

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: [REDACTED]
To: DPIE W Regional Water Strategies Mailbox
Cc: office@pavey.minister.nsw.gov.au
Subject: SUBMISSION - FNC Water Strategy

Dear Rous Water Board Members,

I have newly moved to Ballina with my two children who are young adults. I work as a disability support worker and I teach storytelling online.

I acknowledge the DPIE for developing the wide-ranging Far North Coast Water Strategy. However I oppose the proposed Dunoos Dam. I write to urge you to seriously update your water strategy. While I support some aspects of the strategy, I am deeply opposed to the Dunoos Dam. Indeed I am very distressed that you are not taking other options, like water saving, more seriously. Dams represent old thinking. Given the complex wicked problems and impacts we face with climate change, we need creative solutions based on data and science. A dam will not serve us in drought as it won't fill or if it floods it may cause overflow hazards. I have learned from '*All Options On The Table*' by WSAA that dams are considered as high-risk investments because they rely on rainfall in a changing climate.

It is scary to know that some towns in the world have run out of water and it seems likely in this hot dry land that even here in the Northern rivers that could happen. You want to protect us all from that horrible scenario. However I am deeply concerned to learn that you have paid little attention to water efficiency, evident from the fact that after finally employing a Demand Management officer, that position is only part-time. This urgently needs to become a top priority and at least become a full-time position. Better yet, you could save the millions you plan to spend on the dam, hire a team of water efficiency experts and encourage residents to have their own water tank by subsidising them.

Furthermore, I am appalled you would push forward with the dam option, without properly investigating other well researched water efficiency options, when the long list of negative impacts of this dam would be so very great! There is no way of 'offsetting' extinction. Do we really value our wildlife so little? After the bushfires and the illness ravaging koalas especially how could we put a dam where it would threaten their survival further?

The destruction of Aboriginal Heritage by Dunoos Dam is unacceptable
Destruction of Big Scrub Rainforest and its threatened species
Extinction pressure on koalas
Extinction pressure on platypus
Extinction Pressure on Native Fish
Severance of local wildlife corridors

Please, please I sincerely urge you, put the plans for a big expensive dam aside and research all the other options being presented much more thoroughly!
I trust you will come to a wise decision.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
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