

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [Records](#)  
**Subject:** FWP 2060 - Dunoon Dam.  
**Date:** Friday, 31 July 2020 10:45:50 AM  
**Attachments:** [DunoonDam\\_map \(1\).pdf](#)

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Dear Andrew and Cinthia

Thank you for your call, this email is to acknowledge that you have both Koala's and Platypus located on your property.

The Aquatic Ecology Report completed in 2013 noted sightings of platypus at three locations. One of those sightings was just north of your property in Rocky Creek. The report further noted numerous barrows where found in that reach of the creek.

In reference to possible mitigation measures the below is a brief excerpt from this report.

### **Platypus**

Platypus and their habitat (including burrow clusters) were found within the proposed inundation area (upstream of the Frasers Road crossing). All existing platypus habitat within the proposed inundation area will be inundated. However, platypus are known to use artificial lake environments and the proposed dam may provide increased opportunity for habitat and food resources. Negative impacts on platypus may include fragmentation of populations within the system, loss of lotic feeding habitat and increased likelihood of disease (Rohweder and Baverstock 1999, Grant and Temple 2003)

The report noted that possible mitigation and management measures should include a foreshore management plan. The plan should be based on best practice methods for re-introduction of amphibian and platypus habitat within the proposed dam. The plan should also address the management of platypus during the inundation/filling phase of the dam. The report also recommended monitoring and mapping of platypus population/s and their habitat for adoption and inclusion into the Foreshore Management Plan. The report noted that Platypus are reasonably hardy animals able to survive in considerably disturbed habitat (Grant 1998).

Should the project proceed, More rigorous assessment would be needed to demonstrate that the impact on this particular species is adequately offset to an acceptable standard. The intention of the 2013 report was to highlight what are the key ecological considerations and what are the impacts as a result of the Dunoon Dam project.

In reference to your other questions, please find the attached plan of the Dunoon Dam wall. As mentioned, the proposed dam wall is located 1km south of your property.

There is more information on the Dunoon Dam proposal located on the Rous County Council website.

[www.rous.nsw.gov.au/futurewater](http://www.rous.nsw.gov.au/futurewater)

However, if you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

File: 870

Sender: Andrew and Cinthia Barnett – [REDACTED]

Subject: Question regarding the Dunoon Dam and advise of key species that reside on there property.

Referral for action: NA

Regards

Michael McKenzie  
Future Water Strategy Project Manager

**Rous County Council**

PO Box 230, Level 4, 218-232 Molesworth Street LISMORE NSW 2480 | [02 6623 3800](tel:0266233800) | [0407 351 731](tel:0407351731) | [Michael.McKenzie@rous.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Michael.McKenzie@rous.nsw.gov.au) | [www.rous.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rous.nsw.gov.au)



■ BULK WATER SUPPLY ■ WEED BIOSECURITY ■ FLOOD MITIGATION



Please consider the environment - do you really need to print this email?

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## Dunoon

Disclaimer: The material contained on this map is made available on the understanding that Rous County Council is not hereby engaged in rendering professional advice. While all reasonable care has been taken to ensure the information contained on this map is up to date and accurate, no warranty is given that the information contained on this map is free from error or omission. Any reliance placed on such information shall be at the sole risk of the user. Please verify the accuracy of the information prior to using it.

## Records

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**From:** Records  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 7 July 2020 3:29 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Proposed Dunoon Dam

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<https://www.rous.nsw.gov.au/futurewater>

We appreciate you making your voice heard on the future of our region's water supply.

### Records

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---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 26 June 2020 11:01 AM  
**To:** Records <[records@rous.nsw.gov.au](mailto:records@rous.nsw.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Proposed Dunoon Dam

To Rous County Council,

I am writing to you today as a community member who deeply concerned about the proposed Dunoon dam. Given that the proposed site will flood Widjabal culturally significant sites and artefacts I see no way in which this dam can go ahead. The act of destroying these sites is the continuation of the cultural genocide of the First peoples of this continent, and to implement the dam your organization is explicitly carrying out this act. I have also noticed that under the Richmond River Water Sharing Plan one of the clear objectives is to "Protect, preserve, maintain and enhance the Aboriginal, cultural and heritage values of these water sources". The creation of the dam at Dunoon would directly contradict this objective.

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If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. I will be participating in the active opposition of the construction of this dam and hope that you will listen to my voice as a local community member.

Respect for country, respect for each other

Léandra Martiniello

Sent with ProtonMail Secure Email.

## Records

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**From:** Records  
**Sent:** Friday, 26 June 2020 11:10 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Records  
**Subject:** FW: Proposed Dunoon Dam

Hi Andy.

I was told to forward all the Future Water Strategy public comments to Communications and Engagement.

I will register this and refer it to you for action unless I hear otherwise for you.

Cheers,

Tara

Records

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Respect for country, respect for each other

Léandra Martiniello

Sent with  Secure Email.

## Records

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**From:** Records  
**Sent:** Friday, 26 June 2020 11:12 AM  
**To:** Andy Sibley  
**Cc:** Records  
**Subject:** FW: Proposed Dunoon Dam that will flood Widjabal culturally significant artefacts and sites.

Records

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---

**From:** hannah larkin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 26 June 2020 11:06 AM  
**To:** Records <[records@rous.nsw.gov.au](mailto:records@rous.nsw.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Proposed Dunoon Dam that will flood Widjabal culturally significant artefacts and sites.

To Rous County Council,

I am writing to you today as a community member who is deeply concerned about the proposed Dunoon dam. Given that the proposed site will flood Widjabal culturally significant sites and artefacts I see no way in which this dam can go ahead. The act of destroying these sites is the continuation of the cultural genocide of the First peoples of this continent, and to implement the dam your organization is explicitly carrying out this act. I have also noticed that under the Richmond River Water Sharing Plan one of the clear objectives is to "Protect, preserve, maintain and enhance the Aboriginal, cultural and heritage values of these water sources". The creation of the dam at Dunoon would directly contradict this objective.

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If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. I will be participating in the active opposition of the construction of this dam and hope that you will listen to my voice as a local community member.

Sincerely,

Hannah Larkin



## Records

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**From:** Records  
**Sent:** Friday, 26 June 2020 1:31 PM  
**To:** Andy Sibley  
**Cc:** Records  
**Subject:** FW: Dunoon Dam

Records

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-----Original Message-----

From: Amy Mya [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, 26 June 2020 1:18 PM  
To: Records <[records@rous.nsw.gov.au](mailto:records@rous.nsw.gov.au)>  
Subject: Dunoon Dam

To Rous County Council,

I am writing to you today as a community member who deeply concerned about the proposed Dunoon dam. Given that the proposed site will flood Widjabal culturally significant sites and artefacts I see no way in which this dam can go ahead. The act of destroying these sites is the continuation of the cultural genocide of the First peoples of this continent, and to implement the dam your organization is explicitly carrying out this act. I have also noticed that under the Richmond River Water Sharing Plan one of the clear objectives is to "Protect, preserve, maintain and enhance the Aboriginal, cultural and heritage values of these water sources". The creation of the dam at Dunoon would directly contradict this objective.

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Sincerely,  
Any Nolan-Ferguson

## Records

---

**From:** Records  
**Sent:** Friday, 26 June 2020 3:13 PM  
**To:** Andy Sibley  
**Cc:** Records  
**Subject:** FW: Dunoon Dam

Records

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---

**From:** Laura Brennan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 26 June 2020 2:08 PM  
**To:** Records <[records@rous.nsw.gov.au](mailto:records@rous.nsw.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Dunoon Dam

To Rous County Council,

I am writing to you today as a community member who deeply concerned about the proposed Dunoon dam. Given that the proposed site will flood Widjabal culturally significant sites and artefacts I see no way in which this dam can go ahead. The act of destroying these sites is the continuation of the cultural genocide of the First peoples of this continent, and to implement the dam your organization is explicitly carrying out this act. I have also noticed that under the Richmond River Water Sharing Plan one of the clear objectives is to "Protect, preserve, maintain and enhance the Aboriginal, cultural and heritage values of these water sources". The creation of the dam at Dunoon would directly contradict this objective.

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If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. I will be participating in the active opposition of the construction of this dam and hope that you will listen to my voice as a local community member.

Sincerely,

Laura Brennan

## Records

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**From:** Records  
**Sent:** Monday, 29 June 2020 5:09 AM  
**To:** Andy Sibley  
**Cc:** Records  
**Subject:** FW: Please stop dam at Dunoon

Records

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-----Original Message-----

From: 順平田川 [REDACTED]  
Sent: Sunday, 28 June 2020 11:41 AM  
To: Records <[records@rous.nsw.gov.au](mailto:records@rous.nsw.gov.au)>  
Subject: Please stop dam at Dunoon

I'm living around Dunoon and please stop make dam. I've got water tank we will not use it and keep nature and wild life as it is.  
Thank you Jumpei

Sent from my iPhone

## Records

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**From:** Records  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 7 July 2020 3:22 PM  
**To:** 'Ruby Matthews McMullen'  
**Subject:** RE: Dunoon dam

Thank you for making your formal submission in response to Rous County Council's Future Water Project 2060 proposed plan to secure the region's future bulk water supply. We will be collating all received responses once submissions close on 12 August 2020. A report on the results will be made public in October 2020.

This report will be available on our website.

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-----Original Message-----

From: Ruby Matthews McMullen [REDACTED]  
Sent: Saturday, 27 June 2020 9:03 AM  
To: Records <[records@rous.nsw.gov.au](mailto:records@rous.nsw.gov.au)>  
Subject: Dunoon dam

To Rous County Council,

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Sincerely,

Ruby McMullen

## Records

---

**From:** Records  
**Sent:** Monday, 29 June 2020 5:11 AM  
**To:** Andy Sibley  
**Cc:** Records  
**Subject:** FW: Dunoon dam

Records

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To: Records <[records@rous.nsw.gov.au](mailto:records@rous.nsw.gov.au)>  
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Sincerely,

Ruby McMullen

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**Sent:** Tuesday, 7 July 2020 3:13 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Dunoon Dam proposal

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**From:** Tahlia Coby Davey [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 3 July 2020 9:29 AM  
**To:** Records <[records@rous.nsw.gov.au](mailto:records@rous.nsw.gov.au)>  
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Sincerely,  
Tahlia Davey



## Records

---

**From:** Records  
**Sent:** Friday, 3 July 2020 10:02 AM  
**To:** Andy Sibley; Vanessa Crowther  
**Cc:** Michael McKenzie; Records  
**Subject:** FW: Dunoon Dam proposal

Records

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Sincerely,  
Tahlia Davey

## Records

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**From:** Records  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 7 July 2020 3:14 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Dunoon Dam proposal

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-----Original Message-----

From: Nick Dyason [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, 6 July 2020 6:38 PM  
To: Records <[records@rous.nsw.gov.au](mailto:records@rous.nsw.gov.au)>  
Subject: Dunoon Dam proposal

To Rous County Council,

I am writing to you today as a community member who deeply concerned about the proposed Dunoon Dam. I am a Dunoon resident and given that the proposed site will flood Widjabal culturally significant sites and artefacts I see no way in which this dam can go ahead. The act of destroying these sites is the continuation of the cultural genocide of the First peoples of this continent, and to implement the dam your organization is explicitly carrying out this act. I have also noticed that under the Richmond River Water Sharing Plan one of the clear objectives is to "Protect, preserve, maintain and enhance the Aboriginal, cultural and heritage values of these water sources". The creation of the dam at Dunoon would directly contradict this objective.

Having assessed the environmental flows impact report, I am also concerned with the effects on local ecology and landscape. The anticipated effects in impact zone 2 are too significant for the land and water ways. The destruction of habitat, eutrophication of the reservoir and expected algal blooms are unacceptable.

I believe there are more efficient and less damaging water security plans that could be implemented in place of the dam, with the \$245 M expected to spend on it. Perhaps alternatively, new developments could be supplied with water tanks.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. I will be participating in the active opposition of the construction of this dam and hope that you will listen to my voice as a local community member.

Sincerely,  
Nick Dyason

## Records

---

**From:** Records  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 7 July 2020 5:20 AM  
**To:** Andy Sibley; Vanessa Crowther  
**Cc:** Michael McKenzie; Records  
**Subject:** FW: Dunoon Dam proposal

Records

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Sincerely,  
Nick Dyason

## Records

---

**From:** Records  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 7 July 2020 3:49 PM  
**To:** 'Vanessa Morris'  
**Subject:** RE: proposed dunoon dam

Thank you for making your formal submission in response to Rous County Council's *Future Water Project 2060* proposed plan to secure the region's future bulk water supply.

