

8 SEP 2020

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

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

**From:** JAKOBENIA JOLLEY

**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
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- (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.
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Kind regards, Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



Date: 5/9/20



8 SEP 2020

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

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

From: *Tom Waidelich*

Address:



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

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

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

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



Date: 23/8/20



8 SEP 2020

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

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

From:

Naomi Murray

Address:

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

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

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Kind regards, Signatur



e: 6.9.2020



Received over the counter

8 SEP 2020

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

Date: 8/8/20

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

Wayne Crow

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

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

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





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

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

- **Strong Demand Management**  
Existing research over the past decade consistently finds that the best 'bang-for-buck' investment in water supply comes from demand management and identifying savings within the existing supply.<sup>(2) (4)</sup>
- **Purified Recycled Water**  
A wealth of global research and experience already exists regarding potable reuse of water as set out in the Australian report, *Potable Water Reuse: What can Australia learn from global experience?* <https://www.waterra.com.au/publications/document-search/?download=1806><sup>(5)</sup>  
Example: The city of Windhoek has been using Purified Recycled Water for 30yrs using advanced technology. <https://www.wingoc.com.na/our-history><sup>(6)</sup>
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Rainwater harvesting also decreases stormwater runoff, thereby helping to reduce local flooding and scouring of creeks."<sup>(8)</sup> <https://www.yourhome.gov.au/water/rainwater>
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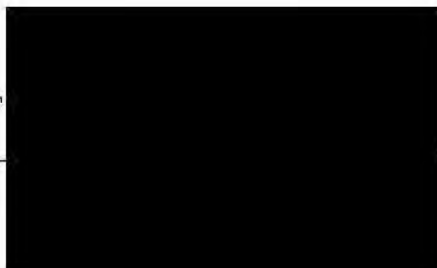
## References and Notes

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## Extra notes/Comments:

Kind regards,

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





Received over the counter

8 SEP 2020

Date: 9-8-2020

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

From:

Rou Williams

Address:



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

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Rainwater harvesting also decreases stormwater runoff, thereby helping to reduce local flooding and scouring of creeks."<sup>(8)</sup> <https://www.yourhome.gov.au/water/rainwater>
- **Groundwater, where this is environmentally safe**  
The Australian government provides a lot of information on ecological impacts and groundwater usage.<sup>(9)</sup>  
<https://www.environment.gov.au/water/publications/what-are-the-ecological-impacts-of-groundwater-drawdown>

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




### References and Notes

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

Kind regards

Signature: 

8 SEP 2020

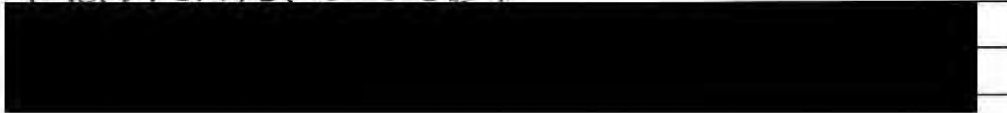
**Feedback Submission Re: Proposed Dunoon Dam within the Future Water Project 2060**

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

From:

Manishia Crooks

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

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Kind regards, Signature



Date: 16.8.20,

8 SEP 2020

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

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

From: *Jenny Gibbons*

Address:

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

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

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

**I SUPPORT these alternatives:**

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

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



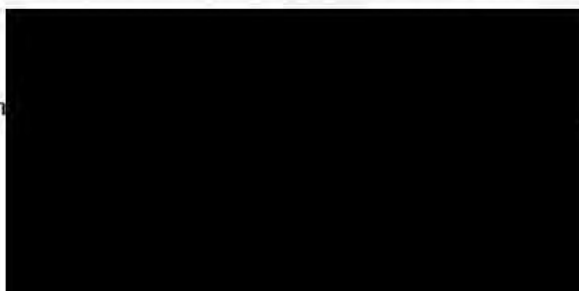
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- **Water harvesting** (urban runoff; rain tanks):  
Water tanks on all new (and existing) developments. The Australian government advises that: "Depending on tank size and climate, mains water use can be reduced by up to 100%. This in turn can help: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

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

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Kind regards, Sign



Date: 16/8/20

8 SEP 2020

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

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

From: VICKI GAILLARD

Address: 

