

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: [REDACTED]  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: SUBMISSION - FNC Water Strategy

My name is [REDACTED]. I live in Nimbin, a small village on the NSW north coast. I am vehemently opposed to the Dunnon Dam proposal because of its impact on the ecology of wildlife in last remaining remnants of the Big Scrub, Low level rainforests and that over 90% of locals are against this dam proposal. I wish to also remind you that the 2011 Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment (CHIA) document provides overwhelming evidence that this particular valley is of major significance for the Widjabal-Wiyabal people. The cultural meaning of this place is apparent not just in the artefacts and burial sites but in the ongoing living connection that local people have with this landscape. The CHIA makes absolutely clear that "Aboriginal stakeholders are of the opinion that the sites should remain undisturbed and that no level of disturbance is considered acceptable, especially when concerned with impacts upon the burials, which they see serving as a direct link to the ancestors of the registered stakeholders". The evidence of burial sites in particular was a major factor in halting the dam last time it was proposed. This hasn't changed. "Continuing to consult with Indigenous stakeholders" is just plain insulting when it is clearly code for "We will make a show of talking to you but will go ahead with our plans regardless of your wishes". In fact the word "stakeholder" is demeaning. It puts the Aboriginal custodians, who have been caring for this land for 1000's of years, on a par with the driver of a concrete truck on a short-term contract. The consultation process as laid out clearly in the CHIA has not been followed by Rous and the Aboriginal custodians rightly have little faith that their participation will have any meaningful outcome. No amount of consultation will convince the custodians that this place is not significant. It is not too much of a stretch to say that this dam is the North Coast's Rio Tinto moment. Aboriginal heritage is beyond valuing in monetary terms and must not be discarded just because it cannot be given a monetary value. The Juukan Caves were destroyed by Rio Tinto because they had no dollar value. It is time to let the wishes of the Indigenous people prevail. Hope you take this seriously as you will have another huge non-violent civil disobedient blockade to deal with in an area which has proven to be successful in winning time and time again..

Yours [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]