We will be collating all received responses once submissions close on 12 August 2020. A report on the results will be made public in October 2020.

This report will be available on our website.

<https://www.rous.nsw.gov.au/futurewater>

We appreciate you making your voice heard on the future of our region's water supply.124570

### Records

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---

**From:** Vanessa Morris [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, 4 July 2020 8:25 PM  
**To:** Records <records@rous.nsw.gov.au>  
**Subject:** proposed dunoon dam

To Rous County Council,

I am writing to you today as a community member who deeply concerned about the proposed Dunoon dam. Given that the proposed site will flood Widjabal culturally significant sites and artefacts I see no way in which this dam can go ahead. The act of destroying these sites is the continuation of the cultural genocide of the First peoples of this continent, and to implement the dam your organization is explicitly carrying out this act. I have also noticed that under the Richmond River Water Sharing Plan one of the clear objectives is to "Protect, preserve, maintain and enhance the Aboriginal, cultural and heritage values of these water sources". The creation of the dam at Dunoon would directly contradict this objective.

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If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. I will be participating in the active opposition of the construction of this dam and hope that you will listen to my voice as a local community member.

Sincerely,

Vanessa Morris



## Records

---

**From:** Records  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 7 July 2020 3:49 PM  
**To:** 'Vanessa Morris'  
**Subject:** RE: proposed dunoon dam

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**From:** Vanessa Morris [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, 4 July 2020 8:25 PM  
**To:** Records <records@rous.nsw.gov.au>  
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If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. I will be participating in the active opposition of the construction of this dam and hope that you will listen to my voice as a local community member.

Sincerely,

Vanessa Morris



## Records

---

**From:** Records  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 7 July 2020 6:29 AM  
**To:** Andy Sibley; Vanessa Crowther  
**Cc:** Michael McKenzie; Records  
**Subject:** FW: proposed dunoon dam

Records

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**From:** Vanessa Morris [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, 4 July 2020 8:25 PM  
**To:** Records <[records@rous.nsw.gov.au](mailto:records@rous.nsw.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** proposed dunoon dam

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Sincerely,  
Vanessa Morris

[REDACTED]



## Records

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**From:** Records  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 14 July 2020 11:57 AM  
**To:** 'Rena Woolbank'  
**Subject:** RE: Future water 2060

Thank you for making your formal submission in response to Rous County Council's Future Water Project 2060 proposed plan to secure the region's future bulk water supply. We will be collating all received responses once submissions close on 12 August 2020. A report on the results will be made public in October 2020.

This report will be available on our website.

<https://www.rous.nsw.gov.au/futurewater>

We appreciate you making your voice heard on the future of our region's water supply.

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-----Original Message-----

From: Rena Woolbank [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, 14 July 2020 11:44 AM  
To: Records <[records@rous.nsw.gov.au](mailto:records@rous.nsw.gov.au)>  
Subject: Future water 2060

To Rous County Council,

I am writing to you today as a community member of The Channon who deeply concerned about the proposed Dunoon dam. Given that the proposed site will flood Widjabal culturally significant sites and artefacts I see no way in which this dam can go ahead. The act of destroying these sites is the continuation of the cultural genocide of the First peoples of this continent, and to implement the dam your organization is explicitly carrying out this act. I have also noticed that under the Richmond River Water Sharing Plan one of the clear objectives is to "Protect, preserve, maintain and enhance the Aboriginal, cultural and heritage values of these water sources". The creation of the dam at Dunoon would directly contradict this objective.

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If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. I will be participating in the active opposition of the construction of this dam and hope that you will listen to my voice as a local community member.

Sincerely,  
Rena woolbank

## Records

---

**From:** Records  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 14 July 2020 11:56 AM  
**To:** Andy Sibley; Vanessa Crowther  
**Cc:** Michael McKenzie; Records  
**Subject:** FW: Future water 2060

Records

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Sent: Tuesday, 14 July 2020 11:44 AM  
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If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. I will be participating in the active opposition of the construction of this dam and hope that you will listen to my voice as a local community member.

Sincerely,  
Rena woolbank

## Records

---

**From:** Records  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 21 July 2020 6:14 AM  
**To:** Andy Sibley; Vanessa Crowther  
**Cc:** Records  
**Subject:** FW: Dunoon Dam Proposal

Records

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---

**From:** Michael McKenzie [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 20 July 2020 10:53 AM  
**To:** Records <[records@rous.nsw.gov.au](mailto:records@rous.nsw.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** FW: Dunoon Dam Proposal

Dear Records

CFYI

Regards

Michael McKenzie  
Future Water Strategy Project Manager  
Rous County Council  
PO Box 230, Level 4, 218-232 Molesworth Street LISMORE NSW 2480 | 02 6623 3800 | 0407 351 731 |  
[REDACTED] | [www.rous.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rous.nsw.gov.au)

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---

**From:** Records <[records@rous.nsw.gov.au](mailto:records@rous.nsw.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Monday, 20 July 2020 8:30 AM  
**To:** Michael McKenzie [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Dunoon Dam Proposal

## Records

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---

**From:** Morgan Archer [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, 19 July 2020 8:23 PM  
**To:** Records <[records@rous.nsw.gov.au](mailto:records@rous.nsw.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Dunoon Dam Proposal

To Rous County Council,

I am writing to you today as a community member who deeply concerned about the proposed Dunoon dam. Given that the proposed site will flood Widdjabal culturally significant sites and artefacts. I see no way in which this dam can go ahead. The act of destroying these sites is the continuation of the cultural genocide of the First peoples of this continent, and to implement the dam your organization is explicitly carrying out this act. I have also noticed that under the Richmond River Water Sharing Plan one of the clear objectives is to "Protect, preserve, maintain and enhance the Aboriginal, cultural and heritage values of these water sources". The creation of the dam at Dunoon would directly contradict this objective.

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I believe there are more efficient and less damaging water security plans that could be implemented in place of the dam, with the \$245 M expected to spend on it. Perhaps alternatively, new developments could be supplied with water tanks or we could at least in part, re-use treated water.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. I will be participating in the active opposition of the construction of this dam and hope that you will listen to my voice as a local community member.

Sincerely,



Morgan Archer  
Resident of Dunoon and Property Owner

## Records

---

**From:** Records  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 21 July 2020 6:15 AM  
**To:** Andy Sibley; Vanessa Crowther  
**Cc:** Records  
**Subject:** FW: dunoon dam extension feedback  
**Attachments:** image0.jpeg

Records

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---

**From:** Michael McKenzie [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 20 July 2020 10:53 AM  
**To:** Records <[records@rous.nsw.gov.au](mailto:records@rous.nsw.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** FW: dunoon dam extension feedback

Dear Vanessa

CFYI

Regards

Michael McKenzie  
Future Water Strategy Project Manager  
Rous County Council  
PO Box 230, Level 4, 218-232 Molesworth Street LISMORE NSW 2480 | 02 6623 3800 | 0407 351 731 |  
[REDACTED] | [www.rous.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rous.nsw.gov.au)

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**From:** Records <[records@rous.nsw.gov.au](mailto:records@rous.nsw.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Monday, 20 July 2020 8:30 AM  
**To:** Michael McKenzie [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: dunoon dam extension feedback

## Records

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-----Original Message-----

From: tahlia gibbes [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, 19 July 2020 7:32 PM

To: Records <[records@rous.nsw.gov.au](mailto:records@rous.nsw.gov.au)>

Subject: dunoon dam extension feedback

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

To Rous County Council,

I am writing to you today as a community member who deeply concerned about the proposed Dunoon dam. Given that the proposed site will flood Widdjabal culturally significant sites and artefacts. I see no way in which this dam can go ahead. The act of destroying these sites is the continuation of the cultural genocide of the First peoples of this continent, and to implement the dam your organization is explicitly carrying out this act. I have also noticed that under the Richmond River Water Sharing Plan one of the clear objectives is to "Protect, preserve, maintain and enhance the Aboriginal, cultural and heritage values of these water sources". The creation of the dam at Dunoon would directly contradict this objective.

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If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. I will be participating in the active opposition of the construction of this dam and hope that you will listen to my voice as a local community member.

Sincerely,





**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Records](#)  
**Subject:** Submission OBJECTING to Dunoon Dam, and Future Water Project 2060  
**Date:** Friday, 24 July 2020 2:38:04 PM

---

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

Dear Rous County Councillors:

I am EXTREMELY concerned about your proposed "Future Water Project 2060". I strongly OBJECT to the proposed Dunoon Dam, which will not only have many adverse affects on current residents of the area, but is also based on the faulty logic of ever-expanding consumption to meet the projection of an ever-increasing population and economy--*rather than* considering the limits to growth that our finite natural resources dictate!

The water use of most Rous Water Council residents is profligate to say the least. I regularly witness improper water consumption: cars being washed on the sidewalk, despite publicized water restrictions in place, lawns watered in the middle of the day during drought, etc. I believe that there are more efficient water security plans that could be implemented--let's mandate water tank installation for all homes, whether existing or new, for starters. (Surely this could be done for well under \$245 million!! ) Then significantly raise the price of any water used from existing Rous Water Council connections. In this region we are blessed with relatively high rainfall-- let's use that gift rather than squander it. Let's learn to value and make use of what we have, rather than continually demanding more.

I am writing as a community member who has spent many years living in The Channon and surrounding areas, although I now reside in Lismore. The impact of the proposed dam wall, and the consequent destruction of the ecosystems of the Dunoon-Channon area--not to mention waterways that become clogged with algal blooms or other forms of eutrophication--is severe, and totally unacceptable. Additionally, the constant 24-hour noise from the pumping station will fill the valleys below, destroying the natural amenity of the area. I do not want to see this dam go ahead, and destroy communities of people as well as habitat for flora & fauna.

Finally, I am aware that the proposed site will flood ulturally significant sites and artefacts of the Widjabal people, particularly scar trees, and burial sites near Munro Road. Building this dam represents another act of genocide against Indigenous Peoples which must not be perpetrated. How can you possibly consider this dam going ahead, when one of the expressed objective of the Richmond River Water Sharing Plan is to "Protect, preserve, maintain and enhance the Aboriginal, cultural and heritage values of these water sources"....? Don't add hypocrisy to an already tarnished reputation.

I plan to continue to express my opposition to the construction of this dam at every opportunity.  
I hope Rous Water will start listening to the voices of the community, as much as it seems to heed the voices of estate developers.

Sincerely,  
Margaret Louise



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Records](#)  
**Subject:** Against The Dam  
**Date:** Saturday, 25 July 2020 4:02:16 PM

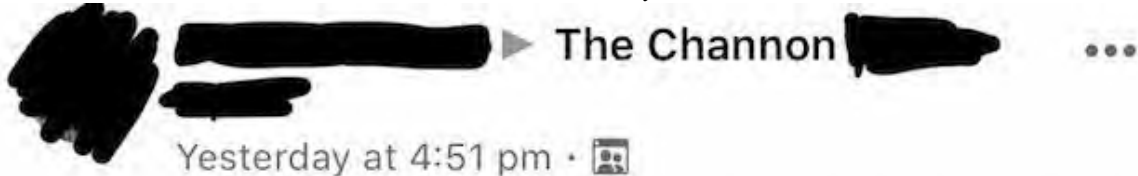
---

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

It is the opinion of myself and many of the greater community in the Channon and Dunoon regions that your plan for the Dam behind the Channon & Dunoon should not go ahead.




Attaching photo as evidence as you do not accept photo comments on your Facebook page.


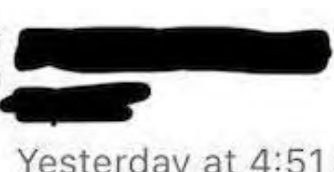


Please reconsider as it does not reflect the interests of the community.



We don't need new dams. We need limits to growth. If we don't control our demand for resources then nature will do it for us.







   [REDACTED] and 73 others 5 comments

  ▶ The Channon  ...  
Yesterday at 4:51 pm · 

We don't need new dams. We need limits to growth. If we don't control our demand for resources then nature will do it for us.



    and 73 others 5 comments

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Records](#)  
**Subject:** Future Water Project 2060  
**Date:** Sunday, 26 July 2020 11:41:05 PM

---

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

Sunday, 26th July, 2020.

From Maree Jackson  
[REDACTED]

To Rous County Council,

Objection to Dunoon Dam and reasons why.  
Support for alternative solutions and suggestions.

This is my revised submission about Future Water Project 2060.

I am writing to you today as a local community member deeply concerned that the geology of the site of the proposed Dunoon Dam(DD) is unsuitable due to the composition of the rock layers and soil in and around the Southern half of the area to be flooded.

