

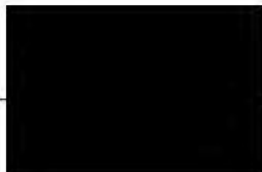
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Kind regards, Signature: \_\_\_\_\_




Date: 6/9/20

8 SEP 2020

**Feedback Submission Re: Proposed Dunoon Dam within the Future Water Project 2060**

To: General Manager, Rous County Council  
PO Box 230, Lismore NSW 2480

From: Elsa Brownhill

Address: 

Firstly, the community appreciates the submission extension. We also acknowledge the complexity of the work Rous does to provide water for our region.

**I DO NOT support the proposed The Channon-Dunoon Dam for these reasons:**

- **Lost opportunity to invest in system-wide water efficiency.** This is the cheapest & fastest way to ensure supply-demand balance. By focussing on system efficiency, Sydney added an additional 950,000 people without a rise in consumption.<sup>(1)</sup>
- **The 21st century is about a suite of smart water options.** This dam would be a lost opportunity to make our system fit for the 21st century by swallowing all resources in one big expensive 'white dinosaur' project.
- **The dam would encourage continued inefficient and wasteful water management by local governments.** They would have no incentive to do things differently.
- **Destruction of important Indigenous cultural heritage,** including burial sites.<sup>(2)</sup>
- **Destruction of The Channon Gorge and its endangered ecological community of lowland rainforest,** threatened flora and fauna species.<sup>(3)</sup> Rous's plan to offset the loss of rainforest on sandstone with regeneration of degraded land in the buffer zone is problematic as the type of vegetation offered as recompense is not equivalent. (Nan Nicholson, botanist) Councils are required under State planning regulations to: "Focus development to areas of least biodiversity sensitivity in the region and implement the 'avoid, minimise, offset' hierarchy to biodiversity, including areas of high environmental value."<sup>(4)</sup> Rous is required to **avoid** this destruction because there are economically viable and more effective solutions.
- **Industrial/construction zone** for The Channon/Dunoon community; noise, machinery, trucks, visual impact. Ongoing sound impact from pump house etc.
- **Higher prices for consumers due to a 4x increase in the cost of water.** Rous general manager, in response to a question from councillor Vanessa Ekins, said he expected a fourfold increase in the cost of supplying water if the dam is built.
- **The small population increase** predicted for the four Rous-supplied councils of 12,720<sup>(5)</sup> between 2020-2060 **does not justify** such a large and destructive dam. The dam risks diverting expenditure away from more sustainable, flexible and effective solutions.<sup>(5)</sup>

**I SUPPORT these alternatives:**

We need a suite of smart water options and proven alternatives, not a huge new dam. The tide is turning on renewable and sustainable power. It is time for the tide to turn on how we meet our water needs too.

- **An investment in system-wide water efficiency and strong demand management.** Analysed, costed and deployed, creating jobs. (*We understand Rous has not costed this in creating their future water plan*) Existing research over the past decade consistently finds that the best 'bang-for-buck' investment in water supply comes from demand management and identifying savings within the existing supply.<sup>(6) (7)</sup>



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Kind regards, Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



Date: 6/9/20

8 SEP 2020

**Feedback Submission Re: Proposed Dunoon Dam within the Future Water Project 2060**

To: General Manager, Rous County Council  
PO Box 230, Lismore NSW 2480

From: Gillian Gowling  
Address: [REDACTED]

Firstly, the community appreciates the submission extension. We also acknowledge the complexity of the work Rous does to provide water for our region.

**I DO NOT support the proposed The Channon-Dunoon Dam for these reasons:**

- **Lost opportunity to invest in system-wide water efficiency.** This is the cheapest & fastest way to ensure supply-demand balance. By focussing on system efficiency, Sydney added an additional 950,000 people without a rise in consumption.<sup>(1)</sup>
- **The 21st century is about a suite of smart water options.** This dam would be a lost opportunity to make our system fit for the 21st century by swallowing all resources in one big expensive 'white dinosaur' project.
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**I SUPPORT these alternatives:**

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Kind regards, Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



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8 SEP 2020

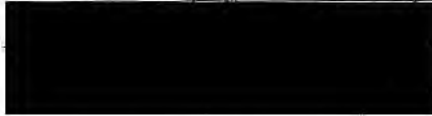
**Feedback Submission Re: Proposed Dunoon Dam within the Future Water Project 2060**

To: General Manager, Rous County Council  
PO Box 230, Lismore NSW 2480

From:

Timothy Cowing

Address:



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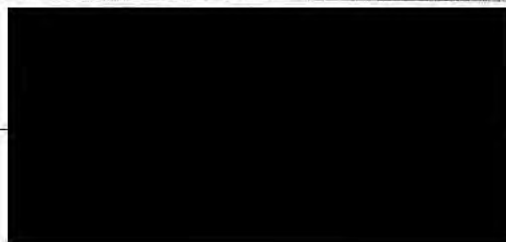
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Kind regards, Signature: \_\_\_\_\_




Date: 6/9/20.

8 SEP 2020

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From: 

Address: 

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- (12) Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2018, *What are the ecological impacts of groundwater drawdown? | Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment*, Canberra, viewed 6 August 2020, <<https://www.environment.gov.au/water/publications/what-are-the-ecological-impacts-of-groundwater-drawdown>>

Kind regards, Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



Date: \_\_\_\_\_


6/9/20

Received over the counter

8 SEP 2020

To: General Manager  
Rous County Council  
PO Box 230  
Lismore NSW 2480

Date: 7.8.2020

From: Julianne Pflieger  
Address: 

**Re: The proposed Channon/Dunoon Dam within the Future Water Project 2060**

**I DO NOT support the proposed The Channon-Dunoon Dam for these reasons:**

- **Destruction of important Indigenous Cultural Heritage**, including burial sites (Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment, 2011). Ongoing disregard for First Nations sacred sites and culture.
- **Destruction of The Channon Gorge and its Endangered Ecological Community of Lowland Rainforest** (including the regionally rare warm temperate rainforest on sandstone), and its threatened species of flora and fauna. (Terrestrial Ecology Impact Assessment, 2011). Rous is planning to offset the loss of rainforest on sandstone with regeneration of degraded land in the buffer zone. Offsetting is a worthless exercise because the type of vegetation offered as recompense is never equivalent. This is worse than most. (Nan Nicholson, botanist)
- **Industrial/construction zone** for years for The Channon/Dunoon community; noise pollution; large trucks/machinery on our roads; visual impact. Ongoing sound impact from pump house etc.
- **Water prices will increase by 4x** current cost (or higher) (Rous)
- **Promotes accelerated population growth** in the Northern Rivers. I'm concerned the Dam is being framed as 'water security' to the local population, yet to further afield it is being framed as a development plan for acceleration of growth. I'm concerned the model that predicted the population did not take into account the actual dam's effect on growth. This framing is concerning to me: "Everyone needs to understand this Regional development plan which is "focused on *unlocking the potential* of one of Australia's most beautiful places. The North Coast will become the best region in Australia to live, work and play". From planning document:  
<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Plans-for-your-area/Regional-Plans/North-Coast/Delivering-the-plan> <sup>(1)</sup>
- **The entire modelling and the strategy recommendations were made pre-COVID19**, and are no longer economically or demographically valid. COVID has also shown us we need to be able to pivot quickly and flexibly - something this massive 'single solution' won't do.
- **The tiny population increase** for the four Rous supplied councils of only 12,720<sup>(2)</sup> people between 2020-2060 *does not justify* such a large and destructive dam. It risks being an *expensive white elephant*, diverting money away from more needed and effective solutions. **It is likely to create division and conflict** within our communities after suffering flood, drought and an extreme fire season. What we need are resilience and community building solutions.



**I SUPPORT these alternatives:**

The tide is turning on renewable and sustainable power. It is time for the tide to turn on how we meet our water needs too. We need to take action on a suite of smart water options and proven alternatives. This is 21st century thinking.

- **Strong Demand Management**  
Existing research over the past decade consistently finds that the best 'bang-for-buck' investment in water supply comes from demand management and identifying savings within the existing supply.<sup>(3) (4)</sup>
- **Purified Recycled Water**  
A wealth of global research and experience already exists regarding potable reuse of water as set out in the Australian report, *Potable Water Reuse: What can Australia learn from global experience?* <https://www.waterra.com.au/publications/document-search/?download=1806><sup>(5)</sup>  
Example: The city of Windhoek has been using Purified Recycled Water for 30yrs using advanced technology. <https://www.wingoc.com.na/our-history><sup>(6)</sup>
- **Water tanks on all new (and existing) developments**<sup>(7)</sup> *This builds community resilience - much needed as the example of the extreme bushfire season has shown up.*  
The Australian government advises that: "Depending on tank size and climate, mains water use can be reduced by up to 100%. This in turn can help: reduce the need for new dams or desalination plants; protect remaining environmental flows in rivers; reduce infrastructure operating costs.  
Rainwater harvesting also decreases stormwater runoff, thereby helping to reduce local flooding and scouring of creeks."<sup>(8)</sup> <https://www.yourhome.gov.au/water/rainwater>
- **Groundwater, where this is environmentally safe**  
The Australian government provides a lot of information on ecological impacts and groundwater usage.<sup>(9)</sup>  
<https://www.environment.gov.au/water/publications/what-are-the-ecological-impacts-of-groundwater-drawdown>

With scalable alternatives in place for supply, the existing Rocky Ck Dam supply component will be made resilient to anticipated times of drought and projected population growth, without the environmental destruction, social costs, and the over-capitalisation risk of an outsized dam.

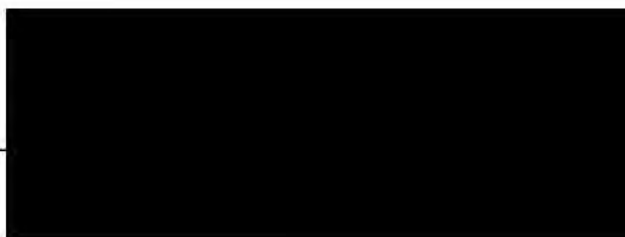
## References and Notes

- (1) NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment 2019, *'Delivering the plan'*, Sydney, viewed 03 August 2020, <<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Plans-for-your-area/Regional-Plans/North-Coast/Delivering-the-plan>>
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## Extra notes/Comments:

Kind regards,

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_





Received over the counter

8 SEP 2020

To: General Manager  
Rous County Council  
PO Box 230  
Lismore NSW 2480

Date: 9/8/2020

From:  
Address:

Noela Yates



**Re: The proposed Channon/Dunoon Dam within the Future Water Project 2060**

**I DO NOT support the proposed The Channon-Dunoon Dam for these reasons:**

- **Destruction of important Indigenous Cultural Heritage**, including burial sites (Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment, 2011). Ongoing disregard for First Nations sacred sites and culture.
- **Destruction of The Channon Gorge and its Endangered Ecological Community of Lowland Rainforest** (including the regionally rare warm temperate rainforest on sandstone), and its threatened species of flora and fauna. (Terrestrial Ecology Impact Assessment, 2011). Rous is planning to offset the loss of rainforest on sandstone with regeneration of degraded land in the buffer zone. Offsetting is a worthless exercise because the type of vegetation offered as recompense is never equivalent. This is worse than most. (Nan Nicholson, botanist)
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<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Plans-for-your-area/Regional-Plans/North-Coast/Delivering-the-plan><sup>(1)</sup>
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- **The tiny population increase** for the four Rous supplied councils of only 12,720<sup>(2)</sup> people between 2020-2060 *does not justify* such a large and destructive dam. It risks being an *expensive white elephant*, diverting money away from more needed and effective solutions. **It is likely to create division and conflict** within our communities after suffering flood, drought and an extreme fire season. What we need are resilience and community building solutions.

### **I SUPPORT these alternatives:**

The tide is turning on renewable and sustainable power. It is time for the tide to turn on how we meet our water needs too. We need to take action on a suite of smart water options and proven alternatives. This is 21st century thinking.

- **Strong Demand Management**  
Existing research over the past decade consistently finds that the best 'bang-for-buck' investment in water supply comes from demand management and identifying savings within the existing supply.<sup>(3) (4)</sup>
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With scalable alternatives in place for supply, the existing Rocky Ck Dam supply component will be made resilient to anticipated times of drought and projected population growth, without the environmental destruction, social costs, and the over-capitalisation risk of an outsized dam.



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## Extra notes/Comments:

Kind regards,

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



Received over the counter  
8 SEP 2020

**Feedback Submission Re: Proposed Dunoon Dam within the Future Water Project 2060**

To: General Manager, Rous County Council  
PO Box 230, Lismore NSW 2480

From: *Ms. Alison Corfield*

Address: 

Firstly, the community appreciates the submission extension. We also acknowledge the complexity of the work Rous does to provide water for our region.

**I DO NOT support the proposed The Channon-Dunoon Dam for these reasons:**

- **Lost opportunity to invest in system-wide water efficiency.** This is the cheapest & fastest way to ensure supply-demand balance. By focussing on system efficiency, Sydney added an additional 950,000 people without a rise in consumption.<sup>(1)</sup>
- **The 21st century is about a suite of smart water options.** This dam would be a lost opportunity to make our system fit for the 21st century by swallowing all resources in one big expensive 'white dinosaur' project.
- **The dam would encourage continued inefficient and wasteful water management by local governments.** They would have no incentive to do things differently.
- **Destruction of important Indigenous cultural heritage,** including burial sites.<sup>(2)</sup>
- **Destruction of The Channon Gorge and its endangered ecological community of lowland rainforest,** threatened flora and fauna species.<sup>(3)</sup> Rous's plan to offset the loss of rainforest on sandstone with regeneration of degraded land in the buffer zone is problematic as the type of vegetation offered as recompense is not equivalent. (Nan Nicholson, botanist) Councils are required under State planning regulations to: "Focus development to areas of least biodiversity sensitivity in the region and implement the 'avoid, minimise, offset' hierarchy to biodiversity, including areas of high environmental value."<sup>(4)</sup> Rous is required to **avoid** this destruction because there are economically viable and more effective solutions.
- **Industrial/construction zone** for The Channon/Dunoon community; noise, machinery, trucks, visual impact. Ongoing sound impact from pump house etc.
- **Higher prices for consumers due to a 4x increase in the cost of water.** Rous general manager, in response to a question from councillor Vanessa Ekins, said he expected a fourfold increase in the cost of supplying water if the dam is built.
- **The small population increase** predicted for the four Rous-supplied councils of 12,720<sup>(5)</sup> between 2020-2060 **does not justify** such a large and destructive dam. The dam risks diverting expenditure away from more sustainable, flexible and effective solutions.<sup>(5)</sup>

**I SUPPORT these alternatives:**

We need a suite of smart water options and proven alternatives, not a huge new dam. The tide is turning on renewable and sustainable power. It is time for the tide to turn on how we meet our water needs too.

- **An investment in system-wide water efficiency and strong demand management.** Analysed, costed and deployed, creating jobs. (*We understand Rous has not costed this in creating their future water plan*) Existing research over the past decade consistently finds that the best 'bang-for-buck' investment in water supply comes from demand management and identifying savings within the existing supply.<sup>(6) (7)</sup>



- **Water re-use in various ways, including Purified Recycled Potable water.** A wealth of global research and experience exists regarding potable reuse of water.<sup>(6)</sup> Eg: The city of Windhoek in Namibia has been using purified recycled water for 30 years using advanced technology.<sup>(9)</sup>
- **Water harvesting** (urban runoff; rain tanks):  
Water tanks on all new (and existing) developments. The Australian government advises that: "Depending on tank size and climate, mains water use can be reduced by up to 100%. This in turn can help: reduce the need for new dams or desalination plants; protect remaining environmental flows in rivers; reduce infrastructure operating costs."<sup>(10)</sup> Rainwater harvesting also decreases stormwater runoff, thereby helping to reduce local flooding and scouring of creeks.<sup>(11)</sup>
- **Contingency planning** would enable Rous to be ready to rapidly implement supply measures if it becomes necessary in times of drought.
- **Groundwater, where this is environmentally safe.** The Australian government provides a lot of information on the ecological impacts and groundwater usage.<sup>(12)</sup>

With scalable supply alternatives in place, the existing supply from Rocky Ck Dam will be made resilient to anticipated times of drought and projected population growth, without the environmental destruction, social costs, and the over-capitalisation risk of an oversized and unnecessary dam.

#### References and Notes

- (1) Metropolitan Water Plan 2006, NSW Government. Exec Summary section of the doc <https://www.dropbox.com/s/pu9898oq6kocrph/NSW%20Govt%202006%20MWP%20summary.pdf?dl=0>
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Kind regards, Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



Date: 23/8/20.

8 SEP 2020

**Feedback Submission Re: Proposed Dunoon Dam within the Future Water Project 2060**

**To:** General Manager, Rous County Council  
PO Box 230, Lismore NSW 2480

**From:** Margaret Ferini

**Address:** [REDACTED]

Firstly, the community appreciates the submission extension. We also acknowledge the complexity of the work Rous does to provide water for our region.