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

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

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

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



Date: 15-8-20

8 SEP 2020

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

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

From: Bill Triss

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



Date: 16/8/2020

8 SEP 2020

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

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

From:

PAUL FRIEWEATHER

Address:



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

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

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

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

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



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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: 16/8/20

8 SEP 2020

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

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

From:

Address:

*Deborah Perry*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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**I SUPPORT these alternatives:**

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

Date: 16/8/20

Received over the counter

8 SEP 2020

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

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

From: CAROL WEIDNER

Address: 

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

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

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Kind regards, Signature



Date: 23/8/2020

8 SEP 2020

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

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

From: NIMBIN. KYOSUKE Hayashi

Address: 

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

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

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



Date: 23/8/20

8 SEP 2020

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

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

From: Stuart M. Cogburn

Address: 

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

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

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

Date: 16/8/20

8 SEP 2020

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

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

From: Calen Takeda

Address: 

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

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

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

**I SUPPORT these alternatives:**

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

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



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

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

#### References and Notes

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



Date: 23/8/20

Received over the counter

8 SEP 2020

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

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

From: Jaimie W Hammond (mudd)

Address: 

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

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

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

**I SUPPORT these alternatives:**

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

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



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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 outsized and unnecessary dam.

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Kind regards, Signature



Date: 22.8.2020

8 SEP 2020

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

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

From: *Kaula Calder*

Address: [REDACTED]

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

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

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

**I SUPPORT these alternatives:**

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

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



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- **Contingency planning** would enable Rous to be ready to rapidly implement supply measures if it becomes necessary in times of drought.
- **Groundwater, where this is environmentally safe.** The Australian government provides a lot of information on the ecological impacts and groundwater usage.<sup>(12)</sup>

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

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Kind regards, Signature:




Date: 23/8/2020

8 SEP 2020

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

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

From: Gary Hassack  
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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Kind regards, Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



Date: 23/8/20

**From:** [David Michie](#)  
**To:** [Records](#)  
**Subject:** The proposed Dunoon Dam within the Future Water Project 2060  
**Date:** Tuesday, 8 September 2020 12:14:05 PM  
**Attachments:** [image.png](#)  
[image.png](#)  
[image.png](#)

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

8th September 2020  
Rous County Council,  
Lismore NSW 2480

Dear Rous Councillors and General Manager

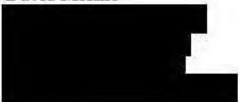
You can't flood this. This is irreplaceable. Do I really need to say anything more? A dam here should be a last resort. We should explore all alternatives before this.







Regards,  
David Michie







**From:** [Don Gartside](#)  
**To:** [Records](#)  
**Subject:** Build the long-proposed Dunoon Dam  
**Date:** Tuesday, 8 September 2020 12:54:15 PM

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**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 support building the long-proposed Dunoon Dam. I am a long-term resident and property owner in the [REDACTED] (more than 35 years):

Don Gartside  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

I most strongly support the proposal to build the Dunoon dam.

Our original dam at Rocky Creek was built in the early 1950s to support a local population that was expected to increase over the next 20 or so years to around 250,000 people. It is now 2020, more than 65 years after the Rocky Creek Dam was built. Over that time land below the existing Rocky Creek Dam has been purchased or identified in planning documents to provide for construction of a new dam. The new dam has not been built.

Every time our area experienced a drought (at least three major droughts over the 30 + years I have lived here), Rous County Council, rather than commence construction of the new dam, commissioned a consultant's report on our water needs. Each of these three consultant's reports recommended that a new dam be built. Each time the Council has procrastinated until the rains eventually came.

We endured severe water shortages and harsh water restrictions, despite being in one of the wettest areas of NSW. During the last major drought the Council began extracting poor quality water from the Richmond River that needed substantial treatment rather than take the necessary steps to provide a reliable water supply for the longer term from construction of the recommended dam. The situation during the drought was so dire that the Council is widely believed to have had an emergency plan to evacuate the entire Northern Rivers population to some other area!

This situation is scandalous.

It is time the Rous County Council fulfilled its charter to provide a reliable bulk water supply for the still increasing population of the Northern Rivers by commencing construction of the new Dunoon Dam.