I have investigated the proposed Dam area and surroundings, both on foot (with permission) and by research online. I have observed inconsistent intrusions of basalt and the brittleness and porosity of the sandstone areas, which could make the Dam drastically seep, leak or fail.

I am further concerned that Rocky Creek Dam (RCD) is upstream of the proposed Dunoon Dam and if RCD had a problem or failure, it could impact the DD and cause a catastrophe for Dunoon, The Channon, Tuntable, Keerrong, Goolmangar, Tuncester and Lismore.

I support future water security, though I object to the DD proposal for the reasons outlined above and following.

Precious Indigenous burial sites would be drowned and therefore destroyed, that is unacceptable. Rare and regenerating areas of Native vegetation and diverse Native animals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish and insects inhabit the inundation zone and would be decimated or displaced by the DD.

Also waterlogging of soil in the surrounding properties, the potential for spread of Phytopthera through the Dam water supply to the greater Rous County Council region and significant erosion of downstream Rocky Creek with increased frequency and height of flooding of Terania and Tuntable Creeks are serious concerns for agricultural & residential communities.


Instead of DD, I suggest a "Marom Dam" dug just North of Tuckean Island at Marom Creek, purified recycled water augmentation (IPR) to Marom Creek Plant & Dam, by IPR supply from Goonellabah & Chilcott's Grass, possible groundwater harvesting from the plateau edge for Marom Creek Plant with increased treatment capacity to more efficiently supply coastal areas.

If Dam sites closer to RCD are preferred then I suggest to investigate smaller capacity options such as: extensively enlarging the dam on Little Rocky Creek at Fraser Road/Munro Road site at Dunoon, (possibly with an IPR option, recycled from the Dunoon Village to enhance and buffer supply).

Possible larger capacity alternative is: effectively replacing the Rocky Creek Dam wall with a much larger, higher wall West South West of the current wall at RCD to increase capacity of RCD.

Thank you for seriously considering my submission.

Yours sincerely,  
Maree Jackson.

You may contact me if you wish.  
Please do not publicly share my contact details or address. Email: 

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Records](#)  
**Subject:** I Am Protesting the Dam Proposal  
**Date:** Monday, 27 July 2020 11:48:15 AM

---

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

This dam is not a solution to the water crisis. The reason why our area is short on water is because the topsoil has been neglected for years, and can't store water how it used to. Our water tables are suffering, our environment is drying and by building this dam you will increase flood risks to locals just like the Dunoon dam has.

You are not informing locals of the risks to their land and you will be liable for misguiding the people.

Use your money to build a desalination plant and utilise the growing levels of seawater that are a product of global warming. That is forward thinking, that will get approval from the community and that will prevent your business being battled by the locals.

I don't need to remind you what this community can do when it comes together. We stopped the loggers, we almost stopped a multi-million dollar fracking operation backed by multiple countries, governments and economies and we will stop this dam being built if it comes to it.

Please work with the community on this issue, because they are the people you will be dealing with for the many hundreds of years. There is precious indigenous land in the area and as our country grows to support indigenous people you could be black marked as a company that is racist. It's a dangerous time to play with that fire. Whether corporations actually care about people of colour doesn't matter, what does matter is that the ones that pretend they do are now the ones getting the money.

At the end of the day, we are prepared to fight this. So please, save a battle and rethink your proposal. Use that money to build a desalination plant, or provide locals with a water tank on every property and repair the soil health.

We know there are better solutions, and this dam will not be built.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Records](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Thank you for making your formal submission  
**Date:** Tuesday, 4 August 2020 4:38:15 PM  
**Attachments:** [35 29-7-2020 Email Rous - Indigenous concerns.pdf](#)  
[35a 29-7-2020 Rous Automatic Reply to Your Email.eml.msg](#)

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To "Records" Person

Regarding my **"Online Request"** dated **29 July 2020** for Information regarding :

I asked, what the are the **Issues that Concern the Local INDIGENOUS Population,**  
**about having Rous Water Construct the very Urgently needed**  
**50 Gigalitre DUNOON DAM ? I TOTALLY SUPPORT DUNOON**  
**DAM !**

**To me, and many others, this is the last chance for trying to have a**  
**"REAL" Water**  
**Source SOLUTION but I also want to hear and READ, what are the**  
**CONCERNS**  
**of LOCAL INDIGENOUS Population to see IF we BOTH CAN have**  
**what**  
**we ALL NEED, a "REAL" Water Source SOLUTION !**

**I note that Rous Water are considering a 28 days extension, to the 12 August**  
**Submission Date ? IF so, I would TOTALLY agree because I need your**  
**Indigenous Information, before I can complete our SUBMISSION !**

I will ring tomorrow, Wednesday 5 August, to fully explain what I require, Emailed to me.

George NEWBY

**From:** Records  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 4, 2020 1:29 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Thank you for making your formal submission

Thank you for making your formal submission in response to Rous County Council's *Future Water Project 2060* proposed plan to secure the region's future bulk water supply.

We will be collating all received responses once submissions close on 12 August 2020.

A report on the results will be made public in October 2020.

(Please beware that there is a pending Council meeting on Friday 7 August 2020 to consider if this period should be extended)



This report will be available on our website.

<https://www.rous.nsw.gov.au/futurewater>


We appreciate you making your voice heard on the future of our region's water supply.

## Records

### **Rous County Council**

PO Box 230, 218-232 Molesworth St LISMORE NSW 2480 | [02 6623 3800](tel:0266233800) |  
records@rous.nsw.gov.au | [www.rous.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rous.nsw.gov.au)



 Please consider the environment - do you really need to print this email?

Our offices and operations will be operating a little differently due to COVID-19. Rous County Council staff are still working to maintain all core services. Please help us work safely by showing your support from a distance. The best way to get in touch with us is through email [council@rous.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@rous.nsw.gov.au) or by phoning (02) 66 233 800. Further information on how we are operating due to COVID-19 can be found on our website.

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<http://www.rous.nsw.gov.au/page.asp?f=RES-XRL-37-22-83>

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Records](#)  
**Subject:** Submission to: The Dunoon Dam project  
**Date:** Wednesday, 5 August 2020 6:56:13 AM

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

Larry Larstead  
[REDACTED]

Aug 5 2020

Submission to:  
The Dunoon Dam project

I do NOT support this project.

Dams are only as good as the rain that fills in them, but 'hope is not a strategy'.

Therefore I say no!

I don't believe that hopes and dreams are a sufficient strategy for planners to release perfectly good wildlife habitat and agricultural land for residential development, effectively doubling or tripling our local population based on nothing but 'hope'.

With the world facing persistent Climate Change, hopes that life will continue on as it has in the past is certainly not a strategy or a drought proofing solution. City planners should need more than crystal balls.

We say no to this project. If our local population must expand, then we require rational strategies in the face of it.

Sincerely,  
Larry Larstead

**From:** [Steve Posselt](#)  
**To:** [Records](#)  
**Subject:** Submission Future Water Project 2060  
**Date:** Friday, 7 August 2020 3:26:14 PM

---

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

- Steve Posselt, [REDACTED]
- Commenting on web site information provided
- Do not support the proposal to construct Dunoon Dam
- Reasons are contained below

#### **Submission to Rous County Council regarding Future Water Project 2060**

Rous County Council has completed a triple bottom line assessment (being a social, environmental and economic assessment) for water source options. It was determined based on the methodology used, that desalination, groundwater and indirect or direct potable reuse options are more expensive for the community over the long-term and do not provide the same level of water security.

These blanket statements are difficult to reconcile with the information provided on your web site. Can we start with the basic premise that all dams cause significant environmental damage. This is indisputable, what may be disputed is the value of this damage. None-the-less the USA has seen fit to remove more than 500 dams.

I could not find a value anywhere on the site for the environmental damage. Nor could I find any assessment of social costs, although your statement above refers to your TBL assessment.

The desalination assessment by Ganden appears to be quite comprehensive but perhaps has a fundamental flaw. Reverse Osmosis is claimed to be between 4 and 10 kWhr/kL energy cost. It is not hard to do an internet search to discover that Tugun operates at 3.58kWhr/kL, and I believe that is the energy cost to get it to Molendinar reservoir. It would therefore be nice to know what value was chosen for determining the plant running costs.

It was pleasing to see that the desalination plant assessment contained a Review of Environmental & Social Planning Aspects but I could not find the same for Dunoon Dam. Perhaps you should also consider the cost to Rous, and therefore its customers, when the inevitable protests start and thus delay work on the project. What also, of the compensation to be paid to landowners and the risk if the dam does not go ahead? Perhaps you should review the many attempts to build a dam on the Mary River, the most recent being the Traveston Crossing dam which last year celebrated its tenth anniversary of the project's termination. Approximately \$2B was lost by the Queensland Government on its ill-fated dam.

With respect to the groundwater option there wasn't much for me to critique but I will say this. Many people fail to relate ground water and surface water, but they are inextricably related unless the water is in a closed system, which would mean that it was finite anyway.

Ground water is water moving through the soil, maybe like an underground river, so any interference with this will have consequences. Ground water, has to go somewhere. On Stradbroke Island it is a steady stream to the ocean. I don't know enough about the groundwater option but it seems to me that any extraction has an effect somewhere.

It would seem to me that indirect potable reuse is the option that would be the best environmentally but having been involved in the Toowoomba debacle, I would hesitate to wish that on Rous management. Maybe aquifer recharge, as has been operating in California for many years, would be easier to gain acceptance. History at Toowoomba has been rewritten. Conventional wisdom, even in many parts of the water industry, is that reuse did not get up because council did not do enough. This is not true, when the process was railroaded by the Federal Water Minister, Malcolm Turnbull, Toowoomba City Council had 67% in favour and climbing. When it went to a referendum, things got really nasty.

Given all of the above, my recommendation would be to further explore desalination. You cannot start and stop these plants and remain competitive so the desalination process would have to be the base load supply, run by renewable energy, and sold to the community on its environmental credentials. The perception that desal is horrendously expensive especially with respect to energy use is incorrect. You can provide water for a whole family at much less energy cost than if you were to heat their water with electricity. The perception that it is horrendously expensive in monetary terms can easily be countered with producing real costs.

Steve Posselt FIE(Aust)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Records](#)  
**Subject:** Disgusting  
**Date:** Saturday, 8 August 2020 6:35:48 PM

---

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

That dam is criminal and is environmental terrorism.

Whoever is responsible belongs in jail.

Also what kind of sicko wants to wipe out Koalas and the like to feed Byron their water.

I hope those responsible are sued and spend along time in jail!

I am ashamed to think people like them exist in the region.

Build your dam in Byron!

Koalas over watering Byrons lawns!

Traitors

Sent from my iPhone

From:

To:

Cc:

Records

Subject:

Proposed Channon Dunoon Dam

Date:

Sunday, 9 August 2020 10:58:45 AM

Attachments:

[page2image12080576.png](#)

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

Dear Councillors,

I am writing to you to express my concern over the proposed Channon-Dunoon Dam. In particular I would like to bring the following points to your attention as reasons why this project should not go ahead:

- **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).
  - **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.
- 
- **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 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.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this.

Binnie O'Dwyer

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Records](#)  
**Subject:** Future Water Project 2060  
**Date:** Sunday, 9 August 2020 7:20:03 PM

---

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

I strongly object to this proposed project.

As humans we are at our limits.

I ask you what crazy species would continue expanding in a non sustainable fashion?

Rain water tanks in urban areas have remarkably reduced the demand on Rocky Creek Dam. Are rain water tanks compulsory for new developments?

Is sustainable architecture compulsory for new developments? Or will we continue to depend on non renewable resources for future developments?

These are the sample of questions we should be asking when it comes to raising the level of our main dam.

Should we not be listening intently to our Original People instead of flooding there sacred sites?

Kind Regards  
James McCready



**From:** [Jan Beer](#)  
**To:** [Records](#)  
**Subject:** New dam  
**Date:** Monday, 10 August 2020 5:32:38 PM

---

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

This dam is 20 years too late. The population in this area is going to explode in the next 20 years. No council is going to limit the population in their area. Having lived in Byron Shire for 76 years I have seen the population and dwellings and population of Mullumbimby increase. Land owners in Mullumbimby have taken advantage of the minimum size of building lots in NSW to 250 m<sup>2</sup>. This adds a greater load on water supply. The existing water supply system for Mullumbimby was designed and constructed to be totally gravity fed. Due to the take over of Mullumbimby Council in 1980 and lack of maintenance of the water race all water is now pumped from the dam to the treatment plant. It should be noted that the water was treated with fluoride from the mid 1950s. My three children have perfect teeth. In fact when one of them joined the army some 25 years ago upon his medical inspection was asked if he was an addict for Colgate. Totally different to my experience, total upper denture at 16. Byron Council removed the fluoride plant in approx. 1983, The community was not advised at the time. I say build the dam sooner rather than later.