**I DO NOT support the proposed The Channon-Dunoon Dam for these reasons:**

- **Lost opportunity to invest in system-wide water efficiency.** This is the cheapest & fastest way to ensure supply-demand balance. By focussing on system efficiency, Sydney added an additional 950,000 people without a rise in consumption.<sup>(1)</sup>
- **The 21st century is about a suite of smart water options.** This dam would be a lost opportunity to make our system fit for the 21st century by swallowing all resources in one big expensive 'white dinosaur' project.
- **The dam would encourage continued inefficient and wasteful water management by local governments.** They would have no incentive to do things differently.
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- **The small population increase** predicted for the four Rous-supplied councils of 12,720<sup>(5)</sup> between 2020-2060 **does not justify** such a large and destructive dam. The dam risks diverting expenditure away from more sustainable, flexible and effective solutions.<sup>(5)</sup>

**I SUPPORT these alternatives:**

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With scalable supply alternatives in place, the existing supply from Rocky Ck Dam will be made resilient to anticipated times of drought and projected population growth, without the environmental destruction, social costs, and the over-capitalisation risk of an oversized and unnecessary dam.

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Kind regards, Signature



Date: 2/9/2020



**From:** [dana.paterson](#)  
**To:** [Records](#)  
**Subject:** The dam  
**Date:** Tuesday, 8 September 2020 1:53:30 PM

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**CYBER SECURITY WARNING – This message is from an external sender – be cautious, particularly with hyperlinks and/or attachments.**

I'm writing this email to let you know I strongly disagree with the proposed dam in the channon gorge. We need to be thinking forward not repeating the same over and over. let's slow the rapid demand by allowing every house to rent the garage, tent in the back, extra showers, the list goes on. it's time for the land that holds us so well even under great duress to get some love back. People are greedy and taking to much for themselves. You are the voice for the people, so you need to listen to what we are saying, as we obviously have to speak for the land we call home.

Dana

8 SEP 2020

**Feedback Submission Re: Proposed Dunoon Dam within the Future Water Project 2060**

To: General Manager, Rous County Council  
PO Box 230, Lismore NSW 2480

From: \_\_\_\_\_ *LIZ FREEMAN*  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Firstly, the community appreciates the submission extension. We also acknowledge the complexity of the work Rous does to provide water for our region.

**I DO NOT support the proposed The Channon-Dunoon Dam for these reasons:**

- **Lost opportunity to invest in system-wide water efficiency.** This is the cheapest & fastest way to ensure supply-demand balance. By focussing on system efficiency, Sydney added an additional 950,000 people without a rise in consumption.<sup>(1)</sup>
- **The 21st century is about a suite of smart water options.** This dam would be a lost opportunity to make our system fit for the 21st century by swallowing all resources in one big expensive 'white dinosaur' project.
- **The dam would encourage continued inefficient and wasteful water management by local governments.** They would have no incentive to do things differently.
- **Destruction of important Indigenous cultural heritage,** including burial sites.<sup>(2)</sup>
- **Destruction of The Channon Gorge and its endangered ecological community of lowland rainforest,** threatened flora and fauna species.<sup>(3)</sup> Rous's plan to offset the loss of rainforest on sandstone with regeneration of degraded land in the buffer zone is problematic as the type of vegetation offered as recompense is not equivalent. (Nan Nicholson, botanist) Councils are required under State planning regulations to: "Focus development to areas of least biodiversity sensitivity in the region and implement the 'avoid, minimise, offset' hierarchy to biodiversity, including areas of high environmental value."<sup>(4)</sup> Rous is required to **avoid** this destruction because there are economically viable and more effective solutions.
- **Industrial/construction zone** for The Channon/Dunoon community; noise, machinery, trucks, visual impact. Ongoing sound impact from pump house etc.
- **Higher prices for consumers due to a 4x increase in the cost of water.** Rous general manager, in response to a question from councillor Vanessa Ekins, said he expected a fourfold increase in the cost of supplying water if the dam is built.
- **The small population increase** predicted for the four Rous-supplied councils of 12,720<sup>(5)</sup> between 2020-2060 **does not justify** such a large and destructive dam. The dam risks diverting expenditure away from more sustainable, flexible and effective solutions.<sup>(5)</sup>

**I SUPPORT these alternatives:**

We need a suite of smart water options and proven alternatives, not a huge new dam. The tide is turning on renewable and sustainable power. It is time for the tide to turn on how we meet our water needs too.

- **An investment in system-wide water efficiency and strong demand management.** Analysed, costed and deployed, creating jobs. (We understand Rous has not costed this in creating their future water plan) Existing research over the past decade consistently finds that the best 'bang-for-buck' investment in water supply comes from demand management and identifying savings within the existing supply.<sup>(6) (7)</sup>

- **Water re-use in various ways, including Purified Recycled Potable water.** A wealth of global research and experience exists regarding potable reuse of water.<sup>(6)</sup> Eg: The city of Windhoek in Namibia has been using purified recycled water for 30 years using advanced technology.<sup>(9)</sup>
- **Water harvesting** (urban runoff; rain tanks):  
Water tanks on all new (and existing) developments. The Australian government advises that: "Depending on tank size and climate, mains water use can be reduced by up to 100%. This in turn can help: reduce the need for new dams or desalination plants; protect remaining environmental flows in rivers; reduce infrastructure operating costs."<sup>(10)</sup> Rainwater harvesting also decreases stormwater runoff, thereby helping to reduce local flooding and scouring of creeks.<sup>(11)</sup>
- **Contingency planning** would enable Rous to be ready to rapidly implement supply measures if it becomes necessary in times of drought.
- **Groundwater, where this is environmentally safe.** The Australian government provides a lot of information on the ecological impacts and groundwater usage.<sup>(12)</sup>

With scalable supply alternatives in place, the existing supply from Rocky Ck Dam will be made resilient to anticipated times of drought and projected population growth, without the environmental destruction, social costs, and the over-capitalisation risk of an oversized and unnecessary dam.

#### References and Notes

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Kind regards, Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



Date: 28/8/20



Received over the counter

8 SEP 2020

**Feedback Submission Re: Proposed Dunoon Dam within the Future Water Project 2060**

To: General Manager, Rous County Council  
PO Box 230, Lismore NSW 2480

From: **RONALD CURRAN**

Address:

Firstly, the community appreciates the submission extension. We also acknowledge the complexity of the work Rous does to provide water for our region.

**I DO NOT support the proposed The Channon-Dunoon Dam for these reasons:**

- **Lost opportunity to invest in system-wide water efficiency.** This is the cheapest & fastest way to ensure supply-demand balance. By focussing on system efficiency, Sydney added an additional 950,000 people without a rise in consumption.<sup>(1)</sup>
- **The 21st century is about a suite of smart water options.** This dam would be a lost opportunity to make our system fit for the 21st century by swallowing all resources in one big expensive 'white dinosaur' project.
- **The dam would encourage continued inefficient and wasteful water management by local governments.** They would have no incentive to do things differently.
- **Destruction of important Indigenous cultural heritage,** including burial sites.<sup>(2)</sup>
- **Destruction of The Channon Gorge and its endangered ecological community of lowland rainforest,** threatened flora and fauna species.<sup>(3)</sup> Rous's plan to offset the loss of rainforest on sandstone with regeneration of degraded land in the buffer zone is problematic as the type of vegetation offered as recompense is not equivalent.<sup>(4)</sup> Councils are required under State planning regulations to: "Focus development to areas of least biodiversity sensitivity in the region and implement the 'avoid, minimise, offset' hierarchy to biodiversity, including areas of high environmental value."<sup>(4)</sup> Rous is required to **avoid** this destruction because there are economically viable and more effective solutions.
- **Industrial/construction zone** for The Channon/Dunoon community; noise, machinery, trucks, visual impact. Ongoing sound impact from pump house etc.
- **Higher prices for consumers due to a 4x increase in the cost of water.** Rous general manager, in response to a question from councillor Vanessa Ekins, said he expected a fourfold increase in the cost of supplying water if the dam is built.
- **The small population increase** predicted for the four Rous-supplied councils of 12,720<sup>(5)</sup> between 2020-2060 **does not justify** such a large and destructive dam. The dam risks diverting expenditure away from more sustainable, flexible and effective solutions.<sup>(5)</sup>

**I SUPPORT these alternatives:**

We need a suite of smart water options and proven alternatives, not a huge new dam. The tide is turning on renewable and sustainable power. It is time for the tide to turn on how we meet our water needs too.

- **An investment in system-wide water efficiency and strong demand management.** Analysed, costed and deployed, creating jobs. *(We understand Rous has not costed this in creating their future water plan)* Existing research over the past decade consistently finds that the best 'bang-for-buck' investment in water supply comes from demand management and identifying savings within the existing supply.<sup>(6) (7)</sup>

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With scalable supply alternatives in place, the existing supply from Rocky Ck Dam will be made resilient to anticipated times of drought and projected population growth, without the environmental destruction, social costs, and the over-capitalisation risk of an outsized and unnecessary dam.

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Kind regards, Signature:



Date: 28/8/20.



Received over the counter

8 SEP 2020

## Feedback Submission Re: Proposed Dunoon Dam within the Future Water Project 2060

To: General Manager, Rous County Council  
PO Box 230, Lismore NSW 2480

From: Brendan Leite

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Firstly, the community appreciates the submission extension. We also acknowledge the complexity of the work Rous does to provide water for our region.

### I DO NOT support the proposed The Channon-Dunoon Dam for these reasons:

- **Lost opportunity to invest in system-wide water efficiency.** This is the cheapest & fastest way to ensure supply-demand balance. By focussing on system efficiency, Sydney added an additional 950,000 people without a rise in consumption.<sup>(1)</sup>
- **The 21st century is about a suite of smart water options.** This dam would be a lost opportunity to make our system fit for the 21st century by swallowing all resources in one big expensive 'white dinosaur' project.
- **The dam would encourage continued inefficient and wasteful water management by local governments.** They would have no incentive to do things differently.
- **Destruction of important Indigenous cultural heritage,** including burial sites.<sup>(2)</sup>
- **Destruction of The Channon Gorge and its endangered ecological community of lowland rainforest,** threatened flora and fauna species.<sup>(3)</sup> Rous's plan to offset the loss of rainforest on sandstone with regeneration of degraded land in the buffer zone is problematic as the type of vegetation offered as recompense is not equivalent. (Nan Nicholson, botanist) Councils are required under State planning regulations to: "Focus development to areas of least biodiversity sensitivity in the region and implement the 'avoid, minimise, offset' hierarchy to biodiversity, including areas of high environmental value."<sup>(4)</sup> Rous is required to **avoid** this destruction because there are economically viable and more effective solutions.
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- **Higher prices for consumers due to a 4x increase in the cost of water.** Rous general manager, in response to a question from councillor Vanessa Ekins, said he expected a fourfold increase in the cost of supplying water if the dam is built.
- **The small population increase** predicted for the four Rous-supplied councils of 12,720<sup>(5)</sup> between 2020-2060 **does not justify** such a large and destructive dam. The dam risks diverting expenditure away from more sustainable, flexible and effective solutions.<sup>(5)</sup>

### I SUPPORT these alternatives:

We need a suite of smart water options and proven alternatives, not a huge new dam. The tide is turning on renewable and sustainable power. It is time for the tide to turn on how we meet our water needs too.

- **An investment in system-wide water efficiency and strong demand management.** Analysed, costed and deployed, creating jobs. (*We understand Rous has not costed this in creating their future water plan*) Existing research over the past decade consistently finds that the best 'bang-for-buck' investment in water supply comes from demand management and identifying savings within the existing supply.<sup>(6) (7)</sup>



- **Water re-use in various ways, including Purified Recycled Potable water.** A wealth of global research and experience exists regarding potable reuse of water.<sup>(6)</sup> Eg: The city of Windhoek in Namibia has been using purified recycled water for 30 years using advanced technology.<sup>(9)</sup>
- **Water harvesting** (urban runoff; rain tanks):  
Water tanks on all new (and existing) developments. The Australian government advises that: "Depending on tank size and climate, mains water use can be reduced by up to 100%. This in turn can help: reduce the need for new dams or desalination plants; protect remaining environmental flows in rivers; reduce infrastructure operating costs."<sup>(10)</sup> Rainwater harvesting also decreases stormwater runoff, thereby helping to reduce local flooding and scouring of creeks.<sup>(11)</sup>
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- **Groundwater, where this is environmentally safe.** The Australian government provides a lot of information on the ecological impacts and groundwater usage.<sup>(12)</sup>

With scalable supply alternatives in place, the existing supply from Rocky Ck Dam will be made resilient to anticipated times of drought and projected population growth, without the environmental destruction, social costs, and the over-capitalisation risk of an outsized and unnecessary dam.

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Kind regards, Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

16/8/20



8 SEP 2020

**Feedback Submission Re: Proposed Dunoon Dam within the Future Water Project 2060**

To: General Manager, Rous County Council  
PO Box 230, Lismore NSW 2480

From: Matilda Johnson

Address: [REDACTED]

Firstly, the community appreciates the submission extension. We also acknowledge the complexity of the work Rous does to provide water for our region.

**I DO NOT support the proposed The Channon-Dunoon Dam for these reasons:**

- **Lost opportunity to invest in system-wide water efficiency.** This is the cheapest & fastest way to ensure supply-demand balance. By focussing on system efficiency, Sydney added an additional 950,000 people without a rise in consumption.<sup>(1)</sup>
- **The 21st century is about a suite of smart water options.** This dam would be a lost opportunity to make our system fit for the 21st century by swallowing all resources in one big expensive 'white dinosaur' project.
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**I SUPPORT these alternatives:**

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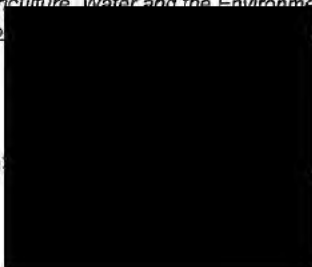
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With scalable supply alternatives in place, the existing supply from Rocky Ck Dam will be made resilient to anticipated times of drought and projected population growth, without the environmental destruction, social costs, and the over-capitalisation risk of an oversized and unnecessary dam.

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Kind regards, Signature



Date:

16/8/20





8 SEP 2020

**Feedback Submission Re: Proposed Dunoon Dam within the Future Water Project 2060**

To: General Manager, Rous County Council  
PO Box 230, Lismore NSW 2480

From:

Leah Van Ewij

Address:



Firstly, the community appreciates the submission extension. We also acknowledge the complexity of the work Rous does to provide water for our region.

**I DO NOT support the proposed The Channon-Dunoon Dam for these reasons:**

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- (7) Watson R., Turner A and Fane S 2018, *Water Efficiency and Demand Management Opportunities for Hunter Water*, Institute for Sustainable Futures, Sydney.
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- (11) Australian Government Department of Industry 2013, Science, Energy and Resources, *Rainwater | Your home*, Canberra, viewed 3 August 2020, <<https://www.yourhome.gov.au/water/rainwater>>
- (12) Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2018, *What are the ecological impacts of groundwater drawdown? | Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment*, Canberra, viewed 6 August 2020, <<https://www.environment.gov.au/water/publications/what-are-the-ecological-impacts-of-groundwater-drawdown>>

Kind regards, Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



Date: 16/8/20



8 SEP 2020

To: General Manager  
Rous County Council  
PO Box 230  
Lismore NSW 2480

Date: 10/8/20

From: Lisa Greenhill

Address: [REDACTED]

**Re: The proposed Channon/Dunoon Dam within the Future Water Project 2060**

**I DO NOT support the proposed The Channon-Dunoon Dam for these reasons:**

- **Destruction of important Indigenous Cultural Heritage**, including burial sites (Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment, 2011). Ongoing disregard for First Nations sacred sites and culture.
- **Destruction of The Channon Gorge and its Endangered Ecological Community of Lowland Rainforest** (including the regionally rare warm temperate rainforest on sandstone), and its threatened species of flora and fauna. (Terrestrial Ecology Impact Assessment, 2011). Rous is planning to offset the loss of rainforest on sandstone with regeneration of degraded land in the buffer zone. Offsetting is a worthless exercise because the type of vegetation offered as recompense is never equivalent. This is worse than most. (Nan Nicholson, botanist)
- **Industrial/construction zone** for years for The Channon/Dunoon community; noise pollution; large trucks/machinery on our roads; visual impact. Ongoing sound impact from pump house etc.
- **Water prices will increase by 4x** current cost (or higher) (Rous)
- **Promotes accelerated population growth** in the Northern Rivers. I'm concerned the Dam is being framed as 'water security' to the local population, yet to further afield it is being framed as a development plan for acceleration of growth. I'm concerned the model that predicted the population did not take into account the actual dam's effect on growth. This framing is concerning to me: "Everyone needs to understand this Regional development plan which is "focused on *unlocking the potential* of one of Australia's most beautiful places. The North Coast will become the best region in Australia to live, work and play". From planning document:  
<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Plans-for-your-area/Regional-Plans/North-Coast/Delivering-the-plan><sup>(1)</sup>
- **The entire modelling and the strategy recommendations were made pre-COVID19**, and are no longer economically or demographically valid. COVID has also shown us we need to be able to pivot quickly and flexibly - something this massive 'single solution' won't do.
- **The tiny population increase** for the four Rous supplied councils of only 12,720<sup>(2)</sup> people between 2020-2060 *does not justify* such a large and destructive dam. It risks being an *expensive white elephant*, diverting money away from more needed and effective solutions. **It is likely to create division and conflict** within our communities after suffering flood, drought and an extreme fire season. What we need are resilience and community building solutions.

### **I SUPPORT these alternatives:**

The tide is turning on renewable and sustainable power. It is time for the tide to turn on how we meet our water needs too. We need to take action on a suite of smart water options and proven alternatives. This is 21st century thinking.

