



I am writing to express my opposition to Rous Water’s proposed Dunoon Dam. I have lived in the local area for 47 years having moved here with my family as a young child. I have grown up with a deep appreciation for my local community and the environment. I have raised my own children here and currently work on Bush Regeneration projects on our land in Tuntable Creek.

I understand the importance of the work done by the DPIE to create infrastructures and plans for water security into the future, however, I do not consider the Dunoon Dam to be a viable option for a variety of reasons.

The Rous Future Water 2060 project has not addressed many relevant factors and alternative options in relation to the proposed Dunoon Dam. Rous Water has failed to adequately consider alternative options for water security and has failed miserably in their consideration of the ecological and heritage values of this site. Many (91% of submissions to Rous Water) in the wider community reject this proposal on economic, environmental and social grounds giving the proposal no licence in these regards.

The proposed dam would destroy much of the last remnants of the Big Scrub Rainforest with its rich flora and fauna. This particular remnant is home to unique ecological communities. Their value as an educational resource is yet to be fully explored and if lost will be to the detriment of us all. This rainforest can never be replicated.

This dam would severely impact the habitat of vulnerable species such as the Koala, Platypus and Native Fish species. Rare and endangered plant species are also threatened.

Importantly, the dam would be built on the land of the Widjabul/ Wiabul people of the Bundjalung Nation. The destruction of culturally significant sites within the proposed dam area falls nothing short of disrespect of Aboriginal cultural heritage. I understand that any disturbance of these sites is considered unacceptable by the Widjabul/Wiabul people.

I ask the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) to not rely on this contentious proposal in its development of a reliable water supply plan for NSW. I urge you to not adopt Rous Water’s proposal for the Dunoon dam as part of a state-wide water strategy.

Kind regards