**From:** [alan madden](#)  
**To:** [Records](#)  
**Subject:** Dunoon Dam Submission- [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Tuesday, 11 August 2020 8:39:22 PM

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

Sir/Madam,

I am submitting this comment in response to Rous County Council's request for community feedback. By way of context, I own 1467 Keerrong Rd, The Channon. My house is effectively the first house adjacent Rocky Creek downstream of the new dam wall. I am a civil engineer by trade with an undertaking of the required construction processes and hydrology.

My specific concern relates to the increased risk of flooding identified in the Environmental Flow Assessment, Proposed Dunoon Dam as prepared by Eco Logical for Rous Water (9/11/2012). In particular, the executive summary which notes "*The creation of the dam upstream may increase the magnitude of some floods by as much as over 2000MLd<sup>-1</sup>*", in relation to zone 3 from the dam wall to the confluence with Terania Creek. This is explained further; "*When full, the dam acts to increase catchment runoff efficiency, with all rain that falls directly onto the water surface delivered directly into the downstream flow when the dam is spilling.*"

My property currently gets submerged during large flood events, but my house has been above the flood level to date. I am disappointed that landowners directly affected have not been consulted personally in relation to increased flood risk. In fact, a cursory reading of the available literature on the Rous water website explicitly states the opposite outcome in relation to flooding at The Channon.

*Will the dam help with flooding?*

The Dunoon Dam is principally a water supply dam. However, there is expected to be some benefit to the local areas near the dam, including the village of The Channon. Further investigations are required to be undertaken to determine flood mitigation benefits for downstream communities such as Lismore.

([https://rous.nsw.gov.au/cp\\_themes/default/page.asp?p=DOC-KZG-22-16-87](https://rous.nsw.gov.au/cp_themes/default/page.asp?p=DOC-KZG-22-16-87) accessed 11/8/20).

This duplicity has raised concerns about the integrity of the public consultation process. Has the cost-benefit analysis which suggests the Dunoon dam is the preferred option included allowance for spare capacity to mitigate flood risks downstream? What climate modelling will be used to assess future flood events. I am decidedly uncomfortable with my family's safety being sacrificed for greater

coastal population expansion.

For my preferred option for future water security, I believe the additional load should be met by the expanding communities requiring it. In my opinion, this means exhausting the reuse of treated waste water in urban centres before construction of large environmentally damaging dams.

Once this public consultation period is complete, I would appreciate a call from Rous water to clarify the apparent misinformation with regards localised flood risks provided to date.

Yours faithfully

Alan Madden

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Paul Recher](#)  
**To:** [Water](#)  
**Subject:** Dunoon\_Catchment\_Policy\_(ROUS)\_for\_new\_web.pdf query  
**Date:** Friday, 14 August 2020 3:20:04 PM  
**Attachments:** [page1image1694544.png](#)

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

Is this policy extant for a future Dunoon dam? I am esp. interested in the item highlighted below

Dunoon\_Catchment\_Policy\_(ROUS)\_for\_new\_web.pdf

**Note:** Rous County Council is likely to refuse concurrence for other developments such as:

- Subdivision creating new entitlements.
- Dual Occupancy (including any self contained unit).
- Multiple Occupancy.
- Feed lots, piggeries.

• Tourist and accommodation developments.

- Industrial developments.

Paul Recher

You are not Jesus therefore you are an asshole and a sinner.

**From:** [Vanessa Morris](#)  
**To:** [Records](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Dunoon Dam proposal  
**Date:** Saturday, 15 August 2020 7:22:01 PM

---

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

To Rous County Council,

I am writing to let you know that I DO NOT support the proposal of a dam at the Dunoon and the Channon.

I am deeply concerned that the proposed dam would flood sites and artefacts of cultural significance to the original people of this land, the Widjabal people (cultural heritage impact assessment 2011). I do not support actions that continue the disregard of first nations peoples and contribute to the destruction of their culture. At a times such as these when we face the consequences of widespread destruction of natural environments and the global effects of disconnection from nature such as climate change, I strongly feel we need to be looking to our first nations peoples for the wisdoms they hold that enabled them to live sustainably on this country for many thousands of years. Flooding burial grounds and the precious sites of their cultural practices flies in the face of this.

I also object to the flooding of the Channon gorge as it is the place of a unique ecosystem of rainforest on sandstone seen nowhere else in the state. This habitat contain rare plants and animals (Terrestrial Ecology Impact Assessment 2011) which, in this age of ecological degradation need to be protected. I do not believe this ecosystem can be replaced by plantings alongside the dam or in other areas as not only the age of the ecosystem but the particular location in the gorge on the sandstone cannot be duplicated elsewhere.

I feel it is unwise to embark upon such an expensive large scale project with such destructive consequences when precious drinking water is being wasted in nearly every household by having it flushed down the toilet, used to water gardens and wash cars among other things. I believe the money would be much better spent managing waste water and demand.

I am also concerned about the impact on the channon village and surrounds not only of the noise, dust and machinery pollution of construction but the ongoing noise pollution of the pump.

I support water tanks and water reuse systems to manage the water demands of this area now and into the future.

I will be participating in the active opposition of the construction of this dam and hope that you will listen to my voice as a local community member.

Sincerely,  
Vanessa Morris



**From:** [Judith Maher](#)  
**To:** [Records](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Dunoon Dam  
**Date:** Sunday, 16 August 2020 1:56:14 PM

---

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

I am Judith Anne Maher  
I reside at [REDACTED]  
I have lived here for over 30 years, paying rates to Lismore City Council.  
I am a customer of Rous Water.

### **I am writing to object to the proposed Dunoon Dam.**

I have read parts of the *Environmental Flow Assessment 2012* by Ecological, and that gives me cause for concern about the effects of the proposed dam.

#### **1. Increased flooding downstream**

In the Executive Summary

Zone 3

"Initial flow modelling suggests that the creation of the dam upstream may increase the magnitude of some floods by as much as over 2000 MLd<sup>-1</sup> due to increased runoff efficiency."

#### **2 Degraded water quality**

##### **"9.3.3 Water quality**

Changes to the flow patterns downstream of Rocky Creek Dam as a result of the proposed dam and the altered operating rules may cause the following changes to water quality:

Increased stratification of pools and associated water quality issues

Increased occurrence of algal blooms

Less frequent flushing of fines and greater accumulation of silt and detritus cover on substrate and pool-edge habitats. "

#### **3 Degraded ecological community**

"The *Dunoon Terrestrial Ecology Impact Assessment* (SMEC 2011) identified Sub-tropical Rainforest and Warm Temperate Rainforest communities within the proposed inundation area within 10 m either side of Rocky Creek. These communities are incorporated into the Lowland Rainforest EEC which is listed under the NSW TSC Act. "

#### **4 Degraded Aquatic vegetation**

"Sainty (1998) recorded 14 species of submerged, floating and floating attached flora species within Rocky Creek downstream of Rocky Creek Dam. "

#### **5 Degraded Platypus Habitat**

"Previous studies have recorded observations of platypus in the upper reaches of this zone, with the current Rocky Creek system providing good platypus habitat (including foraging, burrowing and

nesting habitat) (Grant 1998)."

## **6 Vastly reduced Annual Flows**

Figure 9.3 clearly shows that currently annual flows are less than 30% of natural flows and the proposed dam would reduce this even further to about 16% of the natural annual flow.

## **7 Aboriginal Heritage**

I have seen no assessment of the impact of the proposed dam on Aboriginal heritage.

I am extremely disappointed that this proposal has been suddenly revived and apparently ignores the consequent environmental and social impacts

Regards

Judy Maher

16/08/2020



**From:** [Judith Maher](#)  
**To:** [Records](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Proposed Dunoon Dam  
**Date:** Sunday, 16 August 2020 3:03:35 PM

---

In addition to my earlier submission, I draw your attention to this excerpt from the *Terrestrial Ecology Impact Assessment*

"In addition SMEC (2011) assessed the terrestrial ecology in the study area and undertook the associated impact assessment. SMEC (2011) identified that the creation of the dam would result in significant impacts on 23 threatened flora and fauna species and one endangered ecological community recorded within the study area, with additional potential significant impacts on 16 species that were identified from database and literature searches."

Given the existing losses of habitat in Australia generally and the Northern Rivers in particular, I suggest that that sentence alone should preclude the construction of a new dam in Rocky Creek

Regards  
Judy Maher

[REDACTED]

On Sun, Aug 16, 2020 at 1:55 PM Judith Maher [REDACTED] wrote:

I am Judith Anne Maher

I reside [REDACTED]

I have lived here for over 30 years, paying rates to Lismore City Council.

I am a customer of Rous Water.

**I am writing to object to the proposed Dunoon Dam.**

I have read parts of the *Environmental Flow Assessment 2012* by Ecological, and that gives me cause for concern about the effects of the proposed dam.

**1. Increased flooding downstream**

In the Executive Summary

Zone 3

"Initial flow modelling suggests that the creation of the dam upstream may increase the magnitude of some floods by as much as over 2000 MLd<sup>-1</sup> due to increased runoff efficiency."

**2 Degraded water quality**

**"9.3.3 Water quality**

Changes to the flow patterns downstream of Rocky Creek Dam as a result of the proposed dam and the altered operating rules may cause the following changes to water quality:

Increased stratification of pools and associated water quality issues

Increased occurrence of algal blooms

Less frequent flushing of fines and greater accumulation of silt and detritus cover on substrate and pool-edge habitats. "

### **3 Degraded ecological community**

"The *Dunoon Terrestrial Ecology Impact Assessment* (SMEC 2011) identified Sub-tropical Rainforest and Warm Temperate Rainforest communities within the proposed inundation area within 10 m either side of Rocky Creek. These communities are incorporated into the Lowland Rainforest EEC which is listed under the NSW TSC Act. "

### **4 Degraded Aquatic vegetation**

"Sainty (1998) recorded 14 species of submerged, floating and floating attached flora species within Rocky Creek downstream of Rocky Creek Dam. "

### **5 Degraded Platypus Habitat**

"Previous studies have recorded observations of platypus in the upper reaches of this zone, with the current Rocky Creek system providing good platypus habitat (including foraging, burrowing and nesting habitat) (Grant 1998)."

### **6 Vastly reduced Annual Flows**

Figure 9.3 clearly shows that currently annual flows are less than 30% of natural flows and the proposed dam would reduce this even further to about 16% of the natural annual flow.

### **7 Aboriginal Heritage**

I have seen no assessment of the impact of the proposed dam on Aboriginal heritage.

I am extremely disappointed that this proposal has been suddenly revived and apparently ignores the consequent environmental and social impacts

Regards

Judy Maher

16/08/2020

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Bett Taylor](#)  
**To:** [Records](#)  
**Subject:** Massive Dam Proposal  
**Date:** Monday, 17 August 2020 1:23:50 PM  
**Attachments:** [Massive dam proposed on Rocky Creek.odt](#)

---

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

#### MASSIVE DAM PROPOSED AT THE CHANNON/DUNOON

What is the purpose of damming Rocky Creek? We, in New South Wales on the north coast have more than sufficient water for our needs, both agricultural and domestic. When the same idea was proposed some years ago, it was said that the water would be needed for development on the Gold Coast! WE HAVE SEEN HOW QUEENSLANDERS TREAT PEOPLE IN NEW SOUTH WALES TRYING TO CROSS THE BORDER DURING THE CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC! They have self preservation FIRST, so why not us and let them find their own water in Queensland for development! The rain doesn't stop at the Border! (unlike the tourists!)

As a growing family we have actually physically lived ten years at either end of the proposed massive dam on Rocky Creek - at The Channon and Whian Whian. Our children learned to swim at The Junction at The Channon and spent many happy hours in the swimming hole at the Whian Whian falls as did many neighbours and tourists. The proposed dam will flood The Channon and Whian Whian in times of high rainfall and many homes and farms will go under water.

As a family we have had so much pleasure from living near the Creeks and observed so much wild life of birds, ducks, goannas, platapus, lizards, snakes, butterflies, dragon flies, fish – the whole spectrum of life with the rainforest trees, plants and orchids – a rich canvas for humanity to enjoy . BETT Taylor [REDACTED]

## MASSIVE DAM PROPOSED AT THE CHANNON/DUNOON

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**From:** [Michael McKenzie](#)  
**To:** [Denis Matthews](#)  
**Cc:** [Records](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Virtual landscape (Our Ref 126631)  
**Date:** Thursday, 20 August 2020 4:01:52 PM

---

Hi Denis

Thank you for your email. The virtual landscape needs a minimum 10"inch screen size to run. Also your browser needs to be up to date as well. QUT have embedded an alert to let users know of these requirements, but this message does not appear on all devices.