- **Strong Demand Management**  
Existing research over the past decade consistently finds that the best 'bang-for-buck' investment in water supply comes from demand management and identifying savings within the existing supply.<sup>(3) (4)</sup>
- **Purified Recycled Water**  
A wealth of global research and experience already exists regarding potable reuse of water as set out in the Australian report, *Potable Water Reuse: What can Australia learn from global experience?* <https://www.waterra.com.au/publications/document-search/?download=1806><sup>(5)</sup>  
Example: The city of Windhoek has been using Purified Recycled Water for 30yrs using advanced technology. <https://www.wingoc.com.na/our-history><sup>(6)</sup>
- **Water tanks on all new (and existing) developments<sup>(7)</sup>** *This builds community resilience - much needed as the example of the extreme bushfire season has shown up.*  
The Australian government advises that: "Depending on tank size and climate, mains water use can be reduced by up to 100%. This in turn can help: reduce the need for new dams or desalination plants; protect remaining environmental flows in rivers; reduce infrastructure operating costs.  
Rainwater harvesting also decreases stormwater runoff, thereby helping to reduce local flooding and scouring of creeks."<sup>(8)</sup> <https://www.yourhome.gov.au/water/rainwater>
- **Groundwater, where this is environmentally safe**  
The Australian government provides a lot of information on ecological impacts and groundwater usage.<sup>(9)</sup>  
<https://www.environment.gov.au/water/publications/what-are-the-ecological-impacts-of-groundwater-drawdown>

With scalable alternatives in place for supply, the existing Rocky Ck Dam supply component will be made resilient to anticipated times of drought and projected population growth, without the environmental destruction, social costs, and the over-capitalisation risk of an oversized dam.



#### References and Notes

- (1) NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment 2019, 'Delivering the plan', Sydney, viewed 03 August 2020, <<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Plans-for-your-area/Regional-Plans/North-Coast/Delivering-the-plan>>
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Extra notes/Comments: Please respect the indigenous sacred sites.  
Please consider using recycled water for toilets, gardens etc.  
Please also consider the economic benefits of a walking track to these natural beauty spots as is currently being constructed between Mingan Falls and Uki.

Kind regards,

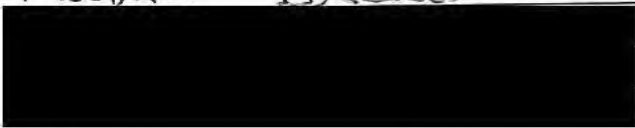
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Received over the counter

8 SEP 2020

To: General Manager  
Rous County Council  
PO Box 230  
Lismore NSW 2480

Date: 18/08/20

From: MEGAN BARNES  
Address: 

Re: The proposed Channon/Dunoon Dam within the Future Water Project 2060

I DO NOT support the proposed The Channon-Dunoon Dam for these reasons:

- **Destruction of important Indigenous Cultural Heritage**, including burial sites (Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment, 2011). Ongoing disregard for First Nations sacred sites and culture.
- **Destruction of The Channon Gorge and its Endangered Ecological Community of Lowland Rainforest** (including the regionally rare warm temperate rainforest on sandstone), and its threatened species of flora and fauna. (Terrestrial Ecology Impact Assessment, 2011). Rous is planning to offset the loss of rainforest on sandstone with regeneration of degraded land in the buffer zone. Offsetting is a worthless exercise because the type of vegetation offered as recompense is never equivalent. This is worse than most. (Nan Nicholson, botanist)
- **Industrial/construction zone** for years for The Channon/Dunoon community; noise pollution; large trucks/machinery on our roads; visual impact. Ongoing sound impact from pump house etc.
- **Water prices will increase by 4x** current cost (or higher) (Rous)
- **Promotes accelerated population growth** in the Northern Rivers. I'm concerned the Dam is being framed as 'water security' to the local population, yet to further afield it is being framed as a development plan for acceleration of growth. I'm concerned the model that predicted the population did not take into account the actual dam's effect on growth. This framing is concerning to me: "Everyone needs to understand this Regional development plan which is "focused on *unlocking the potential* of one of Australia's most beautiful places. The North Coast will become the best region in Australia to live, work and play". From planning document:  
<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Plans-for-your-area/Regional-Plans/North-Coast/Delivering-the-plan><sup>(1)</sup>
- **The entire modelling and the strategy recommendations were made pre-COVID19**, and are no longer economically or demographically valid. COVID has also shown us we need to be able to pivot quickly and flexibly - something this massive 'single solution' won't do.
- **The tiny population increase** for the four Rous supplied councils of only 12,720<sup>(2)</sup> people between 2020-2060 *does not justify* such a large and destructive dam. It risks being an *expensive white elephant*, diverting money away from more needed and effective solutions. **It is likely to create division and conflict** within our communities after suffering flood, drought and an extreme fire season. What we need are resilience and community building solutions.



### **I SUPPORT these alternatives:**

The tide is turning on renewable and sustainable power. It is time for the tide to turn on how we meet our water needs too. We need to take action on a suite of smart water options and proven alternatives. This is 21st century thinking.

- **Strong Demand Management**  
Existing research over the past decade consistently finds that the best 'bang-for-buck' investment in water supply comes from demand management and identifying savings within the existing supply.<sup>(3) (4)</sup>
- **Purified Recycled Water**  
A wealth of global research and experience already exists regarding potable reuse of water as set out in the Australian report, *Potable Water Reuse: What can Australia learn from global experience?* <https://www.waterra.com.au/publications/document-search/?download=1806><sup>(5)</sup>  
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The Australian government advises that: "Depending on tank size and climate, mains water use can be reduced by up to 100%. This in turn can help: reduce the need for new dams or desalination plants; protect remaining environmental flows in rivers; reduce infrastructure operating costs.  
Rainwater harvesting also decreases stormwater runoff, thereby helping to reduce local flooding and scouring of creeks."<sup>(8)</sup> <https://www.yourhome.gov.au/water/rainwater>
- **Groundwater, where this is environmentally safe**  
The Australian government provides a lot of information on ecological impacts and groundwater usage.<sup>(9)</sup>  
<https://www.environment.gov.au/water/publications/what-are-the-ecological-impacts-of-groundwater-drawdown>

With scalable alternatives in place for supply, the existing Rocky Ck Dam supply component will be made resilient to anticipated times of drought and projected population growth, without the environmental destruction, social costs, and the over-capitalisation risk of an oversized dam.

#### References and Notes

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#### Extra notes/Comments:

Kind regards,

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_





8 SEP 2020

**Feedback Submission Re: Proposed Dunoon Dam within the Future Water Project 2060**

To: General Manager, Rous County Council  
PO Box 230, Lismore NSW 2480

From:

*Kylee Rusan*

Address:



Firstly, the community appreciates the submission extension. We also acknowledge the complexity of the work Rous does to provide water for our region.

**I DO NOT support the proposed The Channon-Dunoon Dam for these reasons:**

- **Lost opportunity to invest in system-wide water efficiency.** This is the cheapest & fastest way to ensure supply-demand balance. By focussing on system efficiency, Sydney added an additional 950,000 people without a rise in consumption.<sup>(1)</sup>
- **The 21st century is about a suite of smart water options.** This dam would be a lost opportunity to make our system fit for the 21st century by swallowing all resources in one big expensive 'white dinosaur' project.
- **The dam would encourage continued inefficient and wasteful water management by local governments.** They would have no incentive to do things differently.
- **Destruction of important Indigenous cultural heritage,** including burial sites.<sup>(2)</sup>
- **Destruction of The Channon Gorge and its endangered ecological community of lowland rainforest,** threatened flora and fauna species.<sup>(3)</sup> Rous's plan to offset the loss of rainforest on sandstone with regeneration of degraded land in the buffer zone is problematic as the type of vegetation offered as recompense is not equivalent. (Nan Nicholson, botanist) Councils are required under State planning regulations to: "Focus development to areas of least biodiversity sensitivity in the region and implement the 'avoid, minimise, offset' hierarchy to biodiversity, including areas of high environmental value."<sup>(4)</sup> Rous is required to **avoid** this destruction because there are economically viable and more effective solutions.
- **Industrial/construction zone** for The Channon/Dunoon community; noise, machinery, trucks, visual impact. Ongoing sound impact from pump house etc.
- **Higher prices for consumers due to a 4x increase in the cost of water.** Rous general manager, in response to a question from councillor Vanessa Ekins, said he expected a fourfold increase in the cost of supplying water if the dam is built.
- **The small population increase** predicted for the four Rous-supplied councils of 12,720<sup>(5)</sup> between 2020-2060 **does not justify** such a large and destructive dam. The dam risks diverting expenditure away from more sustainable, flexible and effective solutions.<sup>(5)</sup>

**I SUPPORT these alternatives:**

We need a suite of smart water options and proven alternatives, not a huge new dam. The tide is turning on renewable and sustainable power. It is time for the tide to turn on how we meet our water needs too.

- **An investment in system-wide water efficiency and strong demand management.** Analysed, costed and deployed, creating jobs. (*We understand Rous has not costed this in creating their future water plan*) Existing research over the past decade consistently finds that the best 'bang-for-buck' investment in water supply comes from demand management and identifying savings within the existing supply.<sup>(6) (7)</sup>

- **Water re-use in various ways, including Purified Recycled Potable water.** A wealth of global research and experience exists regarding potable reuse of water.<sup>(6)</sup> Eg: The city of Windhoek in Namibia has been using purified recycled water for 30 years using advanced technology.<sup>(9)</sup>
- **Water harvesting** (urban runoff; rain tanks):  
Water tanks on all new (and existing) developments. The Australian government advises that: "Depending on tank size and climate, mains water use can be reduced by up to 100%. This in turn can help: reduce the need for new dams or desalination plants; protect remaining environmental flows in rivers; reduce infrastructure operating costs."<sup>(10)</sup> Rainwater harvesting also decreases stormwater runoff, thereby helping to reduce local flooding and scouring of creeks.<sup>(11)</sup>
- **Contingency planning** would enable Rous to be ready to rapidly implement supply measures if it becomes necessary in times of drought.
- **Groundwater, where this is environmentally safe.** The Australian government provides a lot of information on the ecological impacts and groundwater usage.<sup>(12)</sup>

With scalable supply alternatives in place, the existing supply from Rocky Ck Dam will be made resilient to anticipated times of drought and projected population growth, without the environmental destruction, social costs, and the over-capitalisation risk of an oversized and unnecessary dam.

#### References and Notes

- (1) Metropolitan Water Plan 2006, NSW Government. Exec Summary section of the doc <https://www.dropbox.com/s/pu9898oq6kocrph/NSW%20Govt%202006%20MWP%20summary.pdf?dl=0>
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Kind regards, Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



Date: 28/08/2020




8 SEP 2020

**Feedback Submission Re: Proposed Dunoon Dam within the Future Water Project 2060**

To: General Manager, Rous County Council  
PO Box 230, Lismore NSW 2480

From: *Gene Arnold*

Address: 

Firstly, the community appreciates the submission extension. We also acknowledge the complexity of the work Rous does to provide water for our region.

**I DO NOT support the proposed The Channon-Dunoon Dam for these reasons:**

- **Lost opportunity to invest in system-wide water efficiency.** This is the cheapest & fastest way to ensure supply-demand balance. By focussing on system efficiency, Sydney added an additional 950,000 people without a rise in consumption.<sup>(1)</sup>
- **The 21st century is about a suite of smart water options.** This dam would be a lost opportunity to make our system fit for the 21st century by swallowing all resources in one big expensive 'white dinosaur' project.
- **The dam would encourage continued inefficient and wasteful water management by local governments.** They would have no incentive to do things differently.
- **Destruction of important Indigenous cultural heritage,** including burial sites.<sup>(2)</sup>
- **Destruction of The Channon Gorge and its endangered ecological community of lowland rainforest,** threatened flora and fauna species.<sup>(3)</sup> Rous's plan to offset the loss of rainforest on sandstone with regeneration of degraded land in the buffer zone is problematic as the type of vegetation offered as recompense is not equivalent. (Nan Nicholson, botanist) Councils are required under State planning regulations to: "Focus development to areas of least biodiversity sensitivity in the region and implement the 'avoid, minimise, offset' hierarchy to biodiversity, including areas of high environmental value."<sup>(4)</sup> Rous is required to **avoid** this destruction because there are economically viable and more effective solutions.
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- **The small population increase** predicted for the four Rous-supplied councils of 12,720<sup>(5)</sup> between 2020-2060 **does not justify** such a large and destructive dam. The dam risks diverting expenditure away from more sustainable, flexible and effective solutions.<sup>(5)</sup>

**I SUPPORT these alternatives:**

We need a suite of smart water options and proven alternatives, not a huge new dam. The tide is turning on renewable and sustainable power. It is time for the tide to turn on how we meet our water needs too.

- **An investment in system-wide water efficiency and strong demand management.** Analysed, costed and deployed, creating jobs. (*We understand Rous has not costed this in creating their future water plan*) Existing research over the past decade consistently finds that the best 'bang-for-buck' investment in water supply comes from demand management and identifying savings within the existing supply.<sup>(6) (7)</sup>

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- **Groundwater, where this is environmentally safe.** The Australian government provides a lot of information on the ecological impacts and groundwater usage.<sup>(12)</sup>

With scalable supply alternatives in place, the existing supply from Rocky Ck Dam will be made resilient to anticipated times of drought and projected population growth, without the environmental destruction, social costs, and the over-capitalisation risk of an outsized and unnecessary dam.

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Kind regards, Signat

Date:

28/8/20



8 SEP 2020

**Feedback Submission Re: Proposed Dunoon Dam within the Future Water Project 2060**

To: General Manager, Rous County Council  
PO Box 230, Lismore NSW 2480

From: \_\_\_\_\_

AUTHIA ANOZIANAKIS

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Firstly, the community appreciates the submission extension. We also acknowledge the complexity of the work Rous does to provide water for our region.

**I DO NOT support the proposed The Channon-Dunoon Dam for these reasons:**

- **Lost opportunity to invest in system-wide water efficiency.** This is the cheapest & fastest way to ensure supply-demand balance. By focussing on system efficiency, Sydney added an additional 950,000 people without a rise in consumption.<sup>(1)</sup>
- **The 21st century is about a suite of smart water options.** This dam would be a lost opportunity to make our system fit for the 21st century by swallowing all resources in one big expensive 'white dinosaur' project.
- **The dam would encourage continued inefficient and wasteful water management by local governments.** They would have no incentive to do things differently.
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**I SUPPORT these alternatives:**

We need a suite of smart water options and proven alternatives, not a huge new dam. The tide is turning on renewable and sustainable power. It is time for the tide to turn on how we meet our water needs too.

- **An investment in system-wide water efficiency and strong demand management.** Analysed, costed and deployed, creating jobs. (*We understand Rous has not costed this in creating their future water plan*) Existing research over the past decade consistently finds that the best 'bang-for-buck' investment in water supply comes from demand management and identifying savings within the existing supply.<sup>(6) (7)</sup>



- **Water re-use in various ways, including Purified Recycled Potable water.** A wealth of global research and experience exists regarding potable reuse of water.<sup>(8)</sup> Eg: The city of Windhoek in Namibia has been using purified recycled water for 30 years using advanced technology.<sup>(9)</sup>
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- **Groundwater, where this is environmentally safe.** The Australian government provides a lot of information on the ecological impacts and groundwater usage.<sup>(12)</sup>

With scalable supply alternatives in place, the existing supply from Rocky Ck Dam will be made resilient to anticipated times of drought and projected population growth, without the environmental destruction, social costs, and the over-capitalisation risk of an oversized and unnecessary dam.

## References and Notes

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Kind regards, Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



Date: 6/9/20


Received over the counter

8 SEP 2020

**Feedback Submission Re: Proposed Dunoon Dam within the Future Water Project 2060**

To: General Manager, Rous County Council  
PO Box 230, Lismore NSW 2480

From: John Gunn

Address: 

Firstly, the community appreciates the submission extension. We also acknowledge the complexity of the work Rous does to provide water for our region.

**I DO NOT support the proposed The Channon-Dunoon Dam for these reasons:**

- **Lost opportunity to invest in system-wide water efficiency.** This is the cheapest & fastest way to ensure supply-demand balance. By focussing on system efficiency, Sydney added an additional 950,000 people without a rise in consumption.<sup>(1)</sup>
- **The 21st century is about a suite of smart water options.** This dam would be a lost opportunity to make our system fit for the 21st century by swallowing all resources in one big expensive 'white dinosaur' project.
- **The dam would encourage continued inefficient and wasteful water management by local governments.** They would have no incentive to do things differently.
- **Destruction of important Indigenous cultural heritage,** including burial sites.<sup>(2)</sup>
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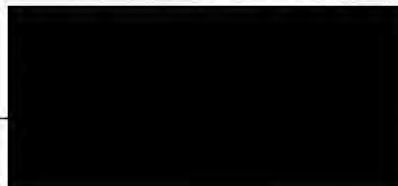
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Kind regards, Signature:



Date:

29/8/20



Received over the counter

8 SEP 2020

**Feedback Submission Re: Proposed Dunoon Dam within the Future Water Project 2060**

To: General Manager, Rous County Council  
PO Box 230, Lismore NSW 2480

From:

PIAOMIA ALLUMOUR

Address:



Firstly, the community appreciates the submission extension. We also acknowledge the complexity of the work Rous does to provide water for our region.

