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**To:** DPIE W Regional Water Strategies Mailbox  
**Cc:** office@pavey.minister.nsw.gov.au  
**Subject:** "SUBMISSION - FNC Water Strategy."

Hello, my name is [REDACTED]

I am an industrial hemp farmer and market gardener operating around the northern rivers.

I am a concerned citizen and farmer who cares deeply about our water management strategy.

As a farmer, I rely on a variety of different water sources to maintain a healthy ecosystem.

Therefore, I resonate with the DPIE Far North Coast Water Strategy, where they use wide-ranging strategies to address a reliable water supply into the future. Water security plans must utilise modern technologies to provide clean, healthy drinking water to our communities.

With climate change the number 1 issue of 2020, we cannot continue to rely on rainfall to yield water for our communities. As Professor Stuart Khan (UNSW), has said a resilient water system would have 30-50% of supply from sources that don't depend on rain, such as Purified Recycled Water and desalination, both of which can be powered by renewable energy.

Other amazing options listed by the DPIE are:

- Bringing back riverine and estuarine habitats and threatened species
- addressing fish passage in North Coast
- addressing cold water pollution

THERE ARE MANY MORE ON THE DOCUMENT :

[https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0019/329014/draft-rws-fnc-options.pdf](https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0019/329014/draft-rws-fnc-options.pdf)

PLEASE READ.

I think it is outdated and highly simplistic that the bulk of Rous's Future Water 2060 project relies on the contentious Dunoon Dam. Not to mention, the intense damage this dam would cause to the surrounding wildlife and pristine environment that surrounds the internationally renowned area of the Channon. This council would be put to shame for centuries to come for this decision.

The area of the proposed Dunoon dam is culturally significant.

It is also ecologically significant :

- there are 62 ha of Lowland Rainforest Endangered Ecological Community (EEC) on the site
- Only 1% of the Big Scrub Rainforest remains. This rainforest is of global significance.
- The Channon Gorge contains warm-temperate rainforest on sandstone, a rare occurrence. The dam wall construction would destroy 92% of it..
- Nine threatened flora species would be severely impacted by Dunoon Dam. (2013 Terrestrial Ecology Impact Assessment Report). The destruction of these plants and an increase in the threats against them is a very serious matter with international scientific consequences.
- 17 fauna species have been identified that are listed as threatened under the TSC Act NSW (the koala, one fruit bat, six microbats and eight birds and one frog).
- Extinction pressure on koalas, Koalas were under extinction pressure even before 70% of koalas in North Coast firegrounds were killed in the 2019 summer fires.  
<https://www.wwf.org.au/news/news/2020/new-wwf-report-koalas-suffer-decline-across-fire-grounds>
- The 2011 Terrestrial Ecology Impact Assessment (TEIA), identified 72 ha of Tallowood and Flooded Gum koala habitat. [https://waternorthernrivers.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Dunoon\\_Dam\\_Terrestrial\\_Ecology\\_Impact\\_Assessment.pdf](https://waternorthernrivers.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Dunoon_Dam_Terrestrial_Ecology_Impact_Assessment.pdf) 3
- Koala corridors would be severed by the Dunoon Dam (TEIA 2011). Habitat fragmentation contributes to the decline in koala populations, will worsen the stress-disease problem and lead to more deaths.
- Koalas are commonly seen and heard in the area of the proposed dam wall and The Channon.
- Whian Whian Landcare has planted almost 3000 koala food trees to rebuild corridors in the proposed dam area - linking to tracts of forest to the north. This southern corridor would be destroyed
- Extinction pressure on platypus
- Platypus is facing extinction because of habitat destruction, dams and weirs (Bino et al, A stitch in time – Synergistic impacts to platypus metapopulation extinction risk, Biological Conservation, Feb 2020)
- There are breeding platypus on Rocky Creek. The Dunoon Dam would hasten the decline of this species.
- Construction of the dam will reduce platypus habitat downstream, due to sediment load smothering (The 2012 Aquatic Ecology Assessment p.61). <https://waternorthernrivers.org/wp->

THESE IMPACTS ARE CRITICAL. IN A TIME OF INTENSE CLIMATIC CHANGE AND CRITICAL FIRES, FLOODS AND WEATHER PATTERNS- how can Rous Council morally and ethically go ahead with this plan? It would be a fail of duty of care.

The 2020 Virtual UN, UK & FRANCE Summit on Climate Change just urged all countries and councils to declare a CLIMATE EMERGENCY. Building the proposed Dunoon Dam is exactly the opposite to this gesture.

PLEASE support the evidence and recreate the ROUS FUTURE WATER PLAN to include technologies of water purification and water efficiencies.

Kind regards,

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