Yours sincerely,

Don Gartside





**From:** [Joan Ward](#)  
**To:** [Records](#)  
**Subject:** Rous County Council re proposed Dunoon Dam  
**Date:** Tuesday, 8 September 2020 12:56:23 PM

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

Dear Council staff and councillors

As a former resident of the Northern Rivers for 21yrs in total and still a frequent visitor to this area I am prompted to write to you asking that you reconsider the latest plans for Dunoon Dam and associated water catchment.

The latest proposals do not make sense and certainly are not a good use of water for communities or water storage in 2020 and into the future!

Please hear me out...

YOUR area, the home of many amazing people and communities, including scientists and world leaders in forests, rivers, and associated sciences deserve more time and options than this and a longer timeframe to consult and consider more options.

True and effective consultation = better options which result in the best longterm outcomes for all.

Ecology, hydrology of forests and the role forests play in Co2 and water capture let alone the recycling of water to the world's oceans is AMAZING and worthy of consideration. This information supports more choices than currently being offered in your latest decision making and in turn provides information that can be discussed and considered in conjunction with local community members.

The northern rivers IS the home of unique rainforests.

Plants, animals and an amazing array of birds that live there and certainly worthy of lifelong protection.

The gentle and sometimes wild waters that rush thru those valleys and hills bring life to so many. Not just humans!

They also provide LIFE and sanctuary to many. Again, more than humans.

This includes species, I believe that we are yet to discover let alone pretend to understand.

I studied plant biology in my younger years at Adelaide University and my Biology lecturer Bob Baldock told us then if you want to break new ground go and study rainforests and the insects and plants that live there. You will be amazed!

And we continue to be AMAZED as Sir David Attenborough says all these years later.

As Sir David says we still know very little of how they function and the role they play in life on Earth for all species including us.

Northern Rivers is my former home, Dunoon, The Channon, Coffee Camp and Lismore area.

Rocky Creek Dam, Whian Whian Forest I could go on!

Areas I still consider my home at heart and yes also the home of so many people who moved to these areas many years ago to protect the ancient forests and who still live and love these areas.

Areas that welcome 000s visitors annually.

The Nthn Rivers NSW is renowned the world over for being innovative in so many ways. Communities and Councils known the world over for finding solutions together. C'mon Rous County Council you can do better than this current plan!

Community = locals, those with knowledge, both indigenous and non, professionals and Councils working together.

Communities working together end up with outcomes that are not for the short term but with long term VISION in sight and that aim to benefit 'the many' long term.

This is in my opinion and the opinion of many who live there as I said previously is not an innovative or sustainable solution to water use in 2020 let alone for the future.

It is not supported by the latest thinking around Water Use and storage.

Thinking that I remind you has been available for more than the past ten years.

Education and supportive role modelling for innovative use of water IS the way forward.

Incentives with local application for LOCAL USERS of water ie. EVERY User IS the way forward and makes good sense.

Best Practice in Water Education involves just that.

Education, application of such education, especially by encouraging long term interest in clean water collection, use and conservation at the individual, family, agrifarm and business levels with incentives for doing so ALL along the way.

Nthn Rivers led the world in Rainforest protection resulting in education and knowledge sharing and raised awareness that is still acknowledged worldwide today.

Led the way for protection of Australian rainforests, knowledge of species and utilised science to reinforce what many residents of the Northern Rivers Region know, love and value.

Forest that are renowned.

BIG Rivers area = Big Scrub and BIG Rainforests and a HUGE array of species supported by such forests.

BIG Scrub meant much to the early white settlers and before them to our Indigenous peoples.

Indigenous people still value this area and care for it.

In ongoing ways not just for a few years but FOREVER.

They are intrinsically linked to such areas and all aspects of them.

All land, plants, animals, birds, sacred areas and waters.

Continuing to nourish and rely on all aspects for life and survival.

More than a picnic beside a dam!

This is part of their heartland and MUST be considered and REAL consultation carried out in conjunction with them.

Please stop and rethink the latest plans.

I look forward to hearing of the innovative measures you choose in the future not a rushed decision now.