**I DO NOT support the proposed The Channon-Dunoon Dam for these reasons:**

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Kind regards, Signature:



Date: 25/8/2020



**Feedback Submission Re: Proposed Dunoon Dam within the Future Water Project 2060**

To: General Manager, Rous County Council  
PO Box 230, Lismore NSW 2480

From:

Karen Craike

Address:



Received over the counter

8 SEP 2020

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**I DO NOT support the proposed The Channon-Dunoon Dam for these reasons:**

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Kind regards, Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

6.9.20

Received over the counter

8 SEP 2020

**Feedback Submission Re: Proposed Dunoon Dam within the Future Water Project 2060**

To: General Manager, Rous County Council  
PO Box 230, Lismore NSW 2480

From: *Indigo Berryman*

Address:



Firstly, the community appreciates the submission extension. We also acknowledge the complexity of the work Rous does to provide water for our region.

**I DO NOT support the proposed The Channon-Dunoon Dam for these reasons:**

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- (12) Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2018, *What are the ecological impacts of groundwater drawdown? | Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment*, Canberra, viewed 6 August 2020, <<https://www.environment.gov.au/water/publications/what-are-the-ecological-impacts-of-groundwater-drawdown>>

Kind regards, Signature:



Date: 28/8



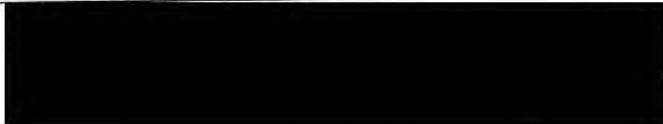
Received over the counter

8 SEP 2020

To: General Manager  
Rous County Council  
PO Box 230  
Lismore NSW 2480

Date: 17-8-2020

From: Frankie Lee

Address: 

**Re: The proposed Channon/Dunoon Dam within the Future Water Project 2060**

**I DO NOT support the proposed The Channon-Dunoon Dam for these reasons:**

- **Destruction of important Indigenous Cultural Heritage**, including burial sites (Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment, 2011). Ongoing disregard for First Nations sacred sites and culture.
- **Destruction of The Channon Gorge and its Endangered Ecological Community of Lowland Rainforest** (including the regionally rare warm temperate rainforest on sandstone), and its threatened species of flora and fauna. (Terrestrial Ecology Impact Assessment, 2011). Rous is planning to offset the loss of rainforest on sandstone with regeneration of degraded land in the buffer zone. Offsetting is a worthless exercise because the type of vegetation offered as recompense is never equivalent. This is worse than most. (Nan Nicholson, botanist)
- **Industrial/construction zone** for years for The Channon/Dunoon community; noise pollution; large trucks/machinery on our roads; visual impact. Ongoing sound impact from pump house etc.
- **Water prices will increase by 4x** current cost (or higher) (Rous)
- **Promotes accelerated population growth** in the Northern Rivers. I'm concerned the Dam is being framed as 'water security' to the local population, yet to further afield it is being framed as a development plan for acceleration of growth. I'm concerned the model that predicted the population did not take into account the actual dam's effect on growth. This framing is concerning to me: "Everyone needs to understand this Regional development plan which is "focused on *unlocking the potential* of one of Australia's most beautiful places. The North Coast will become the best region in Australia to live, work and play". From planning document:  
<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Plans-for-your-area/Regional-Plans/North-Coast/Delivering-the-plan><sup>(1)</sup>
- **The entire modelling and the strategy recommendations were made pre-COVID19**, and are no longer economically or demographically valid. COVID has also shown us we need to be able to pivot quickly and flexibly - something this massive 'single solution' won't do.
- **The tiny population increase** for the four Rous supplied councils of only 12,720<sup>(2)</sup> people between 2020-2060 *does not justify* such a large and destructive dam. It risks being an *expensive white elephant*, diverting money away from more needed and effective solutions. **It is likely to create division and conflict** within our communities after suffering flood, drought and an extreme fire season. What we need are resilience and community building solutions.



**I SUPPORT these alternatives:**

The tide is turning on renewable and sustainable power. It is time for the tide to turn on how we meet our water needs too. We need to take action on a suite of smart water options and proven alternatives. This is 21st century thinking.

- **Strong Demand Management**  
Existing research over the past decade consistently finds that the best 'bang-for-buck' investment in water supply comes from demand management and identifying savings within the existing supply.<sup>(3) (4)</sup>
- **Purified Recycled Water**  
A wealth of global research and experience already exists regarding potable reuse of water as set out in the Australian report, *Potable Water Reuse: What can Australia learn from global experience?* <https://www.waterra.com.au/publications/document-search/?download=1806><sup>(5)</sup>  
Example: The city of Windhoek has been using Purified Recycled Water for 30yrs using advanced technology. <https://www.wingoc.com.na/our-history><sup>(6)</sup>
- **Water tanks on all new (and existing) developments**<sup>(7)</sup> *This builds community resilience - much needed as the example of the extreme bushfire season has shown up.*  
The Australian government advises that: "Depending on tank size and climate, mains water use can be reduced by up to 100%. This in turn can help: reduce the need for new dams or desalination plants; protect remaining environmental flows in rivers; reduce infrastructure operating costs.  
Rainwater harvesting also decreases stormwater runoff, thereby helping to reduce local flooding and scouring of creeks."<sup>(8)</sup> <https://www.yourhome.gov.au/water/rainwater>
- **Groundwater, where this is environmentally safe**  
The Australian government provides a lot of information on ecological impacts and groundwater usage.<sup>(9)</sup>  
<https://www.environment.gov.au/water/publications/what-are-the-ecological-impacts-of-groundwater-drawdown>

With scalable alternatives in place for supply, the existing Rocky Ck Dam supply component will be made resilient to anticipated times of drought and projected population growth, without the environmental destruction, social costs, and the over-capitalisation risk of an outsized dam.





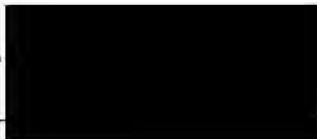
## References and Notes

- (1) NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment 2019, '*Delivering the plan*', Sydney, viewed 03 August 2020, <<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Plans-for-your-area/Regional-Plans/North-Coast/Delivering-the-plan>>
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## Extra notes/Comments:

Kind regards,

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



8 SEP 2020

**Feedback Submission Re: Proposed Dunoon Dam within the Future Water Project 2060**

To: General Manager, Rous County Council  
PO Box 230, Lismore NSW 2480

From: Katherine Ward  
Address: [Redacted]

Firstly, the community appreciates the submission extension. We also acknowledge the complexity of the work Rous does to provide water for our region.

**I DO NOT support the proposed The Channon-Dunoon Dam for these reasons:**

- **Lost opportunity to invest in system-wide water efficiency.** This is the cheapest & fastest way to ensure supply-demand balance. By focussing on system efficiency, Sydney added an additional 950,000 people without a rise in consumption.<sup>(1)</sup>
- **The 21st century is about a suite of smart water options.** This dam would be a lost opportunity to make our system fit for the 21st century by swallowing all resources in one big expensive 'white dinosaur' project.
- **The dam would encourage continued inefficient and wasteful water management by local governments.** They would have no incentive to do things differently.
- **Destruction of important Indigenous cultural heritage,** including burial sites.<sup>(2)</sup>
- **Destruction of The Channon Gorge and its endangered ecological community of lowland rainforest,** threatened flora and fauna species.<sup>(3)</sup> Rous's plan to offset the loss of rainforest on sandstone with regeneration of degraded land in the buffer zone is problematic as the type of vegetation offered as recompense is not equivalent. (Nan Nicholson, botanist) Councils are required under State planning regulations to: "Focus development to areas of least biodiversity sensitivity in the region and implement the 'avoid, minimise, offset' hierarchy to biodiversity, including areas of high environmental value."<sup>(4)</sup> Rous is required to **avoid** this destruction because there are economically viable and more effective solutions.
- **Industrial/construction zone** for The Channon/Dunoon community; noise, machinery, trucks, visual impact. Ongoing sound impact from pump house etc.
- **Higher prices for consumers due to a 4x increase in the cost of water.** Rous general manager, in response to a question from councillor Vanessa Ekins, said he expected a fourfold increase in the cost of supplying water if the dam is built.
- **The small population increase** predicted for the four Rous-supplied councils of 12,720<sup>(5)</sup> between 2020-2060 **does not justify** such a large and destructive dam. The dam risks diverting expenditure away from more sustainable, flexible and effective solutions.<sup>(5)</sup>

**I SUPPORT these alternatives:**

We need a suite of smart water options and proven alternatives, not a huge new dam. The tide is turning on renewable and sustainable power. It is time for the tide to turn on how we meet our water needs too.

- **An investment in system-wide water efficiency and strong demand management.** Analysed, costed and deployed, creating jobs. (*We understand Rous has not costed this in creating their future water plan*) Existing research over the past decade consistently finds that the best 'bang-for-buck' investment in water supply comes from demand management and identifying savings within the existing supply.<sup>(6) (7)</sup>



- **Water re-use in various ways, including Purified Recycled Potable water.** A wealth of global research and experience exists regarding potable reuse of water.<sup>(6)</sup> Eg: The city of Windhoek in Namibia has been using purified recycled water for 30 years using advanced technology.<sup>(9)</sup>
- **Water harvesting** (urban runoff; rain tanks):  
Water tanks on all new (and existing) developments. The Australian government advises that: "Depending on tank size and climate, mains water use can be reduced by up to 100%. This in turn can help: reduce the need for new dams or desalination plants; protect remaining environmental flows in rivers; reduce infrastructure operating costs."<sup>(10)</sup> Rainwater harvesting also decreases stormwater runoff, thereby helping to reduce local flooding and scouring of creeks.<sup>(11)</sup>
- **Contingency planning** would enable Rous to be ready to rapidly implement supply measures if it becomes necessary in times of drought.
- **Groundwater, where this is environmentally safe.** The Australian government provides a lot of information on the ecological impacts and groundwater usage.<sup>(12)</sup>

With scalable supply alternatives in place, the existing supply from Rocky Ck Dam will be made resilient to anticipated times of drought and projected population growth, without the environmental destruction, social costs, and the over-capitalisation risk of an outsized and unnecessary dam.

## References and Notes

- (1) Metropolitan Water Plan 2006, NSW Government. Exec Summary section of the doc <https://www.dropbox.com/s/pu989Boq6kocrph/NSW%20Govt%202006%20MWP%20summary.pdf?dl=0>
- (2) Ainsworth Heritage, Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment, 2011
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Kind regards, Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



Date: 16/8/20



8 SEP 2020

**Feedback Submission Re: Proposed Dunoon Dam within the Future Water Project 2060**

**To:** General Manager, Rous County Council  
PO Box 230, Lismore NSW 2480

**From:**

*Dylan Mentak*

**Address:**

[Redacted address]

Firstly, the community appreciates the submission extension. We also acknowledge the complexity of the work Rous does to provide water for our region.

**I DO NOT support the proposed The Channon-Dunoon Dam for these reasons:**

- **Lost opportunity to invest in system-wide water efficiency.** This is the cheapest & fastest way to ensure supply-demand balance. By focussing on system efficiency, Sydney added an additional 950,000 people without a rise in consumption.<sup>(1)</sup>
- **The 21st century is about a suite of smart water options.** This dam would be a lost opportunity to make our system fit for the 21st century by swallowing all resources in one big expensive 'white dinosaur' project.
- **The dam would encourage continued inefficient and wasteful water management by local governments.** They would have no incentive to do things differently.
- **Destruction of important Indigenous cultural heritage,** including burial sites.<sup>(2)</sup>
- **Destruction of The Channon Gorge and its endangered ecological community of lowland rainforest,** threatened flora and fauna species.<sup>(3)</sup> Rous's plan to offset the loss of rainforest on sandstone with regeneration of degraded land in the buffer zone is problematic as the type of vegetation offered as recompense is not equivalent. (Nan Nicholson, botanist) Councils are required under State planning regulations to: "Focus development to areas of least biodiversity sensitivity in the region and implement the 'avoid, minimise, offset' hierarchy to biodiversity, including areas of high environmental value."<sup>(4)</sup> Rous is required to **avoid** this destruction because there are economically viable and more effective solutions.
- **Industrial/construction zone** for The Channon/Dunoon community; noise, machinery, trucks, visual impact. Ongoing sound impact from pump house etc.
- **Higher prices for consumers due to a 4x increase in the cost of water.** Rous general manager, in response to a question from councillor Vanessa Ekins, said he expected a fourfold increase in the cost of supplying water if the dam is built.
- **The small population increase** predicted for the four Rous-supplied councils of 12,720<sup>(5)</sup> between 2020-2060 **does not justify** such a large and destructive dam. The dam risks diverting expenditure away from more sustainable, flexible and effective solutions.<sup>(5)</sup>

**I SUPPORT these alternatives:**

We need a suite of smart water options and proven alternatives, not a huge new dam. The tide is turning on renewable and sustainable power. It is time for the tide to turn on how we meet our water needs too.

- **An investment in system-wide water efficiency and strong demand management.** Analysed, costed and deployed, creating jobs. (*We understand Rous has not costed this in creating their future water plan*) Existing research over the past decade consistently finds that the best 'bang-for-buck' investment in water supply comes from demand management and identifying savings within the existing supply.<sup>(6) (7)</sup>



- **Water re-use in various ways, including Purified Recycled Potable water.** A wealth of global research and experience exists regarding potable reuse of water.<sup>(6)</sup> Eg: The city of Windhoek in Namibia has been using purified recycled water for 30 years using advanced technology.<sup>(9)</sup>
- **Water harvesting** (urban runoff; rain tanks):  
Water tanks on all new (and existing) developments. The Australian government advises that: "Depending on tank size and climate, mains water use can be reduced by up to 100%. This in turn can help: reduce the need for new dams or desalination plants; protect remaining environmental flows in rivers; reduce infrastructure operating costs."<sup>(10)</sup> Rainwater harvesting also decreases stormwater runoff, thereby helping to reduce local flooding and scouring of creeks.<sup>(11)</sup>
- **Contingency planning** would enable Rous to be ready to rapidly implement supply measures if it becomes necessary in times of drought.
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With scalable supply alternatives in place, the existing supply from Rocky Ck Dam will be made resilient to anticipated times of drought and projected population growth, without the environmental destruction, social costs, and the over-capitalisation risk of an oversized and unnecessary dam.

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Kind regards, Sign



Date: 16/8/20

8 SEP 2020

**Feedback Submission Re: Proposed Dunoon Dam within the Future Water Project 2060**

To: General Manager, Rous County Council  
PO Box 230, Lismore NSW 2480

From:

Address:



Firstly, the community appreciates the submission extension. We also acknowledge the complexity of the work Rous does to provide water for our region.

**I DO NOT support the proposed The Channon-Dunoon Dam for these reasons:**

- **Lost opportunity to invest in system-wide water efficiency.** This is the cheapest & fastest way to ensure supply-demand balance. By focussing on system efficiency, Sydney added an additional 950,000 people without a rise in consumption.<sup>(1)</sup>
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**I SUPPORT these alternatives:**

We need a suite of smart water options and proven alternatives, not a huge new dam. The tide is turning on renewable and sustainable power. It is time for the tide to turn on how we meet our water needs too.

- **An investment in system-wide water efficiency and strong demand management.** Analysed, costed and deployed, creating jobs. (We understand Rous has not costed this in creating their future water plan) Existing research over the past decade consistently finds that the best 'bang-for-buck' investment in water supply comes from demand management and identifying savings within the existing supply.<sup>(6) (7)</sup>



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Kind regards, Signature:



Date: 23/08/2020

8 SEP 2020

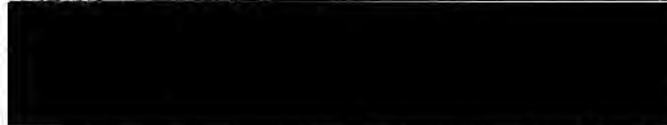
**Feedback Submission Re: Proposed Dunoon Dam within the Future Water Project 2060**

**To:** General Manager, Rous County Council  
PO Box 230, Lismore NSW 2480

**From:**

Rosie Lee

**Address:**



Firstly, the community appreciates the submission extension. We also acknowledge the complexity of the work Rous does to provide water for our region.

**I DO NOT support the proposed The Channon-Dunoon Dam for these reasons:**

- **Lost opportunity to invest in system-wide water efficiency.** This is the cheapest & fastest way to ensure supply-demand balance. By focussing on system efficiency, Sydney added an additional 950,000 people without a rise in consumption.<sup>(1)</sup>
- **The 21st century is about a suite of smart water options.** This dam would be a lost opportunity to make our system fit for the 21st century by swallowing all resources in one big expensive 'white dinosaur' project.
- **The dam would encourage continued inefficient and wasteful water management by local governments.** They would have no incentive to do things differently.
- **Destruction of important indigenous cultural heritage, including burial sites.**<sup>(2)</sup>
- **Destruction of The Channon Gorge and its endangered ecological community of lowland rainforest,** threatened flora and fauna species.<sup>(3)</sup> Rous's plan to offset the loss of rainforest on sandstone with regeneration of degraded land in the buffer zone is problematic as the type of vegetation offered as recompense is not equivalent. (Nan Nicholson, botanist) Councils are required under State planning regulations to: "Focus development to areas of least biodiversity sensitivity in the region and implement the 'avoid, minimise, offset' hierarchy to biodiversity, including areas of high environmental value."<sup>(4)</sup> Rous is required to **avoid** this destruction because there are economically viable and more effective solutions.
- **Industrial/construction zone** for The Channon/Dunoon community; noise, machinery, trucks, visual impact. Ongoing sound impact from pump house etc.
- **Higher prices for consumers due to a 4x increase in the cost of water.** Rous general manager, in response to a question from councillor Vanessa Ekins, said he expected a fourfold increase in the cost of supplying water if the dam is built.
- **The small population increase** predicted for the four Rous-supplied councils of 12,720<sup>(5)</sup> between 2020-2060 **does not justify** such a large and destructive dam. The dam risks diverting expenditure away from more sustainable, flexible and effective solutions.<sup>(5)</sup>

**I SUPPORT these alternatives:**

We need a suite of smart water options and proven alternatives, not a huge new dam. The tide is turning on renewable and sustainable power. It is time for the tide to turn on how we meet our water needs too.

