

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

To Department of Planning, Industry, and Environment

Dear Sir/Madam,

I lived in the Northern Rivers close to 12years. During that time I was employed to carry out riparian restoration on properties adjoining Terania Creek. The past decade has seen me living and working interstate. I still visit friends on an annual or biyearly basis.

I am aware of the work of the Dept of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) in developing the Far North Coast Water Strategy. I see it as a wide-ranging strategy that seeks to address reliable water supply into the future. However Rous City Council (RCC) Future Water 2060 Project needs to be observed with caution in relation to the Dunoon Dam. I do not think that the dam should be an option.

Rous has not been transparent with government or the DPIE at all.

Looking at the Smart Water Option is commendable and a fresh approach to our worlds' water supply and systems.

There are alternatives that WATER Northern Rivers present including case studies and recommendations in the "All Options on the Table" report a resilient water system & NSW 2020 "Productivity Commission Green Paper".

I would like to see RCC engage with and invest in system-wide water efficiency as per the recommendations of Professor Stuart White. Professor White was integral in Sydneys system-wide water investment which was effective in achieving a supply-demand balance.

Water Services Association of Australia (WSAA) describes new dams as a 'high risk investment' because they depend on rain. WSAA recommend a mix of complimentary water strategies such as; Purified Recycled Water and Desalinaton both which can be powered by renewable energy says Prof Stuart Khan (UNSW)

Cultural Heritage Impact

The site of contention is the land of the Widjabal - Wia-bal peoples. In the 2011 Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment (CHIA) has major significance to the modern day Aboriginal people who are connected to area along with its artefacts and burial sites throughout country. This land must be kept and protected to assure their culture is carried on to their grandchildren and the future generation/s.

Ecological Impact.

There lies a remaining 1% of the Big Scrub warm temperate rainforest where RCC want to clear. It is thought that with clearing 6.2%approx would be impacted of the 1%. The Channon Gorge is known for its warm temperate rainforest on sandstone. This is a rare occurrence in itself. The dam wall construction would destroy 92%. This is unacceptable, and would not or could not ever be a healthy living ecosystem again if destroyed. Another ecological impact is the koala. Koala habitat already was threatened, now with further habitat/food loss of both the Tallowood and Flooded Gum species being targeted with the dam proposal would be frightful. To see this herbivorous marsupial which is endemic to Australia further threatened would be utterly soul destroying. It has been an iconic native to all Australians and to endless admirers globally. Recently Sir David Attenborough screened on national television with a worrying message, the title of the show was Extinction. We can not and should not allow any further destruction to the planet that sustains us. The koala is one that is nearing to that fateful future along with the many unique flora species that are endemic to the remnant. The dam must not proceed, as it is not the correct choice of action.

Rous City Council

RCC is behind the eight ball in relation to system-wide water efficiency. The 2020 Integrated Water Cycle Management development did not acknowledge water efficiency. It literally omitted it. This is a poor approach by the local authority. I must highlight the lack of attention to water efficiency by RCC where it did not employ a Demand Management Officer for a substantial part in the last 2years. I would like to see RCC listen and sit with the leading experts who have much to offer and are fully committed to saving our cultural heritage for the benefit of the land and its inhabitants.

Yours truthfully,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

I urge RCC to engage with

water.