Please protect these waters and lead the way re water catchments in the Nthn Rivers through your efforts and with the responsibility vested in Rous County Council to do this.  
Water is a precious resource essential for all life and all futures!  
Thanking you.

Sincere Regards  
Joan

Joan Ward

[Redacted signature block]

*Be part of the change you want to see in the world.....*

**From:** [mariexr](#)  
**To:** [Records](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** The proposed Dunoon Dam within the Future Water Project 2060  
**Date:** Tuesday, 8 September 2020 12:57:09 PM

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

Marie Stack Reilly  
[REDACTED]

September 8th 2020

Rous County Council,  
Lismore NSW 2480  
[council@rous.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@rous.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Rous Councillors and General Manager

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

We are in a planetary climate and ecological emergency.

I appreciate the complexity of finding solutions to meet our communities water needs into the future and how this challenge faces so many communities on our planet. That is why now is the time for courageous earth centred thinking, not perpetuating the exploitative and destructive ways of the past. Now is the time for Aboriginal solidarity and fierce defence of biodiversity. If the human species and all living creatures we share this beautiful planet with is to survive – we must act now.

This is why you cannot build this mega dam.

I have lived here on [REDACTED] land for 20 years. I live on a small permaculture community near the proposed Dam site. My household and the other 7 homes on our community live off grid and harvest all our household and garden water from rain water tanks. I am also actively involved in forest regeneration and local environmental and social justice campaigns. I have been in love and in awe of our local rainforests and the abundant life they support since I came here from Canada.

I am strongly opposed to the Dam proposal on this endangered rainforest ecological community and sacred custodial lands of the Widjabul-Wybul people and urge you to choose another option that will value and save water at every step of the water system.

**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)(1)

**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 project. This business as usual thinking is killing life on earth.

**The dam would encourage continued inefficient and often wasteful water management** by local governments. They would have no incentive to do things differently and we must do things differently. We can no longer take the earth and her precious resources for granted.

**Destruction of important Widjabul-Wybul cultural heritage**, including burial sites (Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment, 2011)(2) is a complete disregard for the living heritage and continuing connection to the Channon gorge by local Aboriginal people. This process of cultural genocide and racial injustice continues to be perpetrated around the world. The recent action of Rio Tinto destroying 46000 year old Aboriginal heritage site in the Pilbara – exemplifies this injustice. This cannot happen here.

**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) (3). The Lismore Council Declared that we are in a Climate emergency in August of 2019. Preserving existing forest for carbon capture and is a critical step in addressing. As is preserving biodiversity in the midst of our extinction crisis. This is a known koala hot spot and this dam would dived and submerge the population. We must collectively do all we can to prevent koala extinction.

The proposed ‘offset’ from the loss of this unique rainforest on sandstone with regeneration of degraded land in the buffer zone is problematic because the offset vegetation will never be of the rare high quality and biodiverse dense lowland rainforest that will be submerged.

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.

Rous is required to avoid this destruction because there are economically viable and more effective solutions.

**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(5) 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.

**Catastrophic flooding downstream** in worst floods, particularly for the first 3 kilometres below. (Environmental Flows Assessment 2011)(6). Floods, storms and sea level rise are all predicted to increase in the life time of this proposed project.

**I SUPPORT these alternatives:**

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

alternatives. Now is the time for renewable and sustainable power and it is also the time to think about our water needs too in a way that doesn't cost the earth.

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.(7) (8)

Professor Stuart White from UTS has provided a detailed and costed proposal "The Rous Sustainable Water Program" which shows exactly how and why system-wide optimisation of water use is possible and economical. In comparison, the proposed dam is simply financially, environmentally and socially irresponsible.(9)(Stuart White,2020 [www.bit.ly/Prof-Stuart-White-Rous-slides](http://www.bit.ly/Prof-Stuart-White-Rous-slides)).

**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\(9\)](https://www.waterra.com.au/publications/document-search/?download=1806(9)) 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\(10\)](https://www.wingoc.com.na/our-history(10))

**Water harvesting** (urban runoff; rain tanks): Water tanks on all new (and existing) developments.(11) 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.(12) <https://www.yourhome.gov.au/water/rainwater> 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.(13) [https://www.environment.gov.au/water/publications/what-are-the-ecological-impacts-of-ground](https://www.environment.gov.au/water/publications/what-are-the-ecological-impacts-of-ground-water-drawdown) water-drawdown

With scalable supply alternatives in place, the existing supply from Rocky Creek 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.