- **An investment in system-wide water efficiency and strong demand management.** Analysed, costed and deployed, creating jobs. (*We understand Rous has not costed this in creating their future water plan*) Existing research over the past decade consistently finds that the best 'bang-for-buck' investment in water supply comes from demand management and identifying savings within the existing supply.<sup>(6) (7)</sup>



- **Water re-use in various ways, including Purified Recycled Potable water.** A wealth of global research and experience exists regarding potable reuse of water.<sup>(6)</sup> Eg: The city of Windhoek in Namibia has been using purified recycled water for 30 years using advanced technology.<sup>(9)</sup>
- **Water harvesting** (urban runoff; rain tanks):  
Water tanks on all new (and existing) developments. The Australian government advises that: "Depending on tank size and climate, mains water use can be reduced by up to 100%. This in turn can help: reduce the need for new dams or desalination plants; protect remaining environmental flows in rivers; reduce infrastructure operating costs."<sup>(10)</sup> Rainwater harvesting also decreases stormwater runoff, thereby helping to reduce local flooding and scouring of creeks.<sup>(11)</sup>
- **Contingency planning** would enable Rous to be ready to rapidly implement supply measures if it becomes necessary in times of drought.
- **Groundwater, where this is environmentally safe.** The Australian government provides a lot of information on the ecological impacts and groundwater usage.<sup>(12)</sup>

With scalable supply alternatives in place, the existing supply from Rocky Ck Dam will be made resilient to anticipated times of drought and projected population growth, without the environmental destruction, social costs, and the over-capitalisation risk of an oversized and unnecessary dam.

## References and Notes

- (1) Metropolitan Water Plan 2006, NSW Government. Exec Summary section of the doc <https://www.dropbox.com/s/pu9898oq6kocrph/NSW%20Govt%202006%20MWP%20summary.pdf?dl=0>
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- (12) Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2018, *What are the ecological impacts of groundwater drawdown? | Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment*, Canberra, viewed 6 August 2020, <<https://www.daw.gov.au/what-are-the-ecological-impacts-of-groundwater-drawdown>>

Kind regards, Signa



Date:

3-9-20

Received over the counter

8 SEP 2020

**Feedback Submission Re: Proposed Dunoon Dam within the Future Water Project 2060**

To: General Manager, Rous County Council  
PO Box 230, Lismore NSW 2480

From: Louise Schmitzhofer

Address: [REDACTED]

Firstly, the community appreciates the submission extension. We also acknowledge the complexity of the work Rous does to provide water for our region.

**I DO NOT support the proposed The Channon-Dunoon Dam for these reasons:**

- **Lost opportunity to invest in system-wide water efficiency.** This is the cheapest & fastest way to ensure supply-demand balance. By focussing on system efficiency, Sydney added an additional 950,000 people without a rise in consumption.<sup>(1)</sup>
- **The 21st century is about a suite of smart water options.** This dam would be a lost opportunity to make our system fit for the 21st century by swallowing all resources in one big expensive 'white dinosaur' project.
- **The dam would encourage continued inefficient and wasteful water management by local governments.** They would have no incentive to do things differently.
- **Destruction of important Indigenous cultural heritage,** including burial sites.<sup>(2)</sup>
- **Destruction of The Channon Gorge and its endangered ecological community of lowland rainforest,** threatened flora and fauna species.<sup>(3)</sup> Rous's plan to offset the loss of rainforest on sandstone with regeneration of degraded land in the buffer zone is problematic as the type of vegetation offered as recompense is not equivalent. (Nan Nicholson, botanist) Councils are required under State planning regulations to: "Focus development to areas of least biodiversity sensitivity in the region and implement the 'avoid, minimise, offset' hierarchy to biodiversity, including areas of high environmental value."<sup>(4)</sup> Rous is required to **avoid** this destruction because there are economically viable and more effective solutions.
- **Industrial/construction zone** for The Channon/Dunoon community; noise, machinery, trucks, visual impact. Ongoing sound impact from pump house etc.
- **Higher prices for consumers due to a 4x increase in the cost of water.** Rous general manager, in response to a question from councillor Vanessa Ekins, said he expected a fourfold increase in the cost of supplying water if the dam is built.
- **The small population increase** predicted for the four Rous-supplied councils of 12,720<sup>(5)</sup> between 2020-2060 **does not justify** such a large and destructive dam. The dam risks diverting expenditure away from more sustainable, flexible and effective solutions.<sup>(5)</sup>

**I SUPPORT these alternatives:**

We need a suite of smart water options and proven alternatives, not a huge new dam. The tide is turning on renewable and sustainable power. It is time for the tide to turn on how we meet our water needs too.

- **An investment in system-wide water efficiency and strong demand management.** Analysed, costed and deployed, creating jobs. (We understand Rous has not costed this in creating their future water plan) Existing research over the past decade consistently finds that the best 'bang-for-buck' investment in water supply comes from demand management and identifying savings within the existing supply.<sup>(6) (7)</sup>



www.olooid.ch - technology. <sup>successful.</sup>

- **Water re-use in various ways, including Purified Recycled Potable water.** A wealth of global research and experience exists regarding potable reuse of water.<sup>(9)</sup> Eg: The city of Windhoek in Namibia has been using purified recycled water for 30 years using advanced technology.<sup>(9)</sup>
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- **Contingency planning** would enable Rous to be ready to rapidly implement supply measures if it becomes necessary in times of drought.
- **Groundwater, where this is environmentally safe.** The Australian government provides a lot of information on the ecological impacts and groundwater usage.<sup>(12)</sup>

With scalable supply alternatives in place, the existing supply from Rocky Ck Dam will be made resilient to anticipated times of drought and projected population growth, without the environmental destruction, social costs, and the over-capitalisation risk of an oversized and unnecessary dam.

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Kind regards, Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 28/8/20

Received over the counter

8 SEP 2020

To: General Manager  
Rous County Council  
PO Box 230  
Lismore NSW 2480

From: Alina Williams

Address:



Date: 9-8-20

Re: the proposed Channon/Dunoon Dam within the Future Water Project 2060.

**I DO NOT support the proposed The Channon-Dunoon Dam for these reasons:**

- **Destruction of important Indigenous Cultural Heritage**, including burial sites (Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment, 2011). Ongoing disregard for First Nations sacred sites and culture.
- **Destruction of The Channon Gorge and its Endangered Ecological Community of Lowland Rainforest** (including the regionally rare warm temperate rainforest on sandstone), and its threatened species of flora and fauna. (Terrestrial Ecology Impact Assessment, 2011).  
Rous is planning to offset the loss of rainforest on sandstone with regeneration of degraded land in the buffer zone. Offsetting is a worthless exercise because the type of vegetation offered as recompense is never equivalent. This is worse than most. (Nan Nicholson, botanist)
- **Industrial/construction zone** for years for The Channon/Dunoon community; noise pollution; large trucks/machinery on our roads; visual impact. Ongoing sound impact from pump house etc.
- **Water prices will increase by 4x** current cost (or higher if dam budget blows out) (Rous)
- **Promotes accelerated population growth** in the Northern Rivers. I'm concerned the Dam is being framed as 'water security' to the local population, yet to further afield it is being framed as a development plan for acceleration of growth. I'm concerned the model that predicted the population did not take into account the actual dam's effect on growth. This framing is concerning to me: "Everyone needs to understand this Regional development plan which is "focused on *unlocking the potential* of one of Australia's most beautiful places. The North Coast will become the best region in Australia to live, work and play". From planning document:  
<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Plans-for-your-area/Regional-Plans/North-Coast/Delivering-the-plan> <sup>(1)</sup>
- **Continued focus on old strategies** to solve water security & economic needs.



- **The entire modelling and the strategy recommendations were made pre-COVID19**, and are no longer economically or demographically valid. COVID has also shown us we need to be able to pivot quickly and flexibly - something this massive 'single solution' won't do.
- **The tiny population increase** for the four Rous supplied councils of only 12,720<sup>(2)</sup> people between 2020-2060 **does not justify** such a large and destructive dam. It risks being **an expensive white elephant**, diverting money away from more needed and effective solutions.
- **It is likely to create division and conflict** within our communities after suffering flood, drought and an extreme fire season. What we need are resilience and community building solutions.

### **I SUPPORT these alternatives:**

I believe we need to take action on a suite of smart water options and proven alternatives.

The tide is turning on renewable and sustainable power. It is time for the tide to turn on how we meet our water needs too. This is 21st century thinking.

- **Strong Demand Management**

Existing research over the past decade consistently finds that the best 'bang-for-buck' investment in water supply comes from demand management and identifying savings within the existing supply.<sup>(3) (4)</sup>

- **Purified Recycled Water**

A wealth of global research and experience already exists regarding potable reuse of water as set out in the Australian report, *Potable Water Reuse: What can Australia learn from global experience?*

<https://www.waterra.com.au/publications/document-search/?download=1806> <sup>(5)</sup>

Example: The city of Windhoek has been using Purified Recycled Water for 30yrs using advanced technology.

<https://www.wingoc.com.na/our-history> <sup>(6)</sup>

- **Water tanks on all new (and existing) developments<sup>(7)</sup>** *This builds community resilience - much needed as the example of the extreme bushfire season has shown up.*

The Australian government advises that:

Depending on tank size and climate, mains water use can be reduced by up to 100%. This in turn can help:

- \* reduce the need for new dams or desalination plants
- \* protect remaining environmental flows in rivers
- \* reduce infrastructure operating costs.

Rainwater harvesting also decreases stormwater runoff, thereby helping to reduce local flooding and scouring of creeks.<sup>(9)</sup> <https://www.yourhome.gov.au/water/rainwater>

- **Groundwater, where this is environmentally safe**

The Australian government provides a lot of information on ecological impacts and groundwater usage.<sup>(9)</sup>

<https://www.environment.gov.au/water/publications/what-are-the-ecological-impacts-of-groundwater-drawdown>

With scalable alternatives in place for supply, the existing Rocky Ck Dam supply component will be made resilient to anticipated times of drought and projected population growth, without the environmental destruction, social costs, and the over-capitalisation risk of an outsized dam.

## References and Notes

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Kind Regards,






Received over the counter

8 SEP 2020

To: General Manager  
Rous County Council  
PO Box 230  
Lismore NSW 2480

Date: 9.08.2020

From: Sumita Gerstner  
Address: 

**Re: The proposed Channon/Dunoon Dam within the Future Water Project 2060**

**I DO NOT support the proposed The Channon-Dunoon Dam for these reasons:**

- **Destruction of important Indigenous Cultural Heritage**, including burial sites (Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment, 2011). Ongoing disregard for First Nations sacred sites and culture.
- **Destruction of The Channon Gorge and its Endangered Ecological Community of Lowland Rainforest** (including the regionally rare warm temperate rainforest on sandstone), and its threatened species of flora and fauna. (Terrestrial Ecology Impact Assessment, 2011). Rous is planning to offset the loss of rainforest on sandstone with regeneration of degraded land in the buffer zone. Offsetting is a worthless exercise because the type of vegetation offered as recompense is never equivalent. This is worse than most. (Nan Nicholson, botanist)
- **Industrial/construction zone** for years for The Channon/Dunoon community; noise pollution; large trucks/machinery on our roads; visual impact. Ongoing sound impact from pump house etc.
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<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Plans-for-your-area/Regional-Plans/North-Coast/Delivering-the-plan><sup>(1)</sup>
- **The entire modelling and the strategy recommendations were made pre-COVID19**, and are no longer economically or demographically valid. COVID has also shown us we need to be able to pivot quickly and flexibly - something this massive 'single solution' won't do.
- **The tiny population increase** for the four Rous supplied councils of only 12,720<sup>(2)</sup> people between 2020-2060 *does not justify* such a large and destructive dam. It risks being an *expensive white elephant*, diverting money away from more needed and effective solutions. **It is likely to create division and conflict** within our communities after suffering flood, drought and an extreme fire season. What we need are resilience and community building solutions.

### **I SUPPORT these alternatives:**

The tide is turning on renewable and sustainable power. It is time for the tide to turn on how we meet our water needs too. We need to take action on a suite of smart water options and proven alternatives. This is 21st century thinking.

- **Strong Demand Management**  
Existing research over the past decade consistently finds that the best 'bang-for-buck' investment in water supply comes from demand management and identifying savings within the existing supply.<sup>(2) (4)</sup>
- **Purified Recycled Water**  
A wealth of global research and experience already exists regarding potable reuse of water as set out in the Australian report, *Potable Water Reuse: What can Australia learn from global experience?* <https://www.waterra.com.au/publications/document-search/?download=1806><sup>(5)</sup>  
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The Australian government advises that: "Depending on tank size and climate, mains water use can be reduced by up to 100%. This in turn can help: reduce the need for new dams or desalination plants; protect remaining environmental flows in rivers; reduce infrastructure operating costs.  
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With scalable alternatives in place for supply, the existing Rocky Ck Dam supply component will be made resilient to anticipated times of drought and projected population growth, without the environmental destruction, social costs, and the over-capitalisation risk of an outsized dam.



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## Extra notes/Comments:

Kind regards,

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_




Received over the counter

8 SEP 2020

**Feedback Submission Re: Proposed Dunoon Dam within the Future Water Project 2060**

To: General Manager, Rous County Council  
PO Box 230, Lismore NSW 2480

From: VIVIENNE WINSTON.  
Address: 

Firstly, the community appreciates the submission extension. We also acknowledge the complexity of the work Rous does to provide water for our region.

**I DO NOT support the proposed The Channon-Dunoon Dam for these reasons:**

- **Lost opportunity to invest in system-wide water efficiency.** This is the cheapest & fastest way to ensure supply-demand balance. By focussing on system efficiency, Sydney added an additional 950,000 people without a rise in consumption.<sup>(1)</sup>
- **The 21st century is about a suite of smart water options.** This dam would be a lost opportunity to make our system fit for the 21st century by swallowing all resources in one big expensive 'white dinosaur' project.
- **The dam would encourage continued inefficient and wasteful water management by local governments.** They would have no incentive to do things differently.
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- (4) NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment 2019, 'Delivering the plan', Sydney, viewed 03 August 2020 < <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Plans-for-your-area/Regional-Plans/North-Coast/Delivering-the-plan> > , Direction 2: Enhance biodiversity coastal and aquatic habitats and water catchments.
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Kind regards, Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 23-8-2020


Received over the counter

8 SEP 2020

**Feedback Submission Re: Proposed Dunoon Dam within the Future Water Project 2060**

To: General Manager, Rous County Council  
PO Box 230, Lismore NSW 2480

From: Sherce Casley

Address: 

Firstly, the community appreciates the submission extension. We also acknowledge the complexity of the work Rous does to provide water for our region.

**I DO NOT support the proposed The Channon-Dunoon Dam for these reasons:**

- **Lost opportunity to invest in system-wide water efficiency.** This is the cheapest & fastest way to ensure supply-demand balance. By focussing on system efficiency, Sydney added an additional 950,000 people without a rise in consumption.<sup>(1)</sup>
- **The 21st century is about a suite of smart water options.** This dam would be a lost opportunity to make our system fit for the 21st century by swallowing all resources in one big expensive 'white dinosaur' project.
- **The dam would encourage continued inefficient and wasteful water management by local governments.** They would have no incentive to do things differently.
- **Destruction of important Indigenous cultural heritage,** including burial sites.<sup>(2)</sup>
- **Destruction of The Channon Gorge and its endangered ecological community of lowland rainforest,** threatened flora and fauna species.<sup>(3)</sup> Rous's plan to offset the loss of rainforest on sandstone with regeneration of degraded land in the buffer zone is problematic as the type of vegetation offered as recompense is not equivalent. (Nan Nicholson, botanist) Councils are required under State planning regulations to: "Focus development to areas of least biodiversity sensitivity in the region and implement the 'avoid, minimise, offset' hierarchy to biodiversity, including areas of high environmental value."<sup>(4)</sup> Rous is required to **avoid** this destruction because there are economically viable and more effective solutions.
- **Industrial/construction zone** for The Channon/Dunoon community; noise, machinery, trucks, visual impact. Ongoing sound impact from pump house etc.
- **Higher prices for consumers due to a 4x increase in the cost of water.** Rous general manager, in response to a question from councillor Vanessa Ekins, said he expected a fourfold increase in the cost of supplying water if the dam is built.
- **The small population increase** predicted for the four Rous-supplied councils of 12,720<sup>(5)</sup> between 2020-2060 **does not justify** such a large and destructive dam. The dam risks diverting expenditure away from more sustainable, flexible and effective solutions.<sup>(5)</sup>

**I SUPPORT these alternatives:**

We need a suite of smart water options and proven alternatives, not a huge new dam. The tide is turning on renewable and sustainable power. It is time for the tide to turn on how we meet our water needs too.

