

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: [REDACTED]
To: DPIE W Regional Water Strategies Mailbox
Cc: office@pavey.minister.nsw.gov.au; DPIE Water Enquiries Mailbox
Subject: SUBMISSION - FNC Water Strategy.
Attachments: image001.gif

SUBMISSION - FNC Water Strategy

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am writing as a community member who has spent many years living in The Channon and surrounding areas, although I now reside in Lismore. I appreciate the efforts of the DPIE to formulate a "Far North Coast Water Strategy" to safeguard our water supply now and in the future. But, I am EXTREMELY concerned about the "Future Water Project 2060" being proposed by the Rous County Council. I strongly OBJECT to the proposed Dunoon Dam, which will not only have many adverse effects on current residents of the area, but is also one of the least reliable ways to ensure water availability in an increasingly warm climate. The dam is based on the faulty logic of ever-expanding consumption to meet the projection of an ever-increasing population and economy--rather than considering the many alternatives to using our finite natural resources wisely! In this region we are blessed with relatively high rainfall-- let's use that gift rather than squander it.

The water use of most Rous Water Council residents is often profligate. I regularly witness improper water consumption: cars being washed on the sidewalk, despite publicized water restrictions in place, lawns watered in the middle of the day during drought, etc. I know that there are more efficient water security plans that could be implemented--let's mandate water tank installation for all homes, for starters. (Surely this could be done for well under \$245 million!!) Let's mandate all new developments to install appropriate infrastructure so that ALL rainwater is collected and piped into purpose-built reservoirs for resident's use.

If this dam goes ahead, its impact will be unnecessarily severe. The construction of the proposed dam wall, and the consequent **destruction** of the ecosystems of the Dunoon-Channon area is totally unacceptable. E.g., at a time when our local koala population is in serious decline, this dam will affect movement between koala feeding/breeding areas, that we just cannot afford if we want the species to survive. Additionally, the constant 24-hour noise from the pumping station will fill the valleys below, destroying the natural amenity of the area. I do not want to see this dam go ahead, and destroy communities of people as well as habitat for flora & fauna.

I am also aware that the proposed site will flood culturally significant sites and artefacts of the Widjabal people, particularly scar trees, and burial sites near Munro Road. Building this dam represents another act of genocide against Indigenous Peoples which must not be perpetrated. How can Rous Water possibly consider this dam going ahead, when one of the expressed objective of the Richmond River Water Sharing Plan is to "Protect, preserve, maintain and enhance the Aboriginal, cultural and heritage values of these water sources"....? **Don't add hypocrisy to Rous' already tarnished reputation.**

I plan to continue to express my opposition to the construction of this dam at every opportunity.

I do hope DPIE will listen to the voices of the community, and understand the reasons behind the widespread opposition to this dam, and take appropriate action. People in the Northern Rivers want water security solutions that will carry us into the future--not just the old-fashioned thinking and bigger dams proposed by Rous Water.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Climate Voter 

I acknowledge the Widjabal/Wyabal people of the Bundjalung nation as traditional owners of the land on which I live. Sovereignty is ongoing and has never been ceded.