QUT is designing software to allow the virtual landscape to run on mobile and tablet devices, but unfortunately this will not be available until early 2021.  
We do recommend that to view the virtual landscape a laptop or traditional computer monitor does provide the best results.

Regards

---

Michael McKenzie  
Future Water Strategy Project Manager  
Rous County Council  
PO Box 230, Level 4, 218-232 Molesworth Street LISMORE NSW 2480 | 02 6623 3800 | 0407 351 731 | [REDACTED] | [www.rous.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rous.nsw.gov.au)

[Our offices and operations will be operating a little differently due to COVID-19. Rous County Council staff are still working to maintain all core services. Please help us work safely by showing your support from a distance. The best way to get in touch with us is through email \[council@rous.nsw.gov.au\]\(mailto:council@rous.nsw.gov.au\) or by phoning \(02\) 66 233 800. Further information on how we are operating due to COVID-19 can be found on our website.](#)

-----Original Message-----

From: Denis Matthews [REDACTED]  
Sent: Wednesday, 19 August 2020 5:12 PM  
To: Records <[records@rous.nsw.gov.au](mailto:records@rous.nsw.gov.au)>  
Subject: Virtual landscape

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

I have tried repeatedly to visit the virtual landscape of the two dams on Rocky Creek and failed repeatedly using my ipad.

I have submitted feedback on the proposal. I [REDACTED] for more than 40 years and know some of the various pegs used about 1996 to mark proposed water levels.

There is an overgrown lava tube on Petroff's property above the proposed water level, accessible from Fraser Road. I saw it quarried in a minor way, in the past by an LCC road gang.

The peg near Petroff's Queensland gate is about the level of the first emergence of the sandstone. Any basalt below that level has probably been rolled down hill. Any sandstone above that level has been carted uphill using horse drawn drays.

Fraser Road swings sharply northward just before reaching our former property at 211. From that bend another peg can be seen on what was once an internal road on the Rous property.

Denis Matthews



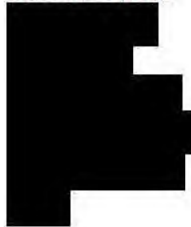
Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Jan Petroff](#)  
**To:** [Records](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Proposed Dunoon Dam  
**Date:** Wednesday, 19 August 2020 7:18:25 PM

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:Submission Proposed Dunoon Dam

Janet Petroff



On the face of it  
a large dam to  
supply water to  
the huge  
proposed  
population  
going into  
2060 sounds  
like a very  
necessary thing  
for the greater  
good. How  
pleasant to have  
water views and  
watersports on  
our doorstep?  
Before you  
make this  
important  
irrevocable  
decision please  
consider the the  
serious implications  
and  
consequences  
of a dam.

The  
environmental  
impact will be  
devastating .  
This whole area  
of Northern  
New  
South Wales  
was covered in

rainforest  
before the white  
settlers arrived,  
the largest  
remnant being  
the Big Scrub,  
of which only  
100 ha is left.  
The area of  
rainforest to be  
inundated along  
Rocky Creek in  
and around our  
property is  
around 25 ha  
which is  
therefore  
significant. In  
the time of  
Gondwanaland  
the continent  
was covered in  
rainforest and  
this was the  
birthplace of  
song birds on  
earth as well as  
many other  
animals and  
plants. Over the  
millennia the  
climate changed  
and the  
continent reformed  
into the  
Australia we  
know today.  
The forest  
receded to the  
eastern  
seaboard  
along with the  
ecosystems of  
plants and  
animals and  
birds.

The richness  
and diversity of  
flora and fauna  
in the  
Australian  
rainforest is  
unique in



the world. The complexity of the ecosystems in the tropical and subtropical rainforest has only begun to be understood. Much remains undiscovered and unclassified and this amazing resource is being destroyed before it is even known or studied. A clear example of this is the area proposed to be flooded by the Dunoon dam. There are rare and endangered species in the special area along Rocky Creek. Platypus are plentiful here and well recognised to be an extremely vulnerable species in Australia, particularly after the recent drought and fires. We should be ashamed of the rates of extinction of species since the arrival of the white settlers and the destruction of the natural habitat. In looking at the big picture this

highlights the seriousness and importance of retaining every hectare of the remaining ecology.

I'll leave it to the scientists and experts to be specific about these impacts.

Another important factor against a dam is the impact of white settlement on the original inhabitants, and the destruction of their livelihood, culture and lives. This cannot be glossed over or under estimated. Very little is now left in this area and the Aboriginal gravesites here are of great significance.

Less easily quantified and measured are the emotional and spiritual values of these natural areas. It is being well recognised now that human beings need nature to nurture their mental health and well-being . There are special places along our stretch of Rocky Creek , where you can walk softly amongst the ferns under the tall trees, where a person cannot but be filled with a sense of awe and wonder. We have called it our "sacred space". It was only recently that we realised that it is indeed a sacred space for the Aborigines marked by ancient grave stones.

It has long been a dream of ours to create a biodiversity corridor through our property extending from Whian Whian Forest, Branch Creek and the Whian Whian

Landcare restoration projects, up to Ashlin Rd and through our property to Fraser Rd. Whian Whian Landcare has assisted us with the help of various grants and we have planted many trees in koala corridors. Considerable work has been done and money spent establishing permanent fencing along Rocky Creek to protect the waterways and regenerate the natural vegetation. Our children and grandchildren are inspired to continue these plans and look forward to being the next custodians of this beautiful country. In this uncertain and chaotic world, our grandchildren, the next generations, need this to give them purpose and hope for the future.

Our family has a strong affinity to this land and its well-being., though it is but the blink of an eye compared with the original inhabitants of this land. My father, Len Webb studied the ecology of Whian Whian State rainforest from the late 1950s and was the first rainforest ecologist to do so . In 1975 we arrived and made our home here. We cleared the weeds from a degraded dairy farm, we planted timber trees and rainforest trees in the steep gullies and hillsides, and improved the pastures, striving for best practice farming according to the current knowledge. The Rocky Creek flats have been our most productive cattle country and our Pecan trees are just now reaching a commercial level of

production.

If the Council allows large increases in population and “development” we will lose our agricultural food bowl and our special natural places that give the Northern Rivers its uniqueness.

There ARE alternatives!

NO DUNOON DAM.

Yours sincerely,  
Mrs Jan Petroff and family.

From: [Louise Somerville](#)

To:

Subject: OBJECTION to Rous County Council building the proposed Channon/Dunoon Dam

Date: Sunday, 23 August 2020 3:45:52 PM

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

Dear Rous County Council General Manager and Councillors,

I strongly object to a dam being built in The Channon/Dunoon area.

We need water efficiency methods applied to our region not an old-school dam that will flood a threatened rainforest and kill all precious inhabitants.

Please put the brakes on damming this gorge and drowning a habitat filled with so much life and look instead to the effective principles that were applied by Sydney Water. By creating better water efficiency AND yet still adding 950,000 more water consumers to the system, Sydney Water has been a success story.

**Water harvesting** of urban runoff and especially rain water tanks on all new AND existing buildings (homes and outer buildings where practical) would make a vast difference to our water supply demands for the future.

I have started a hashtag **#gettanked** through social media and believe the tag could be a fun and effective way of “selling” this proposal to the public. Jobs could be created partnerships between Rous County Council and rain water tank local companies who could manage tank installations across the region with everyone repeating the **#gettanked** slogan in publicity.

**Installing compost toilets** on a large scale in as many new homes as possible would stop fresh water being wasted upon flushing excrement into the sewage system. My parents, who are now 77, installed a compost toilet almost 20 years ago. Every time I visit them and use their toilet I wish that we could all see these on a broad scale across our region. The small fan generating aerobic activity inside the toilet breaks the waste down into perfect compost and my parents have saved literally thousands of dollars on water costs.

In January this year two Knitting Nannas, myself and Denise Smart, met with 3-4 representatives in your Lismore office to discuss water...especially harvesting water. We appreciated the discussions and believe Rous County Council can lead the way in initiating water efficiency and demand management methods to take us into a more ecologically and economically-sound water supply future. Spending \$240,000,000 on a dam in the current climate is a burden we do **not** need nor want in our community.

Thank you so much for considering my submission.

Yours sincerely,



[REDACTED]

**From:** [Jan Petroff](#)  
**To:** [Records](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Submission Proposed Dunoon Dam  
**Date:** Monday, 24 August 2020 11:59:12 AM

---

Janet Petroff  


## SUBMISSION ON PROPOSED DUNOON DAM

On the face of it a large dam to supply water to the huge proposed population going into 2060 sounds like a very necessary thing for the greater good. How pleasant to have water views and watersports on our doorstep? Before you make this important irrevocable decision please consider the serious implications and consequences of a dam.

The environmental impact will be devastating. This whole area of Northern New South Wales was covered in rainforest before the white settlers arrived. The largest remnant being the Big Scrub, of which only 100 ha is left. The area of rainforest to be inundated in and upstream from our property at Rocky Creek is around 25 ha which is therefore significant. In the time of Gondwanaland the continent was covered in rainforest and this was the birthplace of song birds on earth as well as many other animals and plants. Over the millennia the climate changed and the continent reformed into the Australia we know today. The forest receded to the eastern seaboard along with the ecosystems of plants, animals and birds.

The richness and diversity of flora and fauna in the Australian rainforest is unique in the world. The complexity of the ecosystems in the tropical and subtropical rainforest has only begun to be understood. Much remains undiscovered and unclassified and this amazing resource is being destroyed before it is even known or studied. A clear example of this is the area proposed to be flooded by the Dunoon dam. There are unnamed as well as rare and endangered species in the special area along Rocky Creek. Platypus are plentiful here and well recognised to be an extremely vulnerable species in Australia, particularly after the recent drought and fires. We should be ashamed of the rates of extinction of species since the arrival of the white settlers and the destruction of the natural habitat. In looking at the big picture this highlights the seriousness and importance of retaining every hectare of the remaining ecology. I'll leave it to the scientists and experts to be specific about these impacts.

Another important factor against a dam is the impact of white settlement on the original inhabitants, and the destruction of their livelihood, culture and lives. This cannot be glossed over or underestimated. Very little is now left in this area and the Aboriginal gravesites here are of great significance.

Less easily quantified and measured are the emotional and spiritual values of these natural areas. It is being well recognised now that human beings need nature to nurture their mental health and well-being. There are special places along our stretch of Rocky Creek, where you can walk softly amongst the ferns under the tall trees, where a person cannot but be filled with a sense of awe and wonder. We have called it our "sacred space". It was only recently that we realised that it is indeed a sacred space for the Aborigines and is marked by ancient grave stones.

It has long been a dream of ours to create a biodiversity corridor through our property extending from Whian Whian Forest, Branch Creek and the Whian Whian Landcare restoration projects, [REDACTED] Whian Whian Landcare has assisted us with the help of various grants and we have planted many trees in koala corridors. Considerable work has been done and money spent establishing permanent fencing along Rocky Creek to protect the waterways and regenerate the natural vegetation. Our children and grandchildren are inspired to continue these plans and look forward to being the next custodians of this beautiful country. In this uncertain and chaotic world, our grandchildren, the next generations, need this to give them purpose and hope for the future.

Our family has a strong affinity to this land and its well-being, though it is but the blink of an eye compared with the original inhabitants of this land. My father, Len Webb studied the ecology of Whian Whian State rainforest from the late 1950s and was the first rainforest ecologist to do so. In 1975 we arrived and made our home here. We cleared the weeds from a degraded dairy farm, we planted timber trees and rainforest trees in the steep gullies and hillsides, and improved the pastures, striving for best practice farming according to the current knowledge.

The Rocky Creek flats have been our most productive cattle country and our Pecan trees are just now reaching a commercial level of production.

If the Council allows large increases in population and “development” we will lose our agricultural food bowl and our special natural places that give the Northern Rivers its uniqueness.

There ARE alternatives!

NO DUNOON DAM.

Yours sincerely,  
Mrs Jan Petroff and family.



**From:** [DUNCAN WILSON](#)  
**To:** [Records](#)  
**Subject:** Dunoon dam proposal  
**Date:** Monday, 24 August 2020 1:02:03 PM

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

I am opposed to the new dam on the grounds that the creek currently provides a life support system and wildlife corridor to what remains of the big scrub. Many of our creek systems in this region have been fragmented already and even from a layman's point of view it is obvious to the observer that this valley is home to many creatures which are dependant on this habitat, the dam will destroy this habitat, and the creatures that depend on it will perish. On my walks along this creek I have seen large flocks of black cockatoos, numerous crayfish holes, many fresh water mussels, raptors, platypus, and heard praise for the amount of bass present.