- **An investment in system-wide water efficiency and strong demand management.** Analysed, costed and deployed, creating jobs. (We understand Rous has not costed this in creating their future water plan) Existing research over the past decade consistently finds that the best 'bang-for-buck' investment in water supply comes from demand management and identifying savings within the existing supply.<sup>(6) (7)</sup>



- **Water re-use in various ways, including Purified Recycled Potable water.** A wealth of global research and experience exists regarding potable reuse of water.<sup>(9)</sup> Eg: The city of Windhoek in Namibia has been using purified recycled water for 30 years using advanced technology.<sup>(9)</sup>
- **Water harvesting** (urban runoff; rain tanks):  
Water tanks on all new (and existing) developments. The Australian government advises that: "Depending on tank size and climate, mains water use can be reduced by up to 100%. This in turn can help: reduce the need for new dams or desalination plants; protect remaining environmental flows in rivers; reduce infrastructure operating costs."<sup>(10)</sup> Rainwater harvesting also decreases stormwater runoff, thereby helping to reduce local flooding and scouring of creeks.<sup>(11)</sup>
- **Contingency planning** would enable Rous to be ready to rapidly implement supply measures if it becomes necessary in times of drought.
- **Groundwater, where this is environmentally safe.** The Australian government provides a lot of information on the ecological impacts and groundwater usage.<sup>(12)</sup>

With scalable supply alternatives in place, the existing supply from Rocky Ck Dam will be made resilient to anticipated times of drought and projected population growth, without the environmental destruction, social costs, and the over-capitalisation risk of an oversized and unnecessary dam.

#### References and Notes

- (1) Metropolitan Water Plan 2006, NSW Government. Exec Summary section of the doc <https://www.dropbox.com/s/pu9898oq6kocrph/NSW%20Govt%202006%20MWP%20summary.pdf?dl=0>
- (2) Ainsworth Heritage, Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment, 2011
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Kind regards,



Date: 23/8/20

8 SEP 2020

**Feedback Submission Re: Proposed Dunoon Dam within the Future Water Project 2060**

To: General Manager, Rous County Council  
PO Box 230, Lismore NSW 2480

From: Melian Ferti

Address: [REDACTED]

Firstly, the community appreciates the submission extension. We also acknowledge the complexity of the work Rous does to provide water for our region.

**I DO NOT support the proposed The Channon-Dunoon Dam for these reasons:**

- **Lost opportunity to invest in system-wide water efficiency.** This is the cheapest & fastest way to ensure supply-demand balance. By focussing on system efficiency, Sydney added an additional 950,000 people without a rise in consumption.<sup>(1)</sup>
- **The 21st century is about a suite of smart water options.** This dam would be a lost opportunity to make our system fit for the 21st century by swallowing all resources in one big expensive 'white dinosaur' project.
- **The dam would encourage continued inefficient and wasteful water management by local governments.** They would have no incentive to do things differently.
- **Destruction of important Indigenous cultural heritage,** including burial sites.<sup>(2)</sup>
- **Destruction of The Channon Gorge and its endangered ecological community of lowland rainforest,** threatened flora and fauna species.<sup>(3)</sup> Rous's plan to offset the loss of rainforest on sandstone with regeneration of degraded land in the buffer zone is problematic as the type of vegetation offered as recompense is not equivalent. (Nan Nicholson, botanist) Councils are required under State planning regulations to: "Focus development to areas of least biodiversity sensitivity in the region and implement the 'avoid, minimise, offset' hierarchy to biodiversity, including areas of high environmental value."<sup>(4)</sup> Rous is required to **avoid** this destruction because there are economically viable and more effective solutions.
- **Industrial/construction zone** for The Channon/Dunoon community; noise, machinery, trucks, visual impact. Ongoing sound impact from pump house etc.
- **Higher prices for consumers due to a 4x increase in the cost of water.** Rous general manager, in response to a question from councillor Vanessa Ekins, said he expected a fourfold increase in the cost of supplying water if the dam is built.
- **The small population increase** predicted for the four Rous-supplied councils of 12,720<sup>(5)</sup> between 2020-2060 **does not justify** such a large and destructive dam. The dam risks diverting expenditure away from more sustainable, flexible and effective solutions.<sup>(5)</sup>

**I SUPPORT these alternatives:**

We need a suite of smart water options and proven alternatives, not a huge new dam. The tide is turning on renewable and sustainable power. It is time for the tide to turn on how we meet our water needs too.

- **An investment in system-wide water efficiency and strong demand management.** Analysed, costed and deployed, creating jobs. (We understand Rous has not costed this in creating their future water plan) Existing research over the past decade consistently finds that the best 'bang-for-buck' investment in water supply comes from demand management and identifying savings within the existing supply.<sup>(6) (7)</sup>



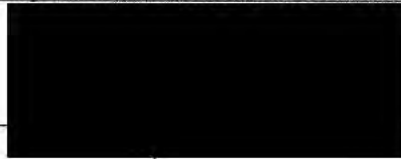
- **Water re-use in various ways, including Purified Recycled Potable water.** A wealth of global research and experience exists regarding potable reuse of water.<sup>(9)</sup> Eg: The city of Windhoek in Namibia has been using purified recycled water for 30 years using advanced technology.<sup>(9)</sup>
- **Water harvesting** (urban runoff; rain tanks):  
Water tanks on all new (and existing) developments. The Australian government advises that: "Depending on tank size and climate, mains water use can be reduced by up to 100%. This in turn can help: reduce the need for new dams or desalination plants; protect remaining environmental flows in rivers; reduce infrastructure operating costs."<sup>(10)</sup> Rainwater harvesting also decreases stormwater runoff, thereby helping to reduce local flooding and scouring of creeks.<sup>(11)</sup>
- **Contingency planning** would enable Rous to be ready to rapidly implement supply measures if it becomes necessary in times of drought.
- **Groundwater, where this is environmentally safe.** The Australian government provides a lot of information on the ecological impacts and groundwater usage.<sup>(12)</sup>

With scalable supply alternatives in place, the existing supply from Rocky Ck Dam will be made resilient to anticipated times of drought and projected population growth, without the environmental destruction, social costs, and the over-capitalisation risk of an outsized and unnecessary dam.

#### References and Notes

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Kind regards, Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



Date: 23-8-20

To: General Manager  
Rous County Council  
PO Box 230  
Lismore NSW 2480

Received over the counter

8 SEP 2020

From: Cedar Leeberry

Address:



Date: 09/08/20

Re: the proposed Channon/Dunoon Dam within the Future Water Project 2060.

**I DO NOT support the proposed The Channon-Dunoon Dam for these reasons:**

- **Destruction of important Indigenous Cultural Heritage**, including burial sites (Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment, 2011). Ongoing disregard for First Nations sacred sites and culture.
- **Destruction of The Channon Gorge and its Endangered Ecological Community of Lowland Rainforest** (including the regionally rare warm temperate rainforest on sandstone), and its threatened species of flora and fauna. (Terrestrial Ecology Impact Assessment, 2011).  
Rous is planning to offset the loss of rainforest on sandstone with regeneration of degraded land in the buffer zone. Offsetting is a worthless exercise because the type of vegetation offered as recompense is never equivalent. This is worse than most. (Nan Nicholson, botanist)
- **Industrial/construction zone** for years for The Channon/Dunoon community; noise pollution; large trucks/machinery on our roads; visual impact. Ongoing sound impact from pump house etc.
- **Water prices will increase by 4x** current cost (or higher if dam budget blows out) (Rous)
- **Promotes accelerated population growth** in the Northern Rivers. I'm concerned the Dam is being framed as 'water security' to the local population, yet to further afield it is being framed as a development plan for acceleration of growth. I'm concerned the model that predicted the population did not take into account the actual dam's effect on growth. This framing is concerning to me: "Everyone needs to understand this Regional development plan which is "focused on *unlocking the potential* of one of Australia's most beautiful places. The North Coast will become the best region in Australia to live, work and play". From planning document:  
<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Plans-for-your-area/Regional-Plans/North-Coast/Delivering-the-plan> <sup>(1)</sup>
- **Continued focus on old strategies** to solve water security & economic needs.



- **The entire modelling and the strategy recommendations were made pre-COVID19**, and are no longer economically or demographically valid. COVID has also shown us we need to be able to pivot quickly and flexibly - something this massive 'single solution' won't do.
- **The tiny population increase** for the four Rous supplied councils of only 12,720<sup>(2)</sup> people between 2020-2060 **does not justify** such a large and destructive dam. It risks being **an expensive white elephant**, diverting money away from more needed and effective solutions.
- **It is likely to create division and conflict** within our communities after suffering flood, drought and an extreme fire season. What we need are resilience and community building solutions.

### I SUPPORT these alternatives:

I believe we need to take action on a suite of smart water options and proven alternatives.

The tide is turning on renewable and sustainable power. It is time for the tide to turn on how we meet our water needs too. This is 21st century thinking.

- **Strong Demand Management**

Existing research over the past decade consistently finds that the best 'bang-for-buck' investment in water supply comes from demand management and identifying savings within the existing supply.<sup>(3) (4)</sup>

- **Purified Recycled Water**

A wealth of global research and experience already exists regarding potable reuse of water as set out in the Australian report, *Potable Water Reuse: What can Australia learn from global experience?*

<https://www.waterra.com.au/publications/document-search/?download=1806> <sup>(5)</sup>

Example: The city of Windhoek has been using Purified Recycled Water for 30yrs using advanced technology.

<https://www.wingoc.com.na/our-history> <sup>(6)</sup>

- **Water tanks on all new (and existing) developments<sup>(7)</sup>** *This builds community resilience - much needed as the example of the extreme bushfire season has shown up.*

The Australian government advises that:

Depending on tank size and climate, mains water use can be reduced by up to 100%. This in turn can help:

- \* reduce the need for new dams or desalination plants
- \* protect remaining environmental flows in rivers
- \* reduce infrastructure operating costs.

Rainwater harvesting also decreases stormwater runoff, thereby helping to reduce local flooding and scouring of creeks.<sup>(8)</sup> <https://www.yourhome.gov.au/water/rainwater>

- **Groundwater, where this is environmentally safe**

The Australian government provides a lot of information on ecological impacts and groundwater usage.<sup>(9)</sup>

<https://www.environment.gov.au/water/publications/what-are-the-ecological-impacts-of-groundwater-drawdown>

With scalable alternatives in place for supply, the existing Rocky Ck Dam supply component will be made resilient to anticipated times of drought and projected population growth, without the environmental destruction, social costs, and the over-capitalisation risk of an outsized dam.

## References and Notes

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Kind Regards,






Received over the counter

8 SEP 2020

To: General Manager  
Rous County Council  
PO Box 230  
Lismore NSW 2480

From: Melissa Mackenzie

Address: 

Date: 9/8/2020

Re: the proposed Channon/Dunoon Dam within the Future Water Project 2060.

**I DO NOT support the proposed The Channon-Dunoon Dam for these reasons:**

- **Destruction of important Indigenous Cultural Heritage**, including burial sites (Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment, 2011). Ongoing disregard for First Nations sacred sites and culture.
- **Destruction of The Channon Gorge and its Endangered Ecological Community of Lowland Rainforest** (including the regionally rare warm temperate rainforest on sandstone), and its threatened species of flora and fauna. (Terrestrial Ecology Impact Assessment, 2011).  
Rous is planning to offset the loss of rainforest on sandstone with regeneration of degraded land in the buffer zone. Offsetting is a worthless exercise because the type of vegetation offered as recompense is never equivalent. This is worse than most. (Nan Nicholson, botanist)
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- **Promotes accelerated population growth** in the Northern Rivers. I'm concerned the Dam is being framed as 'water security' to the local population, yet to further afield it is being framed as a development plan for acceleration of growth. I'm concerned the model that predicted the population did not take into account the actual dam's effect on growth.  
This framing is concerning to me: "Everyone needs to understand this Regional development plan which is "focused on *unlocking the potential* of one of Australia's most beautiful places. The North Coast will become the best region in Australia to live, work and play". From planning document:  
<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Plans-for-your-area/Regional-Plans/North-Coast/Delivering-the-plan> <sup>(1)</sup>
- **Continued focus on old strategies** to solve water security & economic needs.

- **The entire modelling and the strategy recommendations were made pre-COVID19**, and are no longer economically or demographically valid. COVID has also shown us we need to be able to pivot quickly and flexibly - something this massive 'single solution' won't do.
- **The tiny population increase** for the four Rous supplied councils of only 12,720<sup>(2)</sup> people between 2020-2060 **does not justify** such a large and destructive dam. It risks being an **expensive white elephant**, diverting money away from more needed and effective solutions.
- **It is likely to create division and conflict** within our communities after suffering flood, drought and an extreme fire season. What we need are resilience and community building solutions.

### I SUPPORT these alternatives:

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The tide is turning on renewable and sustainable power. It is time for the tide to turn on how we meet our water needs too. This is 21st century thinking.

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Kind Regards,



Received over the counter  
8 SEP 2020

To: General Manager  
Rous County Council  
PO Box 230  
Lismore NSW 2480

Date: 9/8/20

From:

*Harrison Repton*

Address:



**Re: The proposed Channon/Dunoon Dam within the Future Water Project 2060**

**I DO NOT support the proposed The Channon-Dunoon Dam for these reasons:**

- **Destruction of important Indigenous Cultural Heritage**, including burial sites (Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment, 2011). Ongoing disregard for First Nations sacred sites and culture.
- **Destruction of The Channon Gorge and its Endangered Ecological Community of Lowland Rainforest** (including the regionally rare warm temperate rainforest on sandstone), and its threatened species of flora and fauna. (Terrestrial Ecology Impact Assessment, 2011). Rous is planning to offset the loss of rainforest on sandstone with regeneration of degraded land in the buffer zone. Offsetting is a worthless exercise because the type of vegetation offered as recompense is never equivalent. This is worse than most. (Nan Nicholson, botanist)
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- **The entire modelling and the strategy recommendations were made pre-COVID19**, and are no longer economically or demographically valid. COVID has also shown us we need to be able to pivot quickly and flexibly - something this massive 'single solution' won't do.
- **The tiny population increase** for the four Rous supplied councils of only 12,720<sup>(2)</sup> people between 2020-2060 *does not justify* such a large and destructive dam. It risks being an *expensive white elephant*, diverting money away from more needed and effective solutions. **It is likely to create division and conflict** within our communities after suffering flood, drought and an extreme fire season. What we need are resilience and community building solutions.



### **I SUPPORT these alternatives:**

The tide is turning on renewable and sustainable power. It is time for the tide to turn on how we meet our water needs too. We need to take action on a suite of smart water options and proven alternatives. This is 21st century thinking.

- **Strong Demand Management**  
Existing research over the past decade consistently finds that the best 'bang-for-buck' investment in water supply comes from demand management and identifying savings within the existing supply.<sup>(2) (4)</sup>
- **Purified Recycled Water**  
A wealth of global research and experience already exists regarding potable reuse of water as set out in the Australian report, *Potable Water Reuse: What can Australia learn from global experience?* <https://www.waterra.com.au/publications/document-search/?download=1806><sup>(5)</sup>  
Example: The city of Windhoek has been using Purified Recycled Water for 30yrs using advanced technology. <https://www.wingoc.com.na/our-history><sup>(6)</sup>
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- **Groundwater, where this is environmentally safe**  
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<https://www.environment.gov.au/water/publications/what-are-the-ecological-impacts-of-groundwater-drawdown>

With scalable alternatives in place for supply, the existing Rocky Ck Dam supply component will be made resilient to anticipated times of drought and projected population growth, without the environmental destruction, social costs, and the over-capitalisation risk of an oversized dam.

## References and Notes

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## Extra notes/Comments:

Kind regards,

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_





Received over the counter

8 SEP 2020

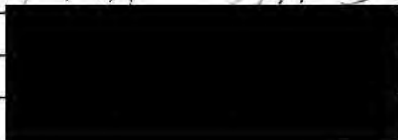
Date:

8/8/20

To: General Manager  
Rous County Council  
PO Box 230  
Lismore NSW 2480

From:  
Address:

TIM APPS



Re: The proposed Channon/Dunoon Dam within the Future Water Project 2060

I DO NOT support the proposed The Channon-Dunoon Dam for these reasons:

- **Destruction of important Indigenous Cultural Heritage**, including burial sites (Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment, 2011). Ongoing disregard for First Nations sacred sites and culture.
- **Destruction of The Channon Gorge and its Endangered Ecological Community of Lowland Rainforest** (including the regionally rare warm temperate rainforest on sandstone), and its threatened species of flora and fauna. (Terrestrial Ecology Impact Assessment, 2011). Rous is planning to offset the loss of rainforest on sandstone with regeneration of degraded land in the buffer zone. Offsetting is a worthless exercise because the type of vegetation offered as recompense is never equivalent. This is worse than most. (Nan Nicholson, botanist)
- **Industrial/construction zone** for years for The Channon/Dunoon community; noise pollution; large trucks/machinery on our roads; visual impact. Ongoing sound impact from pump house etc.
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### **I SUPPORT these alternatives:**

The tide is turning on renewable and sustainable power. It is time for the tide to turn on how we meet our water needs too. We need to take action on a suite of smart water options and proven alternatives. This is 21st century thinking.

