

SUBMISSION – FAR NORTH COAST REGIONAL WATER STRATEGY

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Personal Background -

I am a veterinary surgeon and a trained tutor in the Community Water Monitoring course –“Water Places” course (written by ██████████ and ██████████ who worked with Rous Water). I am also a resident of the region.

Submission:

Thank you to the Department for preparing the Draft Strategy and work done to date, and particularly the long list of options.

However my submission is TO REJECT Option 14 the New Dunoon Dam on Rocky Creek, along with 91% of 1290 other residents who have made submissions to reject it. The reasons are social, environmental, cultural and financial.

Firstly, this significant opposition to option 14 is a clear demonstration of the lack of social license for the building of the new dam, and there are so many other more economic alternatives.

Secondly, the ecological impacts are unacceptable. There are so few remnants of Big Scrub left in the region and the destruction of 62 hectares of the small parcel of remaining Big Scrub Rainforest together with its 9 threatened flora species and 17 fauna species is devastating to the biodiversity of the region. The dam would also truncate koala corridors, destroy platypus habitat, and effect of cold water pollution on threatened native fish species. The downstream impacts from that are immeasurable.

Thirdly, cultural heritage sites of the Wijabul Wia-bal people would be destroyed by the dam. A 2011 Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment acknowledge that Aboriginal stakeholders considered the sites should remain undisturbed. It is disappointing that Rous appears to be seeking via renewed questioning to overturn that assessment to meet its own needs.

Finally, Option 14 is a huge expensive infrastructure project. For such a high cost, the rate payer/tax payer should expect in return long term sustainable benefits and certainty compared to the other options on the table. However, as the dam is dependent entirely on rainfall, sustainability and certainty in the face of climate change is in doubt.

In conclusion, a new Dunoon Dam on Rocky Creek will have unacceptable social, environmental, cultural and financial impacts to our region. It will be a burden and a blight for future generations. Please reject option 14 from your strategy. There are better options including requiring every new

development to have water harvesting and water tanks and educating everyone on water efficiency. We would be happy to be involved in the community engagement process.

