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Sent: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: SUBMISSION - FNC WaterStrategy

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Department of Planning, Industry and Environment,

Re: SUBMISSION - FNC Water Strategy

Firstly, thank you for all the hard work from DPIE in maintaining stewardship of our water and surrounding flora and fauna over the last few decades, and the planning that has already gone into the North Coast Water Strategy. As a new resident to Lismore, and an environmental scientist, it is evident that there is a keen awareness and duty of care for the environmental health of our water, soil and air quality which I'm grateful for. It is great to see that the NCWS is a wide-ranging strategy and seeks to address reliable water supply into the future.

However, I'm so shocked that the Dunoon Dam is being proposed again, as part of Rous Council's Future Water 2060 project, after already being shelved by the community and council after being deemed to be too high a cost to the environment. The Dunoon Dam should not be an option.

I do NOT support the dam for the primary reason that the plants and animals that together make up the "Lowland Rainforest of Subtropical Australia", a Critically Endangered Ecological Community (EPBC Act, 1999), will all be systematically drowned and destroyed. Not only is this completely unethical, with no regard for the right to life of other species, it is also incredibly short-sighted, as we will then lose all the ecosystem services that that community now gives us – clean water, good soil, clean air, carbon sequestration and pollinators for our food crops to name just a few – forever.

Your team may not be aware of the devastating destruction of the 'Big Scrub', the heart of this EEC, over the last 200 years. Once an expanse of rainforest spanning 75,000 ha, the Big Scrub is now 1% of its original size, and under further threat of fragmentation (Parkes et al., 2012). Despite its fragile ecological status, the Big Scrub contains 40% of NSW threatened species (DECCW, 2010), is a current link to the World Heritage listed Gondwana Rainforests of Australia (DEWR, 2007), and supports the World Heritage listed Border Ranges National Park, one of Australia's National Biodiversity Hotspots (EPBC Act, 1999).

Can we really have the destruction of hundreds of thousands of plants and animals on our conscience? Just so we can flush clean water down the toilet because it's an easy option?

We need smarter water demand and supply management, and I believe that the DPIE's North Coast Water Strategy can create a water management system that does not include a dam.

The inclusion of the Dunoon Dam in the Future Water 2060 Project has been rejected by the community based on its failure to meet the triple bottom line. 91% of 1290 written and online submissions to Rous County Council opposed the dam option (VAXA, FWP2060 Outcomes from Public Exhibition - 2020, 2020).

By continuing to suggest the Dunoon Dam as the only option, RCC failed to provide leadership in increasing knowledge of innovative water management. There is a lack of familiarity with options showcased by WSAA in All Options on the Table (WSAA). The narrow focus on Dunoon Dam has stunted water literacy in the region. This is a deficit that DPIE needs to rectify in the Regional Strategy.

It is unacceptable that culturally significant sites of the Widgabul-Wiyabul people, the traditional custodians of the region, should be destroyed by flooding. The 2011 Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment states "Aboriginal stakeholders are of the opinion that the sites should remain undisturbed and that no level of disturbance is considered acceptable to them". This opinion still stands but Rous County Council is moving ahead anyway, at serious risk of retribution as per Rio Tinto and the Jukaan rock shelters.

I SUPPORT these alternatives:

- Water re-use in various ways, including Purified Recycled Potable water.
- Water harvesting (urban runoff; rain tanks):
- Contingency planning would enable Rous to be ready to rapidly implement supply measures

if it becomes necessary in times of drought.

- Groundwater, where this is environmentally safe

Thank you for considering my information and opinion.

Regards,
[REDACTED]

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warm regards,
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