- **Strong Demand Management**  
Existing research over the past decade consistently finds that the best 'bang-for-buck' investment in water supply comes from demand management and identifying savings within the existing supply.<sup>(2) (4)</sup>
- **Purified Recycled Water**  
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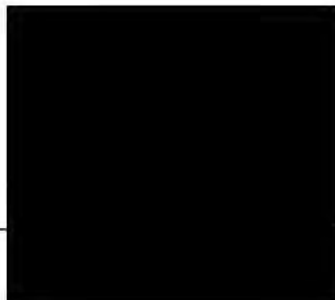
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## Extra notes/Comments:

Kind regards,

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



Received over the counter

8 SEP 2020

To: General Manager  
Rous County Council  
PO Box 230  
Lismore NSW 2480

Date: 8/8/20

From: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ *Julian Cron* \_\_\_\_\_

**Re: The proposed Channon/Dunoon Dam within the Future Water Project 2060**

**I DO NOT support the proposed The Channon-Dunoon Dam for these reasons:**

- **Destruction of important Indigenous Cultural Heritage**, including burial sites (Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment, 2011). Ongoing disregard for First Nations sacred sites and culture.
- **Destruction of The Channon Gorge and its Endangered Ecological Community of Lowland Rainforest** (including the regionally rare warm temperate rainforest on sandstone), and its threatened species of flora and fauna. (Terrestrial Ecology Impact Assessment, 2011). Rous is planning to offset the loss of rainforest on sandstone with regeneration of degraded land in the buffer zone. Offsetting is a worthless exercise because the type of vegetation offered as recompense is never equivalent. This is worse than most. (Nan Nicholson, botanist)
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### **I SUPPORT these alternatives:**

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Existing research over the past decade consistently finds that the best 'bang-for-buck' investment in water supply comes from demand management and identifying savings within the existing supply.<sup>(3) (4)</sup>
- **Purified Recycled Water**  
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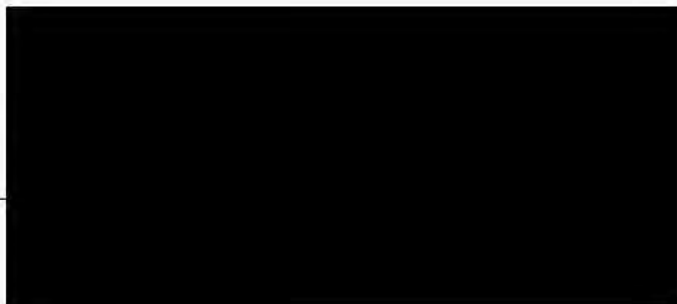
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## Extra notes/Comments:

Kind regards,

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_





Received over the counter

8 SEP 2020

Date: 9-8-2020

To: General Manager  
Rous County Council  
PO Box 230  
Lismore NSW 2480

From:

Blossom Foerander

Address:



Re: The proposed Channon/Dunoon Dam within the Future Water Project 2060

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## Extra notes/Comments:

Kind regards

Signature:





Received over the counter

8 SEP 2020

**Feedback Submission Re: Proposed Dunoon Dam within the Future Water Project 2060**

To: General Manager, Rous County Council  
PO Box 230, Lismore NSW 2480

From: COREY SPITERI

Address: [REDACTED]

Firstly, the community appreciates the submission extension. We also acknowledge the complexity of the work Rous does to provide water for our region.

**I DO NOT support the proposed The Channon-Dunoon Dam for these reasons:**

- **Lost opportunity to invest in system-wide water efficiency.** This is the cheapest & fastest way to ensure supply-demand balance. By focussing on system efficiency, Sydney added an additional 950,000 people without a rise in consumption.<sup>(1)</sup>
- **The 21st century is about a suite of smart water options.** This dam would be a lost opportunity to make our system fit for the 21st century by swallowing all resources in one big expensive 'white dinosaur' project.
- **The dam would encourage continued inefficient and wasteful water management by local governments.** They would have no incentive to do things differently.
- **Destruction of important Indigenous cultural heritage,** including burial sites.<sup>(2)</sup>
- **Destruction of The Channon Gorge and its endangered ecological community of lowland rainforest,** threatened flora and fauna species.<sup>(3)</sup> Rous's plan to offset the loss of rainforest on sandstone with regeneration of degraded land in the buffer zone is problematic as the type of vegetation offered as recompense is not equivalent. (Nan Nicholson, botanist) Councils are required under State planning regulations to: "Focus development to areas of least biodiversity sensitivity in the region and implement the 'avoid, minimise, offset' hierarchy to biodiversity, including areas of high environmental value."<sup>(4)</sup> Rous is required to **avoid** this destruction because there are economically viable and more effective solutions.
- **Industrial/construction zone** for The Channon/Dunoon community; noise, machinery, trucks, visual impact. Ongoing sound impact from pump house etc.
- **Higher prices for consumers due to a 4x increase in the cost of water.** Rous general manager, in response to a question from councillor Vanessa Ekins, said he expected a fourfold increase in the cost of supplying water if the dam is built.
- **The small population increase** predicted for the four Rous-supplied councils of 12,720<sup>(5)</sup> between 2020-2060 **does not justify** such a large and destructive dam. The dam risks diverting expenditure away from more sustainable, flexible and effective solutions.<sup>(5)</sup>

**I SUPPORT these alternatives:**

We need a suite of smart water options and proven alternatives, not a huge new dam. The tide is turning on renewable and sustainable power. It is time for the tide to turn on how we meet our water needs too.

- **An investment in system-wide water efficiency and strong demand management.** Analysed, costed and deployed, creating jobs. (*We understand Rous has not costed this in creating their future water plan*) Existing research over the past decade consistently finds that the best 'bang-for-buck' investment in water supply comes from demand management and identifying savings within the existing supply.<sup>(6) (7)</sup>

- **Water re-use in various ways, including Purified Recycled Potable water.** A wealth of global research and experience exists regarding potable reuse of water.<sup>(6)</sup> Eg: The city of Windhoek in Namibia has been using purified recycled water for 30 years using advanced technology.<sup>(9)</sup>
- **Water harvesting** (urban runoff; rain tanks):  
Water tanks on all new (and existing) developments. The Australian government advises that: "Depending on tank size and climate, mains water use can be reduced by up to 100%. This in turn can help: reduce the need for new dams or desalination plants; protect remaining environmental flows in rivers; reduce infrastructure operating costs."<sup>(10)</sup> Rainwater harvesting also decreases stormwater runoff, thereby helping to reduce local flooding and scouring of creeks.<sup>(11)</sup>
- **Contingency planning** would enable Rous to be ready to rapidly implement supply measures if it becomes necessary in times of drought.
- **Groundwater, where this is environmentally safe.** The Australian government provides a lot of information on the ecological impacts and groundwater usage.<sup>(12)</sup>

With scalable supply alternatives in place, the existing supply from Rocky Ck Dam will be made resilient to anticipated times of drought and projected population growth, without the environmental destruction, social costs, and the over-capitalisation risk of an outsized and unnecessary dam.

## References and Notes

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Kind regards, Signature:



Date: 6-9-20



**Feedback Submission Re: Proposed Dunoon Dam within the Future Water Project 2060**

To: General Manager, Rous County Council  
PO Box 230, Lismore NSW 2480

8 SEP 2020

From:

Aula Pessio

Address:



Firstly, the community appreciates the submission extension. We also acknowledge the complexity of the work Rous does to provide water for our region.

**I DO NOT support the proposed The Channon-Dunoon Dam for these reasons:**

- **Lost opportunity to invest in system-wide water efficiency.** This is the cheapest & fastest way to ensure supply-demand balance. By focussing on system efficiency, Sydney added an additional 950,000 people without a rise in consumption.<sup>(1)</sup>
- **The 21st century is about a suite of smart water options.** This dam would be a lost opportunity to make our system fit for the 21st century by swallowing all resources in one big expensive 'white dinosaur' project.
- **The dam would encourage continued inefficient and wasteful water management by local governments.** They would have no incentive to do things differently.
- **Destruction of important Indigenous cultural heritage,** including burial sites.<sup>(2)</sup>
- **Destruction of The Channon Gorge and its endangered ecological community of lowland rainforest,** threatened flora and fauna species.<sup>(3)</sup> Rous's plan to offset the loss of rainforest on sandstone with regeneration of degraded land in the buffer zone is problematic as the type of vegetation offered as recompense is not equivalent.<sup>(4)</sup> (Nan Nicholson, botanist) Councils are required under State planning regulations to: "Focus development to areas of least biodiversity sensitivity in the region and implement the 'avoid, minimise, offset' hierarchy to biodiversity, including areas of high environmental value."<sup>(4)</sup> Rous is required to **avoid** this destruction because there are economically viable and more effective solutions.
- **Industrial/construction zone** for The Channon/Dunoon community; noise, machinery, trucks, visual impact. Ongoing sound impact from pump house etc.
- **Higher prices for consumers due to a 4x increase in the cost of water.** Rous general manager, in response to a question from councillor Vanessa Ekins, said he expected a fourfold increase in the cost of supplying water if the dam is built.
- **The small population increase** predicted for the four Rous-supplied councils of 12,720<sup>(5)</sup> between 2020-2060 **does not justify** such a large and destructive dam. The dam risks diverting expenditure away from more sustainable, flexible and effective solutions.<sup>(5)</sup>

**I SUPPORT these alternatives:**

We need a suite of smart water options and proven alternatives, not a huge new dam. The tide is turning on renewable and sustainable power. It is time for the tide to turn on how we meet our water needs too.

- **An investment in system-wide water efficiency and strong demand management.** Analysed, costed and deployed, creating jobs. (*We understand Rous has not costed this in creating their future water plan*) Existing research over the past decade consistently finds that the best 'bang-for-buck' investment in water supply comes from demand management and identifying savings within the existing supply.<sup>(6) (7)</sup>



- **Water re-use in various ways, including Purified Recycled Potable water.** A wealth of global research and experience exists regarding potable reuse of water.<sup>(6)</sup> Eg: The city of Windhoek in Namibia has been using purified recycled water for 30 years using advanced technology.<sup>(9)</sup>
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Kind regards, Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



Date: 06/09/20



Received over the counter

8 SEP 2020

**Feedback Submission Re: Proposed Dunoon Dam within the Future Water Project 2060**

To: General Manager, Rous County Council  
PO Box 230, Lismore NSW 2480

From: Leah Tong

Address: [REDACTED]

Firstly, the community appreciates the submission extension. We also acknowledge the complexity of the work Rous does to provide water for our region.

**I DO NOT support the proposed The Channon-Dunoon Dam for these reasons:**

- **Lost opportunity to invest in system-wide water efficiency.** This is the cheapest & fastest way to ensure supply-demand balance. By focussing on system efficiency, Sydney added an additional 950,000 people without a rise in consumption.<sup>(1)</sup>
- **The 21st century is about a suite of smart water options.** This dam would be a lost opportunity to make our system fit for the 21st century by swallowing all resources in one big expensive 'white dinosaur' project.
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- **The small population increase** predicted for the four Rous-supplied councils of 12,720<sup>(5)</sup> between 2020-2060 **does not justify** such a large and destructive dam. The dam risks diverting expenditure away from more sustainable, flexible and effective solutions.<sup>(5)</sup>

**I SUPPORT these alternatives:**

We need a suite of smart water options and proven alternatives, not a huge new dam. The tide is turning on renewable and sustainable power. It is time for the tide to turn on how we meet our water needs too.

- **An investment in system-wide water efficiency and strong demand management.** Analysed, costed and deployed, creating jobs. (*We understand Rous has not costed this in creating their future water plan*) Existing research over the past decade consistently finds that the best 'bang-for-buck' investment in water supply comes from demand management and identifying savings within the existing supply.<sup>(6) (7)</sup>

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Kind regards, Signature:




Date: 6/9/20



8 SEP 2020

**Feedback Submission Re: Proposed Dunoon Dam within the Future Water Project 2060**

To: General Manager, Rous County Council  
PO Box 230, Lismore NSW 2480

From: Thomas Mitchell  
Address: 

Firstly, the community appreciates the submission extension. We also acknowledge the complexity of the work Rous does to provide water for our region.

**I DO NOT support the proposed The Channon-Dunoon Dam for these reasons:**

- **Lost opportunity to invest in system-wide water efficiency.** This is the cheapest & fastest way to ensure supply-demand balance. By focussing on system efficiency, Sydney added an additional 950,000 people without a rise in consumption.<sup>(1)</sup>
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Kind regards, Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

5/9/20



Received over the counter

8 SEP 2020

**Feedback Submission Re: Proposed Dunoon Dam within the Future Water Project 2060**

To: General Manager, Rous County Council  
PO Box 230, Lismore NSW 2480

From:

*Benjamin Sait*

Address:



Firstly, the community appreciates the submission extension. We also acknowledge the complexity of the work Rous does to provide water for our region.

**I DO NOT support the proposed The Channon-Dunoon Dam for these reasons:**

- **Lost opportunity to invest in system-wide water efficiency.** This is the cheapest & fastest way to ensure supply-demand balance. By focussing on system efficiency, Sydney added an additional 950,000 people without a rise in consumption.<sup>(1)</sup>
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Kind regards, Signature



Date:

05.09.20

Received over the counter

8 SEP 2020

**Feedback Submission Re: Proposed Dunoon Dam within the Future Water Project 2060**

To: General Manager, Rous County Council  
PO Box 230, Lismore NSW 2480

From: Brodie Nossiter

Address: [REDACTED]

Firstly, the community appreciates the submission extension. We also acknowledge the complexity of the work Rous does to provide water for our region.

**I DO NOT support the proposed The Channon-Dunoon Dam for these reasons:**

- **Lost opportunity to invest in system-wide water efficiency.** This is the cheapest & fastest way to ensure supply-demand balance. By focussing on system efficiency, Sydney added an additional 950,000 people without a rise in consumption.<sup>(1)</sup>
- **The 21st century is about a suite of smart water options.** This dam would be a lost opportunity to make our system fit for the 21st century by swallowing all resources in one big expensive 'white dinosaur' project.
- **The dam would encourage continued inefficient and wasteful water management by local governments.** They would have no incentive to do things differently.
- **Destruction of important Indigenous cultural heritage,** including burial sites.<sup>(2)</sup>
- **Destruction of The Channon Gorge and its endangered ecological community of lowland rainforest,** threatened flora and fauna species.<sup>(3)</sup> Rous's plan to offset the loss of rainforest on sandstone with regeneration of degraded land in the buffer zone is problematic as the type of vegetation offered as recompense is not equivalent.<sup>(4)</sup> Councils are required under State planning regulations to: "Focus development to areas of least biodiversity sensitivity in the region and implement the 'avoid, minimise, offset' hierarchy to biodiversity, including areas of high environmental value."<sup>(4)</sup> Rous is required to **avoid** this destruction because there are economically viable and more effective solutions.
- **Industrial/construction zone** for The Channon/Dunoon community; noise, machinery, trucks, visual impact. Ongoing sound impact from pump house etc.
- **Higher prices for consumers due to a 4x increase in the cost of water.** Rous general manager, in response to a question from councillor Vanessa Ekins, said he expected a fourfold increase in the cost of supplying water if the dam is built.
- **The small population increase** predicted for the four Rous-supplied councils of 12,720<sup>(5)</sup> between 2020-2060 **does not justify** such a large and destructive dam. The dam risks diverting expenditure away from more sustainable, flexible and effective solutions.<sup>(5)</sup>

**I SUPPORT these alternatives:**

We need a suite of smart water options and proven alternatives, not a huge new dam. The tide is turning on renewable and sustainable power. It is time for the tide to turn on how we meet our water needs too.

- **An investment in system-wide water efficiency and strong demand management.** Analysed, costed and deployed, creating jobs. *(We understand Rous has not costed this in creating their future water plan)* Existing research over the past decade consistently finds that the best 'bang-for-buck' investment in water supply comes from demand management and identifying savings within the existing supply.<sup>(6) (7)</sup>



- **Water re-use in various ways, including Purified Recycled Potable water.** A wealth of global research and experience exists regarding potable reuse of water.<sup>(6)</sup> Eg: The city of Windhoek in Namibia has been using purified recycled water for 30 years using advanced technology.<sup>(9)</sup>
- **Water harvesting** (urban runoff; rain tanks):  
Water tanks on all new (and existing) developments. The Australian government advises that: "Depending on tank size and climate, mains water use can be reduced by up to 100%. This in turn can help: reduce the need for new dams or desalination plants; protect remaining environmental flows in rivers; reduce infrastructure operating costs."<sup>(10)</sup> Rainwater harvesting also decreases stormwater runoff, thereby helping to reduce local flooding and scouring of creeks.<sup>(11)</sup>
- **Contingency planning** would enable Rous to be ready to rapidly implement supply measures if it becomes necessary in times of drought.
- **Groundwater, where this is environmentally safe.** The Australian government provides a lot of information on the ecological impacts and groundwater usage.<sup>(12)</sup>

With scalable supply alternatives in place, the existing supply from Rocky Ck Dam will be made resilient to anticipated times of drought and projected population growth, without the environmental destruction, social costs, and the over-capitalisation risk of an oversized and unnecessary dam.

#### References and Notes

- (1) Metropolitan Water Plan 2006, NSW Government. Exec Summary section of the doc <https://www.dropbox.com/s/pu9898oq6kocrph/NSW%20Govt%202006%20MWP%20summary.pdf?dl=0>
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Kind regards, Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 06.9.20

Received over the counter

8 SEP 2020

**Feedback Submission Re: Proposed Dunoon Dam within the Future Water Project 2060**

To: General Manager, Rous County Council  
PO Box 230, Lismore NSW 2480

From:

Saskia Kouwenberg

Address:



Firstly, the community appreciates the submission extension. We also acknowledge the complexity of the work Rous does to provide water for our region.

