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**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

To DPIE,

RE: SUBMISSION - FNC Water Strategy

My name is [REDACTED]. I have been a resident of Mullumbimby for 22 years. I am a director of several community-based ecological organisations: COREM, Renew Fest and the Community Power Agency.

I acknowledge the work done so far by DPIE in developing the Far North Coast Water Strategy. It's a wide-ranging strategy and seeks to address reliable water supply into the future. However, **I urge that the Strategy must not rely too much on Rous's Future Water 2060 project, especially because that plan hinges on the contentious Dunoon Dam, and the Dunoon dam should no longer be an option in the strategy**, for the below reasons:

**Dunoon Dam would leave us vulnerable in a warming climate:** Water Services Association of Australia describes new dams as high-risk investments because they depend on rain. They recommend a mix of complementary water strategies. (WSAA, All Options on the Table, 2020).

**Dunoon Dam will have a range of destructive impacts for our natural rainforest ecology and as well as for indigenous heritage** as noted in various reports (2010 Terrestrial Ecology, Aquatic Ecology, and Cultural Heritage reports; 2011 Terrestrial Ecology Impact Assessment; 2011 and 2013 Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment; 2013 Terrestrial Ecology Impact Assessment Report; 2014 Integrated Water Planning report).

**Specific destructive impacts for our ecological include:**

- **destruction of Big Scrub Rainforest:** There are 62 ha of Lowland Rainforest Endangered Ecological Community (EEC) on the site. Only 1% of the Big Scrub Rainforest remains. This rainforest is of global significance.

- **impact on nine threatened flora species** would be severely impacted by Dunoon Dam. (2013 Terrestrial Ecology Impact Assessment Report). The destruction of these plants and an increase in the threats against them is a very serious matter with international scientific consequences.

- **extinction pressure on koalas:** Koala corridors would be severed by the Dunoon Dam (TEIA 2011). Habitat fragmentation contributes to the decline in koala populations, will worsen the stress-disease problem and lead to more deaths. Note: Koalas are commonly seen and heard in the area of the proposed dam wall and The Channon. Whian Whian Landcare has planted almost 3000 koala food trees to rebuild corridors in the proposed dam area - linking to tracts of forest to the north. This southern corridor would be destroyed.

- **extinction pressure on platypus:** There are breeding platypus on Rocky Creek. The Dunoon Dam would hasten the decline of this species. Construction of the dam will reduce platypus habitat downstream, due to sediment load smothering (The 2012 Aquatic Ecology Assessment p.61).

- **extinction pressure on native fish:** A Dunoon dam would extinguish nearly all of the endangered Eastern Freshwater Cod's Rocky Creek habitat due to cold water pollution downstream (NSW Fisheries, Eastern (Freshwater) Cod (Maccullochella ikei) Recovery Plan, 2004). The existing NSW DPI Eastern Freshwater Cod Recovery Plan aims to restore this species to the Rocky Creek and Richmond River systems. It depends on quality habitat and natural flows. Another 16 native fish species are also threatened by a significant and permanent loss of this 17.5 kms of habitat, including Oxleyan Pygmy Perch and Purple Spotted Gudgeon (2011 Rous Aquatic Survey).

To act against this knowledge (of such significant threats for our ecology and indigenous heritage) and go ahead with the Dunoon Dam would be inexcusable.

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In Gratitude

- ❖ Founding President COREM
- ❖ Festival Director RENEW FEST
- ❖ Assistant Chair RESILIENT BYRON
- ❖ Director COMMUNITY POWER AGENCY