**In conclusion,** I appreciate much work has gone into this already, but I think you will find there is massive community opposition to the mega dam proposal and I think you would also find that this will translate into ongoing protest and direct action blockades if you go ahead with the mega dam development. This all can be mitigated by going back to the drawing board now and looking a water efficiency and savings at every stage of our water system.



In solidarity with the earth,  
Marie Stack Reilly

### References and Notes

(1) Metropolitan Water Plan 2006, NSW Government. Exec Summary section of the doc [https://www.dropbox.com/s/pu9898oq6kocrph/NSW Govt 2006 MWP summary.pdf?dl=0](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) Stuart White, [2020www.bit.ly/Prof-Stuart-White-Rous-slides](https://www.bit.ly/Prof-Stuart-White-Rous-slides) (10)Kahn,Stuart and Branch, Amos 2019, Potable water reuse: What can Australia learn from global experience?, Water Research Australia Limited, Adelaide. (11)Windhoek Goreangab Operating Company (Pty) Ltd 2020,Our history | Wingoc, Veolia Environment, Windhoek, viewed 3 August 2020, [https://www.wingoc.com/na/\(12\)\\$220](https://www.wingoc.com/na/(12)$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). (13)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> (14)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:** [chantal.wilson](#)  
**To:** [Records](#)  
**Subject:** Re Proposed Dunoan Dam water strategy 2060  
**Date:** Tuesday, 8 September 2020 1:11:21 PM

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

Dear Mayor, Councillors, Staff.

I reject the concept of building a new dam, I recall back in the late 80's opposing a similar proposal for Damming the Nymboida, to supply water for Coffs Harbour. These tourist towns consume water at a rapid rate, after all we pay to stay, we use, mentality. So do we get smart or head down the path of destruction, the forest/ growing land, the villages, the roads, the invasion of it all. We must protect what surrounds us, consume less, recycle more and harvest what does fall. Please make Caring, decent decisions.

Chantal Wilson



**From:** [Stephen Gray](#)  
**To:** [Records](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Future Water Project 2060  
**Date:** Tuesday, 8 September 2020 1:23:06 PM

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

Stephen Gray  
[REDACTED]

8 September 2020

Dear Councillors,

As a local resident and landowner, I write in response to the invitation for input into Rous County Council's public consultation on the Future Water Project 2060. Thank you for your commitment to community consultation and for the opportunity to provide the following feedback.

My comments relate specifically to the case put forward for the construction of the 50GL Dunoon Dam. I do not support the construction of this dam for a number of reasons.

1) I was unable to ascertain from the publicly available reports that underpin the proposal what climate modelling and projections were used to source data that suggests a gradual decline in forecast water security from 13,350 ML in 2020 to 10,427 ML in 2060. The NSW Government's [NARCLiM modelling](#) suggests a likely overall increase in annual rainfall totals for the catchment region over the same time period. Drier winters will be offset by wetter springs and autumns, potentially leading to annual rainfall increases of up to 11%. I would suggest further climate modelling should be undertaken in consultation with scientists from NSW DPIE to fully understand the impacts of climate change on inflows to current water supply infrastructure.

2) No doubt as many others have expressed, I share community concerns around the loss of habitat for endangered native flora and fauna in the proposed flood zone of the Dunoon dam as set out on p25 of the Hydrosphere Consultation paper. I am also concerned about the effect of the dam on downstream ecosystems and the potential for increased severity of flooding in major rainfall events - which are likely to become more common in a changing climate.

3) I am also opposed to the construction of the dam due to concerns about the inundation and destruction of sites of cultural significance to the indigenous community. Since colonisation there has been enormous loss of heritage and of sacred connection to country for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. I urge RCC to carefully weigh the cultural trauma and costs of further destruction when other water security options exist.

