the Widjabul Wybul people of the Bundjalung nation. The dam proposed by Rous Water threatens several important cultural heritage sites, and indeed, the local Elders and community hold the entire impacted area sacred.

The proposed dam also threatens flora and fauna, and the project shows no signs that these threatened species are being taken into account. In 2010 Terrestrial Ecology, Aquatic Ecology, and Cultural Heritage reports all found serious impacts from a dam in this location on Rocky Creek. Members of a Public Reference Group voiced their concerns and opposition (SMEC, Dunoon Dam Terrestrial Ecology Impact Assessment, 2011). In 2013 a Technical Report noted that the dam was constrained by significant environmental and social impacts, high capital cost, and the fact that it was 'highly climate influenced' (p52). An Integrated Water Planning report in 2014 noted that although the dam was 'technically viable', it had 'significant environmental and social constraints associated with threatened and endangered terrestrial ecology and culturally significant Aboriginal heritage'.

The local residents support the diversification group water management strategies, including greater uptake of water storage on private dwellings, reduced water wastage, and exploration of purified water recycling. We understand that there are far more economic benefits to be gleaned from this diversification strategy than from the proposed dam. Indeed, the dam threatens our most treasured assets, our environmental and cultural heritage, which we hold dear and which draw many thousands of tourists each year.

You must listen to us. The proposed dam has no economic, environmental or social benefits but will bring major costs. Supporting Rous Water's proposals and continuing to ignore these submissions from local community members signals deep corruption in NSW planning processes. We beseech you to hear us and take the community's views on board.

Sincerely
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]