

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

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I am a resident of Lismore, former organic farmer and current student at SCU.

Having read your Draft Regional Water Strategy for the far north coast, I was impressed by the list of potential options found on p 18, particularly the proposals for increasing climate independent water sources, protecting and enhancing natural systems, supporting water efficiency and conservation, and improving the recognition of Aboriginal people's water rights and interests.

I am writing to draw your attention to the failure of Rous County Council (RCC) to take into account water efficiency, roof and stormwater harvesting and climate independent water resources. Too much emphasis has been placed on the Dunoon dam, which is highly controversial, resisted by the community and indigenous groups, with 91% of 1290 submissions to RCC in opposition.

The proposed Dunoon dam goes contrary to all of proposals set out in the DPIE Regional Water Strategy:

1. It is totally climate dependent; it relies on rain.
 2. It will have a significant negative environmental impact on endangered ecological communities, and severely impact threatened species of flora. Koala corridors and food trees would be destroyed. Platypus habitat will be reduced, hastening their decline. Extinction pressure on native fish will be increased. All of this does nothing to protect and enhance natural systems. The Big Scrub Rainforest is of global significance and should be protected.
 3. Culturally significant Aboriginal heritage will be destroyed, deemed unacceptable in a 2011 Cultural Heritage Impact Statement. Arguable even more unacceptable today, considering the utter disregard for First Nations peoples by Rio Tinto. This disregard cannot continue.
- RCC have neglected to adequately investigate system-wide water efficiency or consider innovative contemporary options such as desalination and purified recycled water. In addition, RCC has failed to consider modern technologies to plan for water resilience.

The construction of a dam is an outdated antiquated expensive environmental disaster, particularly in this era of climate change, and must not be used to underpin the Far North Coast Regional Water Strategy.

Kind regards

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