4) I was unable to ascertain from publicly available reports the effects of the construction and ongoing operation and maintenance of dam infrastructure on the amenity of local residents. What is the potential for resulting deterioration of quality of life for those with sight lines or audible proximity to the dam? For instance, would there be constant noise pollution from pumping plant and equipment? Would motorised aquasports be permitted on the resulting lake? To date there also seems to be little indication as to access routes for

trucks and machinery during the construction of the dam and any deleterious effect that would have on narrow, poorly maintained local roads, nor specific details of forced acquisition of neighbouring land for right of way and access.

In securing the provision of sustainable water supply for the LGAs served by RCC infrastructure, I support initiatives that sure up efficiencies in the existing water network including upgrading pipe infrastructure to minimise loss through leakage and working with industry, agriculture and residents to encourage the uptake of rainwater harvesting, efficient appliances and equipment and other measures to reduce consumption. The 2006 NSW Metropolitan Water Plan demonstrates significant gains that are possible.

Given the concerns raised above, I encourage RCC (and LCC as my local jurisdiction) to continue to explore evidence-based, 21st century solutions to the region's water supply needs - in a changing climate - that provide security and benefits to the community without the drawbacks of a large dam project.

Yours sincerely,  
Stephen Gray

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Stephen Gray MTEM, AFATEM | Chief Operating Officer



I acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which I walk and pay my respects to Elders, past, present and emerging.

I am a member of the [Ally Network](#)



8 SEP 2020

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

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

From:

SUZANNE GRANGER

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 outsized and unnecessary dam.

## References and Notes

- (1) Metropolitan Water Plan 2006, NSW Government. Exec Summary section of the doc <https://www.dropbox.com/s/pu9898oq6kocph/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: 3.9.20

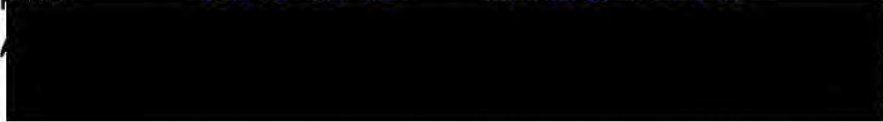


Received over the counter

8 SEP 2020

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

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

From: FRANK ASHTEKOS  


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

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

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

**I SUPPORT these alternatives:**

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

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



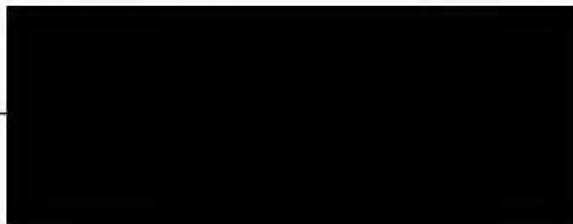
- **Water re-use in various ways, including Purified Recycled Potable water.** A wealth of global research and experience exists regarding potable reuse of water.<sup>(6)</sup> Eg: The city of Windhoek in Namibia has been using purified recycled water for 30 years using advanced technology.<sup>(9)</sup>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

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

#### References and Notes

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



Date: 17/08/20

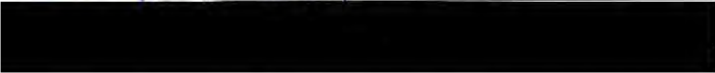


8 SEP 2020

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

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

From: *Shawleen Dwyer*

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

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



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

6/9/20



8 SEP 2020

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

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

**From:**

*Michele Lacroix*

**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>

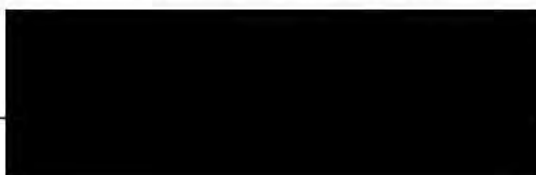
- **Water re-use in various ways, including Purified Recycled Potable water.** A wealth of global research and experience exists regarding potable reuse of water.<sup>(8)</sup> Eg: The city of Windhoek in Namibia has been using purified recycled water for 30 years using advanced technology.<sup>(9)</sup>
- **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.

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



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



8 SEP 2020

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

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

From:

*Antonia Alola*

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.