Many of the creek systems further away from nightcap NP travel through farmland, with mostly we'd species present, cows, with the erosion and damage to the riparian zone that they bring are so fragmented that they cannot supply the support and shelter for our native animals that they need.

It simply is not fair that as humanities insatiable appetite for growth demands more water, in times when we have droughts and fires caused by human activity which further deplete the viability of available habitat. It seems to me that this all comes back to the growth economy we are all locked into, which is driving us, and wildlife, to catastrophe. An expanded water supply will enable more property development, and while I understand that this brings money and jobs to our region, it is not worth the cost, there may be alternatives or we risk losing our wild places, and its inhabitants.

We have to seek out and employ the alternatives, because the cost is something that cannot just be measured in money.

All new developments need to have water tanks, and be designed in such a way as to reduce run off and promote penetration to water tables.

Riparian zones in our catchment need to be fenced from cattle, and replanted to promote water quality, and penetration to water tables.

But you guys know this stuff already.

The question we need to ask is this, are we willing to destroy lives so that we can flush clean water down the toilet?

I will fight this in whatever capacity I can.

All the best,

Duncan Wilson



**From:** [irene tims](#)  
**To:** [Records](#)  
**Subject:** Submission regarding proposal to build a Dam in the Channon & Dunoon area  
**Date:** Thursday, 27 August 2020 9:20:49 AM

---

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

Dear General Manager & Councillors of Rous Council

I do not support the proposal to build a dam in this area. Such a magnificently beautiful & biodiversity rich area will be decimated. Impacts to flora & fauna & healthy ecological function will be devastating. Please reconsider this proposal.

Thank you  
Irene

**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 Condon

**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>

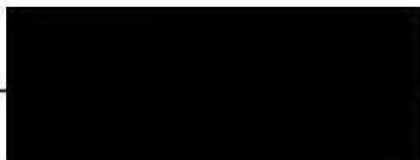
- **Water re-use in various ways, including Purified Recycled Potable water.** A wealth of global research and experience exists regarding potable reuse of water.<sup>(6)</sup> Eg: The city of Windhoek in Namibia has been using purified recycled water for 30 years using advanced technology.<sup>(9)</sup>
- **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>
- (2) Ainsworth Heritage, Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment, 2011
- (3) SMEC Australia, Terrestrial Ecology Impact Assessment, 2011
- (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.
- (5) 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".
- (6) The Rous Regional Water Efficiency Program 1997, *Final report of the Rous Regional Demand Management Strategy : preferred options*, Rous County Council, Lismore.
- (7) Watson R., Turner A and Fane S 2018, *Water Efficiency and Demand Management Opportunities for Hunter Water*, Institute for Sustainable Futures, Sydney.
- (8) Kahn, Stuart and Branch, Amos 2019, *Potable water reuse: What can Australia learn from global experience?*, Water Research Australia Limited, Adelaide.
- (9) Windhoek Goreangab Operating Company (Pty) Ltd 2020, *Our history | Wingoc*, Veolia Environment, Windhoek, viewed 3 August 2020, <<https://www.wingoc.com.na/>>
- (10) \$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 194L/person/day average water use (Rous).
- (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: 20/8/20

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

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

From: MASON CATTELL

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>(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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- **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: 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: Lenny Cattell

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.

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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: 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: Cindy Jones

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.

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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.

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Kind regards, Signature:



Date: 25-8-2020

127043

**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: Terence Beadle

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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Kind regards, Signatu




Date:

20/8/2020

**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: Alex Cooper

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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- (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:

24/08/2020

**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: CRAIG NEILL

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/pu98980q6kocrph/NSW%20Govt%202006%20MWP%20summary.pdf?dl=0>
- (2) Ainsworth Heritage, Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment, 2011
- (3) SMEC Australia, Terrestrial Ecology Impact Assessment, 2011
- (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.
- (5) 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".
- (6) The Rous Regional Water Efficiency Program 1997, *Final report of the Rous Regional Demand Management Strategy : preferred options*, Rous County Council, Lismore.
- (7) Watson R., Turner A and Fane S 2018, *Water Efficiency and Demand Management Opportunities for Hunter Water*, Institute for Sustainable Futures, Sydney.
- (8) Kahn, Stuart and Branch, Amos 2019, *Potable water reuse: What can Australia learn from global experience?*, Water Research Australia Limited, Adelaide.
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Kind regards, Signatu

Date: 25-08-20



127046

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

Jill Witham

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>

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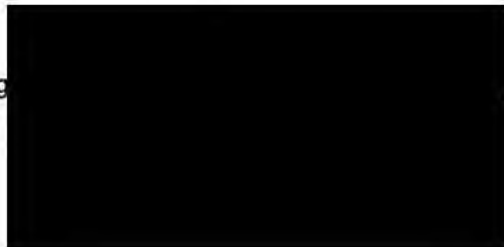
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- (4) NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment 2019, 'Delivering the plan', Sydney, viewed 03 August 2020 < <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Plans-for-your-area/Regional-Plans/North-Coast/Delivering-the-plan> > , Direction 2: Enhance biodiversity coastal and aquatic habitats and water catchments.
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Kind regards, Sig



Date:

25-8-20

27 AUG 2020

## Proposed Dunoon Dam

While I greatly respect the work you do to ensure the people of our region have a reliable supply of clear, clean water...

I, Dr Eric van Beurden, DO NOT support the proposed Dunoon Dam at The Channon.

### **Why is it totally unacceptable?**

Water security is certainly an issue in our region and with increasing climate-induced fire, drought and less-predictable rainfall it becomes a priority. However, we are blessed with much higher rainfall than neighbouring regions to our west and that gives us great scope to ensure we don't create even more problems by simply rushing to build more dams. As a local resident who has put a great deal of time and effort into protecting our water and unique biodiversity, I see the proposed dam as a prime case of doing just that.

The tangible and intangible costs of damming Rocky Creek in a precious gorge with particularly high ecological diversity and environmental value, are huge. It would clearly involve the destruction of an iconic geographic site containing rare and endangered flora and fauna. Upstream, it would flood more sites of significance and also areas of highly productive farmland.

Why would Rous Water do that when there are much smarter, less invasive solutions?

One of the key issues with taking the simplistic approach to water security of just adding more dams, is the totally lost opportunity to invest in system-wide water efficiency, the cheapest and fastest way to ensure a good balance between supply and demand. If Sydney added an additional 950,000 people by this means without a rise in consumption, then why can't Rous Water do likewise rather than destroy precious sites, ecosystems and farmland. (Metropolitan Water Plan 2006, NSW Government) (1) From that perspective, the proposed dam would simply waste valuable community funds that could be used much more efficiently through a modern approach rather than an archaic and destructive one. Without addressing inefficiencies of use, a new dam would just encourage continued inefficient and often wasteful water management by local governments with no incentive to do things differently.

The Channon Gorge is part of our regional network of ancient Indigenous sacred sites and

a further place of great spiritual significance to our Aboriginal community is sited upstream of the gorge in an area you are proposing to flood! As such, damming Rocky Creek would just add to the ongoing disregard for First Nations' heritage and to the destruction of important Indigenous cultural heritage, including burial sites (Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment, 2011) (2). This is a time when all our regional councils should be focussed on healing past injustices and certainly not a time for adding further injury to insults already perpetrated by previous government bodies on our fellow indigenous residents.

The Channon Gorge contains an endangered ecological community of lowland rainforest, including one of the few remaining patches of warm temperate rainforest on sandstone. It is home to species of threatened flora (Nan Nicholson, botanist) and endangered fauna (Dr Eric van Beurden, biologist). (Terrestrial Ecology Impact Assessment, 2011) (3). Any thought of offsetting destruction of that scale and significance, would be totally unethical and reprehensible. In this respect Rous's proposed plan to offset by merely regenerating some degraded land in the buffer zone, is hugely problematic. There is no ethical way one could ever justify a scerrick of equivalence between restoring a patch of vegetation on a piece of previously cleared land, with totally submerging rare and precious rainforest, vandalising sacred sites and pushing endangered species even further towards extinction.

State planning regulations require Rous and other councils 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." NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment 2019, 'Delivering the plan', Sydney, Direction 2: Enhance biodiversity coastal and aquatic habitats and water catchments. (4)

So, apart of the above-mentioned serious ethical considerations Rous is required to avoid this destruction because there are economically viable and more effective solutions. The enormous cost of the dam when compared with other inexpensive alternatives, would put equally enormous pressure on the cost of water to users. Rous general manager has warned of a fourfold increase in the cost of supplying water if the dam is built! How can such costs and destruction be justified in a region with our generous annual rainfall and a projected population increase for the four Rous-supplied councils of only 12,720 (5) between 2020-2060? (NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment 2019, 'NSW population projections', "Local Government Factsheets" (5)).



## What are the alternatives?

There is a wide choice of alternatives and, while it is not my area of expertise, the really obvious smart alternatives that are currently being implemented in advanced-thinking jurisdictions around the world, include:

- System-wide water efficiency enhanced through strong demand management. (6)
- Identifying savings within the existing supply. (7) (8)
- Water re-use including Purified Recycled Potable water. Example: The city of Windhoek in Namibia in Southern Africa has been using purified recycled water for 30 years using advanced technology. <https://www.wingoc.com.na/our-history> (9,10)
- Water harvesting (urban runoff; rain tanks): Water tanks on all new (and existing) developments. (11)
- Groundwater, where this is environmentally safe. (12)

With these as just a few of the many preferable alternatives, there is clearly no need to destroy any of our Northern Rivers' most iconic, precious and endangered natural resources.

Implementing such alternatives will make our water supply resilient to both drought and population growth. It will also protect and enhance a region that others will always look to, as the prime example of a regional community that cares for its residents and its natural wealth in equal measure and in ethical balance.

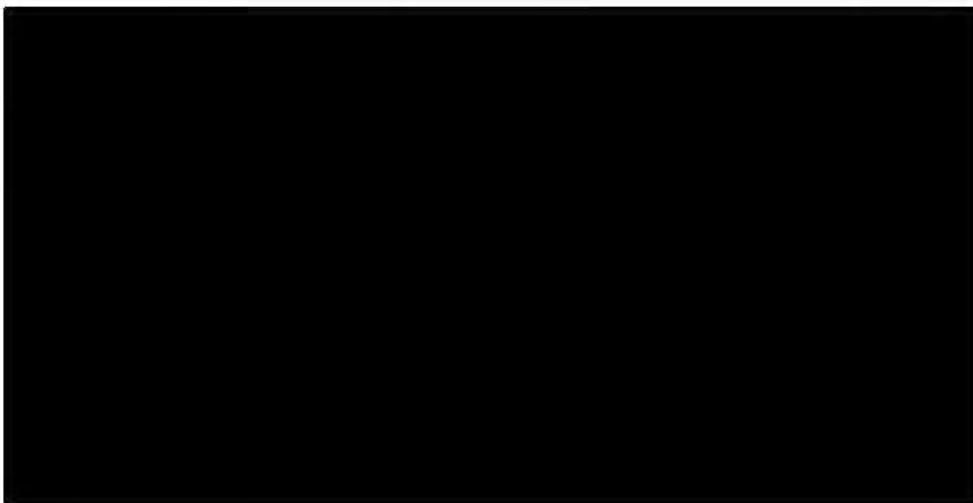
***I sincerely urge each of you to reconsider your proposal in light of these serious considerations and rescind any plans to build the proposed dam.***

### References

- (1) Metropolitan Water Plan 2006, NSW Government.
- (2) Ainsworth Heritage, Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment, 2011
- (3) SMEC Australia, Terrestrial Ecology Impact Assessment, 2011
- (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.
- (5) NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment 2019, 'NSW population

projections ', Sydney, viewed 03 August 2020, Scroll down to "Local Government Factsheets".

- (6) Environmental Flows Assessment Proposed Dunoon Dam, 30 Aug 2012, Eco Logical Australia.
- (7) The Rous Regional Water Efficiency Program 1997, Final report of the Rous Regional Demand Management Strategy : preferred options, Rous County Council, Lismore.
- (8) 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,
- (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,



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Records](#)  
**Subject:** Letter of Refusal/Proposed Water project Dunoon Dam  
**Date:** Friday, 28 August 2020 8:30:17 AM

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

Dear Councilors, Chairman Keith Williams,

It is with great concern that I object to this new incredibly costly and damaging proposal. The first obvious reason being its direct impact on the environment and its inhabitants, wildlife and Human for future generations. We must use prudence and careful consideration before altering the Natural landscape and biotope of this pristine region. We could instead create Water filtering system and reservoir by the Richmond river in Lismore as well as improving the existing water Levy capacity.