**I DO NOT support the proposed The Channon-Dunoon Dam for these reasons:**

- **Lost opportunity to invest in system-wide water efficiency.** This is the cheapest & fastest way to ensure supply-demand balance. By focussing on system efficiency, Sydney added an additional 950,000 people without a rise in consumption.<sup>(1)</sup>
- **The 21st century is about a suite of smart water options.** This dam would be a lost opportunity to make our system fit for the 21st century by swallowing all resources in one big expensive 'white dinosaur' project.
- **The dam would encourage continued inefficient and wasteful water management by local governments.** They would have no incentive to do things differently.
- **Destruction of important Indigenous cultural heritage,** including burial sites.<sup>(2)</sup>
- **Destruction of The Channon Gorge and its endangered ecological community of lowland rainforest,** threatened flora and fauna species.<sup>(3)</sup> Rous's plan to offset the loss of rainforest on sandstone with regeneration of degraded land in the buffer zone is problematic as the type of vegetation offered as recompense is not equivalent.<sup>(Nan Nicholson, botanist)</sup> Councils are required under State planning regulations to: "Focus development to areas of least biodiversity sensitivity in the region and implement the 'avoid, minimise, offset' hierarchy to biodiversity, including areas of high environmental value."<sup>(4)</sup> Rous is required to **avoid** this destruction because there are economically viable and more effective solutions.
- **Industrial/construction zone** for The Channon/Dunoon community; noise, machinery, trucks, visual impact. Ongoing sound impact from pump house etc.
- **Higher prices for consumers due to a 4x increase in the cost of water.** Rous general manager, in response to a question from councillor Vanessa Ekins, said he expected a fourfold increase in the cost of supplying water if the dam is built.
- **The small population increase** predicted for the four Rous-supplied councils of 12,720<sup>(5)</sup> between 2020-2060 **does not justify** such a large and destructive dam. The dam risks diverting expenditure away from more sustainable, flexible and effective solutions.<sup>(5)</sup>

**I SUPPORT these alternatives:**

We need a suite of smart water options and proven alternatives, not a huge new dam. The tide is turning on renewable and sustainable power. It is time for the tide to turn on how we meet our water needs too.

- **An investment in system-wide water efficiency and strong demand management.** Analysed, costed and deployed, creating jobs. *(We understand Rous has not costed this in creating their future water plan)* Existing research over the past decade consistently finds that the best 'bang-for-buck' investment in water supply comes from demand management and identifying savings within the existing supply.<sup>(6) (7)</sup>



- **Water re-use in various ways, including Purified Recycled Potable water.** A wealth of global research and experience exists regarding potable reuse of water.<sup>(6)</sup> Eg: The city of Windhoek in Namibia has been using purified recycled water for 30 years using advanced technology.<sup>(9)</sup>
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Water tanks on all new (and existing) developments. The Australian government advises that: "Depending on tank size and climate, mains water use can be reduced by up to 100%. This in turn can help: reduce the need for new dams or desalination plants; protect remaining environmental flows in rivers; reduce infrastructure operating costs."<sup>(10)</sup> Rainwater harvesting also decreases stormwater runoff, thereby helping to reduce local flooding and scouring of creeks.<sup>(11)</sup>
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- **Groundwater, where this is environmentally safe.** The Australian government provides a lot of information on the ecological impacts and groundwater usage.<sup>(12)</sup>

With scalable supply alternatives in place, the existing supply from Rocky Ck Dam will be made resilient to anticipated times of drought and projected population growth, without the environmental destruction, social costs, and the over-capitalisation risk of an outsized and unnecessary dam.

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Kind regards, Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

23/8/20

Received over the counter

8 SEP 2020

**Feedback Submission Re: Proposed Dunoon Dam within the Future Water Project 2060**

To: General Manager, Rous County Council  
PO Box 230, Lismore NSW 2480

From:

Theresa McGowan

Address:



Firstly, the community appreciates the submission extension. We also acknowledge the complexity of the work Rous does to provide water for our region.

**I DO NOT support the proposed The Channon-Dunoon Dam for these reasons:**

- **Lost opportunity to invest in system-wide water efficiency.** This is the cheapest & fastest way to ensure supply-demand balance. By focussing on system efficiency, Sydney added an additional 950,000 people without a rise in consumption.<sup>(1)</sup>
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- **The small population increase** predicted for the four Rous-supplied councils of 12,720<sup>(6)</sup> between 2020-2060 **does not justify** such a large and destructive dam. The dam risks diverting expenditure away from more sustainable, flexible and effective solutions.<sup>(5)</sup>

**I SUPPORT these alternatives:**

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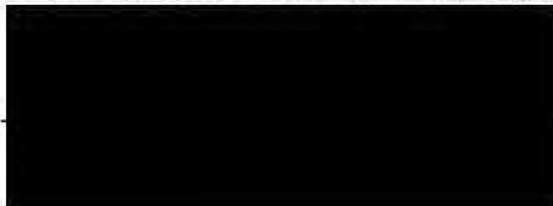
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Kind regards, Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



Date: 23-8-20

Received over the counter

8 SEP 2020

**Feedback Submission Re: Proposed Dunoon Dam within the Future Water Project 2060**

To: General Manager, Rous County Council  
PO Box 230, Lismore NSW 2480

From: Jodie Luca

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Firstly, the community appreciates the submission extension. We also acknowledge the complexity of the work Rous does to provide water for our region.

**I DO NOT support the proposed The Channon-Dunoon Dam for these reasons:**

- **Lost opportunity to invest in system-wide water efficiency.** This is the cheapest & fastest way to ensure supply-demand balance. By focussing on system efficiency, Sydney added an additional 950,000 people without a rise in consumption.<sup>(1)</sup>
- **The 21st century is about a suite of smart water options.** This dam would be a lost opportunity to make our system fit for the 21st century by swallowing all resources in one big expensive 'white dinosaur' project.
- **The dam would encourage continued inefficient and wasteful water management by local governments.** They would have no incentive to do things differently.
- **Destruction of important Indigenous cultural heritage,** including burial sites.<sup>(2)</sup>
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- **The small population increase** predicted for the four Rous-supplied councils of 12,720<sup>(5)</sup> between 2020-2060 **does not justify** such a large and destructive dam. The dam risks diverting expenditure away from more sustainable, flexible and effective solutions.<sup>(5)</sup>

**I SUPPORT these alternatives:**

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- **An investment in system-wide water efficiency and strong demand management.** Analysed, costed and deployed, creating jobs. (*We understand Rous has not costed this in creating their future water plan*) Existing research over the past decade consistently finds that the best 'bang-for-buck' investment in water supply comes from demand management and identifying savings within the existing supply.<sup>(6) (7)</sup>



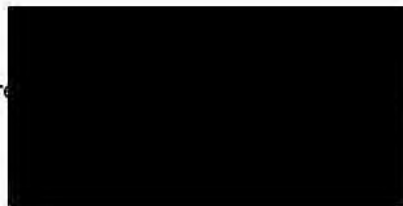
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Water tanks on all new (and existing) developments. The Australian government advises that: "Depending on tank size and climate, mains water use can be reduced by up to 100%. This in turn can help: reduce the need for new dams or desalination plants; protect remaining environmental flows in rivers; reduce infrastructure operating costs."<sup>(10)</sup> Rainwater harvesting also decreases stormwater runoff, thereby helping to reduce local flooding and scouring of creeks.<sup>(11)</sup>
- **Contingency planning** would enable Rous to be ready to rapidly implement supply measures if it becomes necessary in times of drought.
- **Groundwater, where this is environmentally safe.** The Australian government provides a lot of information on the ecological impacts and groundwater usage.<sup>(12)</sup>

With scalable supply alternatives in place, the existing supply from Rocky Ck Dam will be made resilient to anticipated times of drought and projected population growth, without the environmental destruction, social costs, and the over-capitalisation risk of an outsized and unnecessary dam.

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Kind regards, Signature



Date:

23/8/2020

Received over the counter

8 SEP 2020

To: General Manager  
Rous County Council  
PO Box 230  
Lismore NSW 2480

Date: 9/08/2020

From:  
Address:

Rick Cobis

**Re: The proposed Channon/Dunoon Dam within the Future Water Project 2060**

**I DO NOT support the proposed The Channon-Dunoon Dam for these reasons:**

- **Destruction of important Indigenous Cultural Heritage**, including burial sites (Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment, 2011). Ongoing disregard for First Nations sacred sites and culture.
- **Destruction of The Channon Gorge and its Endangered Ecological Community of Lowland Rainforest** (including the regionally rare warm temperate rainforest on sandstone), and its threatened species of flora and fauna. (Terrestrial Ecology Impact Assessment, 2011). Rous is planning to offset the loss of rainforest on sandstone with regeneration of degraded land in the buffer zone. Offsetting is a worthless exercise because the type of vegetation offered as recompense is never equivalent. This is worse than most. (Nan Nicholson, botanist)
- **Industrial/construction zone** for years for The Channon/Dunoon community; noise pollution; large trucks/machinery on our roads; visual impact. Ongoing sound impact from pump house etc.
- **Water prices will increase by 4x** current cost (or higher) (Rous)
- **Promotes accelerated population growth** in the Northern Rivers. I'm concerned the Dam is being framed as 'water security' to the local population, yet to further afield it is being framed as a development plan for acceleration of growth. I'm concerned the model that predicted the population did not take into account the actual dam's effect on growth. This framing is concerning to me: "Everyone needs to understand this Regional development plan which is "focused on *unlocking the potential* of one of Australia's most beautiful places. The North Coast will become the best region in Australia to live, work and play". From planning document:  
<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Plans-for-your-area/Regional-Plans/North-Coast/Delivering-the-plan> <sup>(1)</sup>
- **The entire modelling and the strategy recommendations were made pre-COVID19**, and are no longer economically or demographically valid. COVID has also shown us we need to be able to pivot quickly and flexibly - something this massive 'single solution' won't do.
- **The tiny population increase** for the four Rous supplied councils of only 12,720<sup>(2)</sup> people between 2020-2060 *does not justify* such a large and destructive dam. It risks being an *expensive white elephant*, diverting money away from more needed and effective solutions. **It is likely to create division and conflict** within our communities after suffering flood, drought and an extreme fire season. What we need are resilience and community building solutions.



**I SUPPORT these alternatives:**

The tide is turning on renewable and sustainable power. It is time for the tide to turn on how we meet our water needs too. We need to take action on a suite of smart water options and proven alternatives. This is 21st century thinking.

- **Strong Demand Management**  
Existing research over the past decade consistently finds that the best 'bang-for-buck' investment in water supply comes from demand management and identifying savings within the existing supply.<sup>(3) (4)</sup>
- **Purified Recycled Water**  
A wealth of global research and experience already exists regarding potable reuse of water as set out in the Australian report, *Potable Water Reuse: What can Australia learn from global experience?* <https://www.waterra.com.au/publications/document-search/?download=1806><sup>(5)</sup>  
Example: The city of Windhoek has been using Purified Recycled Water for 30yrs using advanced technology. <https://www.winqoc.com.na/our-history><sup>(6)</sup>
- **Water tanks on all new (and existing) developments**<sup>(7)</sup> *This builds community resilience - much needed as the example of the extreme bushfire season has shown up.*  
The Australian government advises that: "Depending on tank size and climate, mains water use can be reduced by up to 100%. This in turn can help: reduce the need for new dams or desalination plants; protect remaining environmental flows in rivers; reduce infrastructure operating costs.  
Rainwater harvesting also decreases stormwater runoff, thereby helping to reduce local flooding and scouring of creeks."<sup>(8)</sup> <https://www.yourhome.gov.au/water/rainwater>
- **Groundwater, where this is environmentally safe**  
The Australian government provides a lot of information on ecological impacts and groundwater usage.<sup>(9)</sup>  
<https://www.environment.gov.au/water/publications/what-are-the-ecological-impacts-of-groundwater-drawdown>

With scalable alternatives in place for supply, the existing Rocky Ck Dam supply component will be made resilient to anticipated times of drought and projected population growth, without the environmental destruction, social costs, and the over-capitalisation risk of an oversized dam.

## References and Notes

- (1) NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment 2019, *'Delivering the plan'*, Sydney, viewed 03 August 2020, <<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Plans-for-your-area/Regional-Plans/North-Coast/Delivering-the-plan>>
- (2) NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment 2019, *'NSW population projections'*, Sydney, viewed 03 August 2020, <<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Research-and-Demography/Population-projections/Projections>> scroll down to "Local Government Factsheets".
- (3) The Rous Regional Water Efficiency Program 1997, *Final report of the Rous Regional Demand Management Strategy : preferred options*, Rous County Council, Lismore.
- (4) Watson R., Turner A and Fane S 2018, *Water Efficiency and Demand Management Opportunities for Hunter Water*, Institute for Sustainable Futures, Sydney.
- (5) Kahn, Stuart and Branch, Amos 2019, *Potable water reuse: What can Australia learn from global experience?*, Water Research Australia Limited, Adelaide.
- (6) Windhoek Goreangab Operating Company (Pty) Ltd 2020, *Our history | Wingoc*, Veolia Environment, Windhoek, viewed 3 August 2020, <<https://www.wingoc.com.na/>>
- (7) \$220 million dollars - the estimated cost of the new dam - could provide more than 73,000 rainwater tanks (22,700L) at \$3,000 each including installation. That is 1.66GL storage with no evaporation and much increased community resilience for future climate risks. This more than covers the 0.9GL extra water needed by the 12,720 new people predicted to come to our area based on the 194L/person/day average water use (Rous).
- (8) Australian Government Department of Industry 2013, Science, Energy and Resources, *Rainwater | Your home*, Canberra, viewed 3 August 2020, <<https://www.yourhome.gov.au/water/rainwater>>
- (9) Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2018, *What are the ecological impacts of groundwater drawdown?* | *Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment*, Canberra, viewed 6 August 2020, <<https://www.environment.gov.au/water/publications/what-are-the-ecological-impacts-of-groundwater-drawdown>>

## Extra notes/Comments:

Kind regards,

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_





Received over the COU

8 SEP 2020

To: General Manager  
Rous County Council  
PO Box 230  
Lismore NSW 2480

From: Frank Lucas

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date: 9.8.2020

Re: the proposed Channon/Dunoon Dam within the Future Water Project 2060.

**I DO NOT support the proposed The Channon-Dunoon Dam for these reasons:**

- **Destruction of important Indigenous Cultural Heritage**, including burial sites (Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment, 2011). Ongoing disregard for First Nations sacred sites and culture.
- **Destruction of The Channon Gorge and its Endangered Ecological Community of Lowland Rainforest** (including the regionally rare warm temperate rainforest on sandstone), and its threatened species of flora and fauna. (Terrestrial Ecology Impact Assessment, 2011).  
Rous is planning to offset the loss of rainforest on sandstone with regeneration of degraded land in the buffer zone. Offsetting is a worthless exercise because the type of vegetation offered as recompense is never equivalent. This is worse than most. (Nan Nicholson, botanist)
- **Industrial/construction zone** for years for The Channon/Dunoon community; noise pollution; large trucks/machinery on our roads; visual impact. Ongoing sound impact from pump house etc.
- **Water prices will increase by 4x** current cost (or higher if dam budget blows out) (Rous)
- **Promotes accelerated population growth** in the Northern Rivers. I'm concerned the Dam is being framed as 'water security' to the local population, yet to further afield it is being framed as a development plan for acceleration of growth. I'm concerned the model that predicted the population did not take into account the actual dam's effect on growth. This framing is concerning to me: "Everyone needs to understand this Regional development plan which is "focused on *unlocking the potential* of one of Australia's most beautiful places. The North Coast will become the best region in Australia to live, work and play". From planning document:  
<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Plans-for-your-area/Regional-Plans/North-Coast/Delivering-the-plan> <sup>(1)</sup>
- **Continued focus on old strategies** to solve water security & economic needs.

- **The entire modelling and the strategy recommendations were made pre-COVID19**, and are no longer economically or demographically valid. COVID has also shown us we need to be able to pivot quickly and flexibly - something this massive 'single solution' won't do.
- **The tiny population increase** for the four Rous supplied councils of only 12,720<sup>(2)</sup> people between 2020-2060 **does not justify** such a large and destructive dam. It risks being an **expensive white elephant**, diverting money away from more needed and effective solutions.
- **It is likely to create division and conflict** within our communities after suffering flood, drought and an extreme fire season. What we need are resilience and community building solutions.

### I SUPPORT these alternatives:

I believe we need to take action on a suite of smart water options and proven alternatives.

The tide is turning on renewable and sustainable power. It is time for the tide to turn on how we meet our water needs too. This is 21st century thinking.

- **Strong Demand Management**

Existing research over the past decade consistently finds that the best 'bang-for-buck' investment in water supply comes from demand management and identifying savings within the existing supply.<sup>(3) (4)</sup>

- **Purified Recycled Water**

A wealth of global research and experience already exists regarding potable reuse of water as set out in the Australian report, *Potable Water Reuse: What can Australia learn from global experience?*

<https://www.waterra.com.au/publications/document-search/?download=1806><sup>(5)</sup>

Example: The city of Windhoek has been using Purified Recycled Water for 30yrs using advanced technology.

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The Australian government advises that:

Depending on tank size and climate, mains water use can be reduced by up to 100%. This in turn can help:

- \* reduce the need for new dams or desalination plants
- \* protect remaining environmental flows in rivers
- \* reduce infrastructure operating costs.

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## References and Notes

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Kind Regards,



Received over the counter

8 SEP 2020

Date: 9/8/2020

To: General Manager  
Rous County Council  
PO Box 230  
Lismore NSW 2480

From: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

JOHN ARKAN

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