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



Date: 16/08/20



8 SEP 2020

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

Date: 09 08 20

From:  
Address:

Laurent Schlo

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

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

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

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

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

- **Strong Demand Management**  
Existing research over the past decade consistently finds that the best 'bang-for-buck' investment in water supply comes from demand management and identifying savings within the existing supply.<sup>(2) (4)</sup>
- **Purified Recycled Water**  
A wealth of global research and experience already exists regarding potable reuse of water as set out in the Australian report, *Potable Water Reuse: What can Australia learn from global experience?* <https://www.waterra.com.au/publications/document-search/?download=1806><sup>(6)</sup>  
Example: The city of Windhoek has been using Purified Recycled Water for 30yrs using advanced technology. <https://www.wingoc.com.na/our-history/><sup>(6)</sup>
- **Water tanks on all new (and existing) developments**<sup>(7)</sup> *This builds community resilience - much needed as the example of the extreme bushfire season has shown up.*  
The Australian government advises that: "Depending on tank size and climate, mains water use can be reduced by up to 100%. This in turn can help: reduce the need for new dams or desalination plants; protect remaining environmental flows in rivers; reduce infrastructure operating costs.  
Rainwater harvesting also decreases stormwater runoff, thereby helping to reduce local flooding and scouring of creeks."<sup>(8)</sup> <https://www.yourhome.gov.au/water/rainwater>
- **Groundwater, where this is environmentally safe**  
The Australian government provides a lot of information on ecological impacts and groundwater usage.<sup>(9)</sup>  
<https://www.environment.gov.au/water/publications/what-are-the-ecological-impacts-of-groundwater-drawdown>

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



## References and Notes

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- (6) Windhoek Goreangab Operating Company (Pty) Ltd 2020, *Our history | Wingoc*, Veolia Environment, Windhoek, viewed 3 August 2020, <<https://www.wingoc.com.na/>>
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- (8) Australian Government Department of Industry 2013, Science, Energy and Resources, *Rainwater | Your home*, Canberra, viewed 3 August 2020, <<https://www.yourhome.gov.au/water/rainwater>>
- (9) Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2018, *What are the ecological impacts of groundwater drawdown? | Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment*, Canberra, viewed 6 August 2020, <<https://www.environment.gov.au/water/publications/what-are-the-ecological-impacts-of-groundwater-drawdown>>

## Extra notes/Comments:

Kind regards,

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



Received over the counter

8 SEP 2020

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

From: Yeade Williams

Address:



Date:

9/8/

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

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

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



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

### I SUPPORT these alternatives:

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

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

- **Strong Demand Management**

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

- **Purified Recycled Water**

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

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

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

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

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

The Australian government advises that:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## References and Notes

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





Received over the counter

8 SEP 2020

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

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

From:

*Laing*

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

Date: 28/8/20



Received over the counter

8 SEP 2020

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

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

From:

David Andrews

Address:

[Redacted Address]

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

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

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

**I SUPPORT these alternatives:**

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

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



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

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

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Kind regards, Signature:



Date: 28-8-2020

Received over the counter

8 SEP 2020

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

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

From: ✓ Stott

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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- **The small population increase** predicted for the four Rous-supplied councils of 12,720<sup>(5)</sup> between 2020-2060 **does not justify** such a large and destructive dam. The dam risks diverting expenditure away from more sustainable, flexible and effective solutions.<sup>(5)</sup>

**I SUPPORT these alternatives:**

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

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



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

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Kind regards, Signature:



Date: 28 8 2020

Received over the counter

8 SEP 2020

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

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

From: *Isabella Matthews*

Address: [REDACTED]

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

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

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

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>
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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 outsized and unnecessary dam.

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Kind regards, Signature:



Date: 28/8/2020


Received over the counter

8 SEP 2020

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

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

From: *AARON WILSON*

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-Dunoos 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/Dunoos community; noise, machinery, trucks, visual impact. Ongoing sound impact from pump house etc.
- **Higher prices for consumers due to a 4x increase in the cost of water.** Rous general manager, in response to a question from councillor Vanessa Ekins, said he expected a fourfold increase in the cost of supplying water if the dam is built.
- **The small population increase** predicted for the four Rous-supplied councils of 12,720<sup>(5)</sup> between 2020-2060 **does not justify** such a large and destructive dam. The dam risks diverting expenditure away from more sustainable, flexible and effective solutions.<sup>(5)</sup>

