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**To:** DPIE W Regional Water Strategies Mailbox  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** SUBMISSION - FNC Water Strategy

**Submission to Department of Planning, Industry and Environment**  
**Re: Far North Coast Water Strategy**

Dear Minister,

There is a proposal to build a second dam 'Dunoon Dam' on Rocky Creek in Northern NSW, in addition to the existing Rocky Creek Dam. As a long-term resident of the Northern Rivers I feel that this is not the best way to secure water, for the future, for the area. Evaporation rates during the dry season here are extremely high and dams become inefficient for storing water. I would like to see innovations like the Warrnambool Roof Water Harvesting Initiative investigated as a possibility for rainwater harvesting in new developments within the Northern Rivers. Particularly along the coastal fringe where development rates and rainfall rates are the highest.

**Warrnambool Roof Water Harvesting Initiative**

<https://www.wannonwater.com.au/news-projects/projects/warrnambool-roof-water-harvesting-initiative.aspx#:~:text=The%20Warrnambool%20Roof%20Water%20Harvesting,more%20liveable%20and%20sustainable%20cities.>

The environmental impact of this second dam on Rocky Creek will be huge. It will submerge critical koala and platypus habitat as well as further limit flow rates into the Wilson's River and broader Richmond River catchment. These rivers already have had F and D health ratings respectively in recent years, and are in desperate need of riparian restoration rather than further impacts to their overall health. <https://www.echo.net.au/2016/05/wilsons-river-in-very-poor-health-report/#:~:text=Overall%2C%20the%20Richmond%20River%20catchment,vegetation%20and%20poor%20water%20quality.>

Right across Australia we are seeing the negative impacts of dams on river systems. Trying to ensure adequate environmental flows is extremely difficult and subject to the political climate of the day.

Please **do not support** the building of the Dunoon Dam within the Northern Rivers. Please prioritise investigating alternative rainwater harvesting solutions and upscaling successful local water recycling initiatives such as those employed by Ballina Shire Council. <https://www.ballinawater.com.au/general-information/urban-water-cycle/recycled-water-overview.html>

Thank you for your time

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