

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

SUBMISSION FNC WATER STRATEGY

Dear Sir

As a wildlife ecologist in Queensland I carried out research on Rock Wallabies in north Queensland and urban wildlife in Brisbane. My publications include "Wildlife of the Brisbane Area" for WWF Aust. and "Plant a Tree. A Working Guide for the Greening of southeast Qld and northeastern NSW" for Greening Australia. Before retirement I worked as a TAFE teacher to help develop a sheep property "The Willows" as an Aboriginal tourism enterprise, and as a secondary school teacher, taught Aboriginal Studies and Science closely liasing with the Aboriginal community. Since retirement have organised bush regeneration projects at Nimbin Rocks Aboriginal Community and in the Nimbin area. Most recently as president of Tuntable Creek Landcare Group I have participated in koala habitat restoration on my own property, Rose Road Wildlife Refuge, and on neighbouring properties of our members. Our Group has undertaken creek bank restoration work along Tuntable Creek and Rocky Creek at Coronation Park, aiming to improve fish habitat.

Like 91% of the 1290 submissions to Rous Water that opposed the Dunoon dam this submission also opposes the dam being included as an option in the Draft Far North Coast Regional Water Strategy.

I am aware of the strong opposition by the local Aboriginal community to the destruction of Aboriginal Heritage that would result from dam construction and inundation. This is especially grievous when expert opinion in numerous reports suggests that the dam is not necessary and that other options would provide greater water security in the coming era of climate extremes, particularly during prolonged severe drought. These include increasing resilience by greater efficiency of water management to reduce wastage and increase recycling of water in use, rather than relying on rainfall to fill dams.

These reports also enumerate the destructive effects of the dam on the natural environment, particularly the destruction of remnant lowland rainforest and koala habitat including the restoration work by Whian Whian Landcare on the koala corridors in the Gorge so important for flourishing of our local koala population, following the killing of 70% of the the koalas in the North Coast fires. Our own landcare group has put much time and energy into restoration of fish habitat on Rocky Creek below the dam. The dam greatly increases the likelihood of extinction for threatened fish species and the platypus. Our landcare work cannot be regarded as an offset to the loss of irreplaceable forests in the Gorge.

yours sincerely

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