The second reason is the cost of maintenance of such a dam, the disruption to traffic and roads while being built. There is only one road from Lismore to Dunoon.

The third reason is the danger created by floods for our safety and Water quality ,Dunoon is surrounded by macadamias Farms using fertilizers.

Pristine Air, Water, Quality of life are our main assets. Our Natural landscapes and Forests such as Nightcap National Parks, Gondwana is the pearl in the oyster of the Rainbow region. This is your role as Councilors to ensure these assets can be used viably, Eco Tourism is only one aspect. We could also create more jobs by improving our Recycling Facilities (which are great by the way) and create paper, filter and bottled Water, organic compost etc. By concerting the Environment Department at Southern Cross Uni. We could indeed become a MODEL OF Sustainability enriching the Northern Rivers Region and by thus attracting more like minded people who want to escape the Cities.

[REDACTED] and running a small B&B, I can see the wonderment in the eyes of International visitors. The European Space Agency has expressed their concern about the Dam project on my Facebook page, they are due to visit again in January 2021.

Last but not least, the Platypus has survived since the Pleistocene yet they will all be engulfed by such a project!! I urge you to reconsider and maybe we can find a better location for your Dam or an alternative option.

Kind Regards

Brigitte Odum  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



General Manager  
Rous County Council

20 August 2020

General Manager

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

Please find attached my feedback submission for the proposed Dunoon dam build. Further to the attached document I would like to include this very personal addition.

My partner Terry and I have lived at [REDACTED] for 17 years. When we purchased our property back in 2003, we were not made aware of any proposal to build a dam, let alone so close to our back boundary/ adjacent to our property.

After a few years we made enquiries to close the paper road that runs through our property, and it was only at this time that we became aware of Rous' interest in keeping the paper road open. After several conversations and correspondence over a period of 3 years (2005 - 2008) it was 'suggested' to us that any attempt we made to close the road would be blocked/challenged by Rous. This would keep options open for Rous to access the proposed dam site for construction. Since this final correspondence from Wayne Franklin (RC/: 870/08 36221) we did not hear anything further until we were approached to allow access for various studies to be undertaken on our property. Again since these studies (2010) we have not heard from Rous regarding the proposed dam being built.

As a landholder we will be directly, severely and adversely affected by the construction of the dam. Our concerns are for the constant and relentless industrial level noise, having reduced access to our section of Rocky Creek and the possibility of heavy vehicles utilising our property to access the build. I am sure you can appreciate our deepest concern at the direct impact and prolonged consequences that this will have on us mentally, physically, financially and emotionally. To endure constant construction over a prolonged period of time will indeed limit not only our wellbeing, but also our ability to sell or develop our property if we need/chose too. The financial loss to us, at this time of our lives, will be devastating. The damage to our wellbeing and quality of life will be extensive.

I would also like to draw your attention (which is outlined in the following detailed submission) to the irretrievable loss of flora, fauna and rare geological terrain, as well as the destruction of important indigenous cultural heritage (including burial sites). These factors also weigh heavily on our hearts and minds as we regard ourselves as caretakers of



this land. We have raised our daughter here, and our grandchildren and this place, this land is also part of them. The animals, some endangered, rely on us to protect them at this time. The natural world has no less value than the manmade world and when there are alternatives to securing our waters future that do not involve such destruction and devastation of a rare and endangered place, then to go ahead and construct a dam is irresponsible and short sighted.

This part of my submission is passionate as it comes from the heart. Your decision will have irreparable ramifications not only to myself, my partner and my family, but to the land and the life that relies on it.

I urge you to think deeply on this, it will be your legacy. Come and see the beauty for yourself, we welcome you. For if you see the beauty, hear and see the wildlife and connect to the magic of nature then surely you too will be moved to make a different choice.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours sincerely

  
**Joanne Cooper & Terence Beadle**  


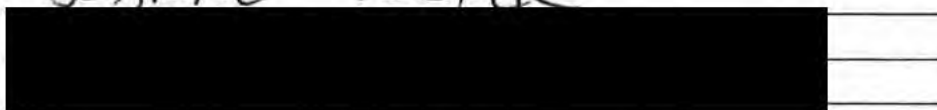
## Feedback Submission Re: Proposed Dunoon Dam within the Future Water Project 2060

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

From:

JOANNE COOPER

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.
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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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- **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/pu9898oq6kocp/Nsw%20Govt%202006%20MWP%20summary.pdf?dl=0>
- (2) Ainsworth Heritage, Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment, 2011
- (3) SMEC Australia, Terrestrial Ecology Impact Assessment, 2011
- (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.
- (5) 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".
- (6) The Rous Regional Water Efficiency Program 1997, *Final report of the Rous Regional Demand Management Strategy: preferred options*, Rous County Council, Lismore.
- (7) Watson R., Turner A and Fane S 2018, *Water Efficiency and Demand Management Opportunities for Hunter Water*, Institute for Sustainable Futures, Sydney.
- (8) Kahn, Stuart and Branch, Amos 2019, *Potable water reuse: What can Australia learn from global experience?*, Water Research Australia Limited, Adelaide.
- (9) Windhoek Goreangab Operating Company (Pty) Ltd 2020, *Our history* | Wingoc, Veolia Environment, Windhoek, viewed 3 August 2020, <<https://www.wingoc.com.na/>>
- (10) \$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 194L/person/day average water use (Rous).
- (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:

20/8/2020

**From:** [Judith Maher](#)  
**To:** [Records](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Proposed Dunoon Dam  
**Date:** Friday, 28 August 2020 6:15:38 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

#### NEW INFORMATION

Nett immigration is expected to fall by 30% this year 2020 and 85% next year 2021. leading to a population decline of 1 million by 2030.

So current population projections supporting the need for another dam are wrong.

Judy Maher  
[REDACTED]

On Mon, Aug 17, 2020 at 12:29 PM Records <[records@rous.nsw.gov.au](mailto:records@rous.nsw.gov.au)> wrote:

Thank you for making your formal submission or enquiry in response to Rous County Council's Future Water Project 2060 proposed plan to secure the region's future bulk water supply.

Public submissions will be accepted until Wednesday 9 September 2020 – giving the community an extra 28 days on top of the current six-week exhibition period.

We will be collating all received responses once the exhibition period closes. A report on the results will be made public in December 2020.

This report will be available on our website.

<https://www.rous.nsw.gov.au/futurewater>

We appreciate you making your voice heard on the future of our region's water supply.

Records

Rous County Council  
PO Box 230, 218-232 Molesworth St LISMORE NSW 2480 | 02 6623 3800 | |  
[records@rous.nsw.gov.au](mailto:records@rous.nsw.gov.au) | [www.rous.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rous.nsw.gov.au)

Our offices and operations will be operating a little differently due to COVID-19. Rous County Council staff are still working to maintain all core services. Please help us work safely by showing your support from a distance. The best way to get in touch with us is through email [council@rous.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@rous.nsw.gov.au) or by phoning (02) 66 233 800. Further information on how we are operating due to COVID-19 can be found on our website.

---

**From:** Judith Maher [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, 16 August 2020 1:56 PM  
**To:** Records <[records@rous.nsw.gov.au](mailto:records@rous.nsw.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Proposed Dunoon Dam

I am Judith Anne Maher

I reside at [REDACTED]

I have lived here for over 30 years, paying rates to Lismore City Council.

I am a customer of Rous Water.

## **I am writing to object to the proposed Dunoon Dam.**

I have read parts of the *Environmental Flow Assessment 2012* by Ecological, and that gives me cause for concern about the effects of the proposed dam.

### **1. Increased flooding downstream**

In the Executive Summary

Zone 3

"Initial flow modelling suggests that the creation of the dam upstream may increase the magnitude of some floods by as much as over 2000 MLd<sup>-1</sup> due to increased runoff efficiency."

### **2 Degraded water quality**

#### **"9.3.3 Water quality**

Changes to the flow patterns downstream of Rocky Creek Dam as a result of the proposed dam and the altered operating rules may cause the following changes to water quality:

Increased stratification of pools and associated water quality issues

Increased occurrence of algal blooms

Less frequent flushing of fines and greater accumulation of silt and detritus cover on substrate and pool-edge habitats. "

### **3 Degraded ecological community**

"The *Dunoon Terrestrial Ecology Impact Assessment* (SMEC 2011) identified Sub-tropical Rainforest and Warm Temperate Rainforest communities within the proposed inundation area within 10 m either side of Rocky Creek. These communities are incorporated into the Lowland Rainforest EEC which is listed under the NSW TSC Act. "

### **4 Degraded Aquatic vegetation**

"Sainty (1998) recorded 14 species of submerged, floating and floating attached flora species within Rocky Creek downstream of Rocky Creek Dam. "

### **5 Degraded Platypus Habitat**

"Previous studies have recorded observations of platypus in the upper reaches of this zone, with the current Rocky Creek system providing good platypus habitat (including foraging, burrowing and nesting habitat) (Grant 1998)."

### **6 Vastly reduced Annual Flows**

Figure 9.3 clearly shows that currently annual flows are less than 30% of natural flows and the proposed dam would reduce this even further to about 16% of the natural annual flow.

## 7 Aboriginal Heritage

I have seen no assessment of the impact of the proposed dam on Aboriginal heritage.

I am extremely disappointed that this proposal has been suddenly revived and apparently ignores the consequent environmental and social impacts

Regards

Judy Maher

16/08/2020

### DISCLAIMER

This email including any attachment is intended solely for the named addressee.

Any views or opinions expressed in this email are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent the view or opinion of Council.

Confidentiality or legal privilege is not waived or lost simply because this email was sent in error. If you have however received this email in error please immediately notify the sender and destroy the email and any copy you may have of it. Council recommends that you check for the presence of viruses before opening any attachment to this email. Council does not accept liability for any damage caused by a virus transmitted by email from it.

Information about the Council's Privacy Management Policy is available in the following URL: <http://www.rous.nsw.gov.au/page.asp?f=RES-XRL-37-22-83>

**From:** [Malcolm Milner](#)  
**To:** [Records](#)  
**Subject:** future Water Project 2060  
**Date:** Saturday, 29 August 2020 4:41:24 PM

---

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

Dear Sir / Madam

I am writing to say that I do not believe we should be considering another dam to supply water to that area now covered by Rouse Water.

Another dam will mean further loss of some habitat, loss of some very rare plants and a loss of more natural water from river systems. Further down the track we will be considering this problem again.

I believe that now is the time to consider a number of other measures to ensure our supply before losing another area to a dam. These possibilities have already been assessed in your very extensive survey of alternatives.

We should firstly aim to ensure all homes fully utilise their ability to catch water from roofs. An assistance program can be provided to help those who do not have the means installed currently. We should also increase our ability to recycle water from sewage as much as possible by increasing processing capacity and extension of the distribution system to more users. And finally, we should also use this chance to install a desalination plant to make up the shortfall.

I believe that with climate change on the agenda and forecasts that we will be looking at a much lower rainfall rate in this area in the future, we need to allocate resources in such a way that will avoid reliance on the natural rainfall to take this into account. This is best done now rather than later after destroying more natural areas and reducing the natural water flow to the river system.

Regards

Malcolm Milner





**From:** [Charles Professional Driving Consultancy](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** 20-08-29 Your Prospective World-Beating Vandalism  
**Date:** Saturday, 29 August 2020 5:26:22 PM

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

Madam/Sir,

I will do my best to constrain my fury.

I have just come to understand that your proposed "2060 Dunoon Dam" will flood a rare sandstone-based example of the 1% remainder of the desecrated "Big Scrub".

Carol Shipard is an outstanding member of the Dunoon community. She posted on FB: "This proposed dam is right next door to the Big Scrub, and has a rainforest growing on sandstone which is exceptionally rare, but even more, has never been logged because it is in a gorge, and too difficult to access." I am assured by that statement. You will note that I am writing directly rather than using your bureaucratically arrogant and invasive form. It is obvious that Rous Water is not in the business of influencing people and winning friends. You will note my observation here that Rous' conduct is subject to NSW legislation. If you wish to cost NSW taxpayers the arms and the legs that, particularly under COVID, they cannot afford - you go right ahead with your bloody-minded and entirely desicratory proposal. Just like Rio Tinto did in WA against an artifact of some ten thousands (not hundreds of millions) of years old. And incur the opprobrium and gross dishonour - not to mention the financial penalty - that the psychosocial profile of Rous' management obviously yearns for. Charles Lowe

**From:** [Beki Davies](#)  
**To:** [Records](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Planning and management  
**Date:** Saturday, 29 August 2020 10:22:51 PM

---

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

To whom it may concern,

You will note that I am writing directly, hoping to appeal to your better sense and emotional intelligence, I will do my best to constrain my disappointment and anger.

I have just come to understand that your proposed "2060 Dunoos Dam" will flood a rare sandstone-based example of the 1% remainder of the desecrated "Big Scrub", which is exceptionally rare, but even more, has never been logged because it is in a gorge, and too difficult to access.

It seems that in this day and age, with our technical abilities and overshadowing climate concerns, it would be more cost effective (and I don't mean that in just economic terms) to source our water security from a less damaging environmental means.

This could be an opportunity to showcase our region as an exemplar of leadership; in the Industry of recycled water production; as opposed to another shortsighted act of Ecocide.

To dam this pristine piece of virgin rainforest, would be an act of environmental vandalism not unlike the deplorable recent actions of Rio Tinto, that destroyed a site of our First Nations People that was tens of thousands of years old. Destroying these priceless natural sites for future economic growth is a shortsighted bandaid measure that will have ramifications spanning generations. Once it's gone we can never get it back.

The community of the Northern rivers has a history of protesting against the pillaging of our natural resources; the Terania protests and the recent Bentley blockade are two prime examples of how, when roused, this community will rally together and occupy a site to save it. Be warned that if you proceed, you will have long and expensive fight on your hands; we will not go quietly.

Beki Davies.

**From:** [Joanne Schutte](#)  
**To:** [Records](#); [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Proposed further damming of Big scrub  
**Date:** Sunday, 30 August 2020 6:31:59 AM

---

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

To whom it may concern (and that should be everyone),

I have just come to understand that your proposed "2060 Dunoon Dam" will flood a rare sandstone-based example of the 1% remainder of the desecrated "Big Scrub". This information was posted on FB: "This proposed dam is right next door to the Big Scrub, and has a rainforest growing on sandstone which is exceptionally rare, but even more, has never been logged because it is in a gorge, and too difficult to access."

I am assured by that statement.

You will note that I am writing directly rather than using your bureaucratically arrogant and invasive form.

It is obvious that Rous Water is not in the business of influencing people and winning friends. You will note my observation here that Rous' conduct is subject to NSW legislation. If you wish to cost NSW taxpayers the arms and the legs that, particularly under COVID, they cannot afford - you go right ahead with your bloody-minded and entirely desicratory proposal. Just like Rio Tinto did in WA against an artifact of some ten thousands (not hundreds of millions) of years old.

And incur the opprobrium and gross dishonour - not to mention the financial penalty - that the psychosocial profile of Rous' management obviously yearns for.

Kind regards

Joanne Schutte

Kind regards

Joanne Schutte

**From:** [Laura Shaz](#)  
**To:** [Records](#)  
**Subject:** objection to proposed Dam  
**Date:** Sunday, 30 August 2020 7:44:37 PM  
**Attachments:** [Objection.pdf](#)

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

30.8.2020

Dear Council,

I am opposed to the proposed dam to be built in the Channon/Dunoon/Whian Whian. Why destroy the homes of animals and sacred aboriginal sites when there are other ways to educate about water conservation or put money in for more home personal rain tanks? There are so many other ways to conserve and educate water without destroying what remains of the big scrub.

The creek is a fundamental part of a life support system for the wildlife of what remains of the big scrub. Many of our creek systems in this region have already been fragmented and this valley is home to many creatures that are dependant on the creek and forest. The dam will destroy this habitat. The creatures that depend on it will perish. The number of native animals is dwindling. It saddens me to think that more will die due to the proposed dam.

There are plenty of other ways to reduce water, such as educating the public about water conservation, raising the price of town water, offering rain tank rebates, encouraging leaky taps to be fixed and offering water-saving toilets at a reduced-price. I am American-born and even in America, dams are not seen as the way to go. I would think that Australia would be a leader in water awareness, not falling behind.

I encourage council and sustainable water experts to seek out other options. The dam is not an intelligent, nor environmentally-friendly one.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Laura Shaz


--

*Never give up on your dreams.*

30.8.2020

Dear Council,

I am opposed to the proposed dam to be built in the Channon/Dunoon/Whian Whian. Why destroy the homes of animals and sacred aboriginal sites when there are other ways to educate about water conservation or put money in for more home personal rain tanks? There are so many other ways to conserve and educate water without destroying what remains of the big scrub.

The creek is a fundamental part of a life support system for the wildlife of what remains of the big scrub. Many of our creek systems in this region have already been fragmented and this valley is home to many creatures that are dependant on the creek and forest. The dam will destroy this habitat. The creatures that depend on it will perish. The number of native animals is dwindling. It saddens me to think that more will die due to the proposed dam.

There are plenty of other ways to reduce water, such as educating the public about water conservation, raising the price of town water, offering rain tank rebates, encouraging leaky taps to be fixed and offering water-saving toilets at a reduced-price. I am American-born and even in America, dams are not seen as the way to go. I would think that Australia would be a leader in water awareness, not falling behind.

I encourage council and sustainable water experts to seek out other options. The dam is not an intelligent, nor environmentally-friendly one.

Thank you for your time and consideration,  
Laura Shaz



**From:**

**To:**

**Subject:**

**Date:**

**Attachments:**

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

Monday, 31 August 2020 8:57:44 AM

[Submission.docx](#)

---

Here is my submission.

Regards,

Jessica Lowe

[Redacted signature]

30 August 2020

Rous County Councillors

Jessica Lowe

[REDACTED]

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

Firstly, I would like to thank you for supporting the extension of the submission date. Also, thank you for managing the amazing dam we already have (Rocky Creek Dam) so well. It is a beautiful site, and the cabinet timber plantation is fantastic.

I am a timber and cattle farmer from Whian Whian. There is also a winery on the property. My husband and I also run Dunoon General Practice and are Landcare members.

When I first heard about the dam, I thought it was great because we would be able to swim and boat on it. However, when I did some research, I realised that it would be disastrous to build it. The main reason I use the word DISASTROUS, is because of the flood risk to people in the Channon, beneath the dam wall. Also, the pollution of the creek from sediment released during the building process, and the ongoing noise during building (and afterwards from the pumping station) is unacceptable, as is the extra damage to the roads from all the trucks. The complete list of reasons is as follows.

**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. (Metropolitan Water Plan 2006, NSW Government) <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. It would swallow all resources in one big expensive 'white dinosaur' project.
- **Alternative solutions have not been assessed comprehensively.** Alternative solutions include de-salination, water tanks, water recycling, etc. This suite of options needs to be fully assessed before deciding to build this dam.
- **The dam would encourage continued inefficient and often wasteful water management by local governments.** They would have no incentive to do things differently.

- **Destruction of important Indigenous cultural heritage**, including burial sites (Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment, 2011)<sup>(2)</sup>. Ongoing disregard for First Nations' heritage. A previous proposal to build this dam was rejected on these grounds.

- **Destruction of The Channon Gorge and its endangered ecological community of lowland rainforest** (including regionally rare warm temperate rainforest on sandstone), and its threatened flora and fauna species. (Terrestrial Ecology Impact Assessment, 2011)<sup>(3)</sup>.

Rous is planning to offset the loss of rainforest on sandstone with regeneration of degraded land in the buffer zone. Offsetting is problematic because the type of vegetation offered as recompense is never equivalent. This example is worse than most. (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." 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. <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. River pollution will be caused by sediment released throughout the building process.

- **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 being **an expensive white dinosaur**, diverting expenditure away from more sustainable, flexible and effective solutions. 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".<sup>(5)</sup>

- **Catastrophic flooding downstream in worst floods, particularly for the first 3 kilometres below.** (Environmental Flows Assessment 2011)<sup>(6)</sup>



## I SUPPORT these alternatives:

I believe we need to examine all the smart water options and proven alternatives available, and act.

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.

- **An investment in system-wide water efficiency and strong demand management.** Analysed, costed and deployed, creating jobs. (I 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>(7) (8)</sup>

- **Water re-use in various ways**, including Purified Recycled Potable water. A wealth of global research and experience already exists regarding potable reuse of water as set out in Water Research Australia’s report, Potable Water Reuse: What can Australia learn from global experience? <https://www.waterra.com.au/publications/document-search/?download=1806><sup>(9)</sup> Example: The city of Windhoek in Namibia in Southern Africa has been using purified recycled water for 30 years using advanced technology. <https://www.wingoc.com.na/our-history><sup>(10)</sup>

- **Water harvesting** (urban runoff; rain tanks): Water tanks on all new (and existing) developments.<sup>(11)</sup> *This builds community resilience - much needed, as the recent extreme bushfire season has shown.*

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>(12)</sup> <https://www.yourhome.gov.au/water/rainwater>

Rainwater harvesting also decreases stormwater runoff, thereby helping to reduce local flooding and scouring of creeks.<sup>(12)</sup> <https://www.yourhome.gov.au/water/rainwater>

How about also looking into water harvesting from the air? A system that does this can be viewed at “The Farm”, Byron Bay. See <https://www.theland.com.au/story/5678758/fresh-water-from-fresh-air/>

- **Groundwater, where this is environmentally safe** The Australian government provides a lot of information on the ecological impacts and groundwater usage.<sup>(13)</sup> <https://www.environment.gov.au/water/publications/what-are-the-ecological-impacts-of-groundwater-drawdown>

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 (3) SMEC Australia, Terrestrial Ecology Impact Assessment, 2011 (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. (5) 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". (6) Environmental Flows Assessment Proposed Dunoon Dam, 30 Aug 2012, Eco Logical Australia. (7) The Rous Regional Water Efficiency Program 1997, *Final report of the Rous Regional Demand Management Strategy : preferred options*, Rous County Council, Lismore. (8) Watson R., Turner A and Fane S 2018, *Water Efficiency and Demand Management Opportunities for Hunter Water*, Institute for Sustainable Futures, Sydney. (9) Kahn, Stuart and Branch, Amos 2019, *Potable water reuse: What can Australia learn from global experience?*, Water Research Australia Limited, Adelaide. (10) Windhoek Goreangab Operating Company (Pty) Ltd 2020, *Our history | Wingoc*, Veolia Environment, Windhoek, viewed 3 August 2020, <<https://www.wingoc.com.na/>> (11) \$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 194L/person/day average water use (Rous). (12) 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>> (13) 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>>

**From:** [Susie Forster](#)  
**To:** [Records](#)  
**Subject:** Rous Water Dunoon Dam proposal submission  
**Date:** Monday, 31 August 2020 10:53:39 AM  
**Attachments:** [PastedGraphic-2.tiff](#)

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

My name is Susie Forster, my address is [REDACTED]

I would like to register my opposition to the proposed Dunoon dam. In regards to the foreseeable shortage of water in our region, I believe we need to look at water efficiency, such as recycling, capturing rainwater in tanks and conserving water, not the certain environmental and likely cultural destruction that this dam will cause.

I have reason to believe that there are 15 Aboriginal burial sites within the inundation area . This information is in the custody of a members of the community who were involved previously in the dam proposal process. Exact locations cannot be revealed because of potential damage. There is no recognition of this fact or the area on the Heritage register.

I have been informed that the dam would clear a total of 272 ha of vegetation, of which 57 ha is predominantly native (Warm Temperate Rainforest, Subtropical Rainforest with 34 ha of Lowland Rainforest EEC, Tallowwood Open Forest and Flooded Gum-Tallowwood-Brush box Open Forest). The loss of rainforest communities is considered to be particularly significant, given the regional history of clearance for timber and plantations and thus fragmented nature of the remnants of these communities (SMEC, 2011). The dam would remove important habitat features and local linkages for threatened fauna species. In particular, movement pathways for the threatened Koala will be impeded from the installation of the dam wall, spillway and the inundation area. Loss of feeding resources for the listed Grey-headed Flying Fox, Rose-crowned Fruit-dove and White-eared Monarch and nesting resources for migratory birds from the removal of rainforest and Camphor laurel communities is also likely to be significant within the study area. Further, the loss of foraging resources provided within the dry sclerophyll forests, which are rare in the region, will impact on the threatened Glossy-black Cockatoo and Scarlet Robin. Loveridges Frog (*Phyllorhina loveridgei*) was also found just outside the footprint of the proposed dam at a lower elevation and more southerly point than has been previously recorded. Habitat for this species may also be impacted by the proposal (SMEC, 2011)

I believe some alternatives to the dam are water recycling, bores and roof-fed rain water tanks on urban blocks. These tanks also would help RFS access water supplies during bush fires.

Sincerely,

Susie Forster

Susie Forster  
[REDACTED]