**I SUPPORT these alternatives:**

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

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



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- **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: 25/08/2020


Received over the counter

8 SEP 2020

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

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

From: *ROBYN JOHNSON*

Address: 

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

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

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

**I SUPPORT these alternatives:**

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

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



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

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

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Kind regards, Signature:



Date: 28/8/2020,

8 SEP 2020

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

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

From: Holly Johnson

Address: [REDACTED]

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

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

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



Date: 28/08/20

Received over the counter

8 SEP 2020

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

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

From:

SJWARA TAYLOR

Address:



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

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

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

Kind regards, Signature:



Date: 28/8/20

Received over the counter

8 SEP 2020

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

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

From: *Kelley West*

Address: [REDACTED]

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

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

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

**I SUPPORT these alternatives:**

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

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



- **Water re-use in various ways, including Purified Recycled Potable water.** A wealth of global research and experience exists regarding potable reuse of water.<sup>(8)</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/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/>>
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- (12) Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2018, *What are the ecological impacts of groundwater drawdown? | Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment*, Canberra, viewed 6 August 2020, <<https://www.environment.gov.au/water/publications/what-are-the-ecological-impacts-of-groundwater-drawdown>>

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



Date: 28.8.20

Received over the counter

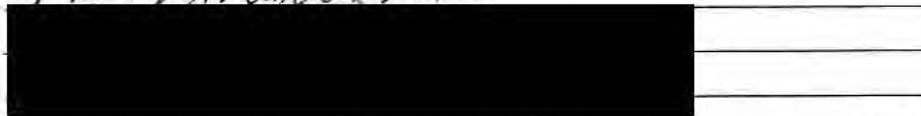
8 SEP 2020

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

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

From: *Ms. Miranda Mills*

Address:



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

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

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

**I SUPPORT these alternatives:**

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

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



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

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

#### References and Notes

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- (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.
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- (7) Watson R., Turner A and Fane S 2018, *Water Efficiency and Demand Management Opportunities for Hunter Water*, Institute for Sustainable Futures, Sydney.
- (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/>>
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Kind regards, Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



Date: 23.8.20

Received over the counter

8 SEP 2020

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

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

From: CLARK DAWSON

Address: [REDACTED]

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

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

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

**I SUPPORT these alternatives:**

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

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



- **Water re-use in various ways, including Purified Recycled Potable water.** A wealth of global research and experience exists regarding potable reuse of water.<sup>(8)</sup> Eg: The city of Windhoek in Namibia has been using purified recycled water for 30 years using advanced technology.<sup>(9)</sup>
- **Water harvesting** (urban runoff; rain tanks):  
Water tanks on all new (and existing) developments. The Australian government advises that: "Depending on tank size and climate, mains water use can be reduced by up to 100%. This in turn can help: reduce the need for new dams or desalination plants; protect remaining environmental flows in rivers; reduce infrastructure operating costs."<sup>(10)</sup> Rainwater harvesting also decreases stormwater runoff, thereby helping to reduce local flooding and scouring of creeks.<sup>(11)</sup>
- **Contingency planning** would enable Rous to be ready to rapidly implement supply measures if it becomes necessary in times of drought.
- **Groundwater, where this is environmentally safe.** The Australian government provides a lot of information on the ecological impacts and groundwater usage.<sup>(12)</sup>

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

#### References and Notes

- (1) Metropolitan Water Plan 2006, NSW Government. Exec Summary section of the doc  
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/pu9893oq6kocrph/NSW%20Govt%202006%20MWP%20summary.pdf?dl=0>
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- (3) SMEC Australia, Terrestrial Ecology Impact Assessment, 2011
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- (7) Watson R., Turner A and Fane S 2018, *Water Efficiency and Demand Management Opportunities for Hunter Water*, Institute for Sustainable Futures, Sydney.
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- (11) Australian Government Department of Industry 2013, Science, Energy and Resources, *Rainwater | Your home*, Canberra, viewed 3 August 2020, <<https://www.yourhome.gov.au/water/rainwater>>
- (12) Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2018, *What are the ecological impacts of groundwater drawdown? | Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment*, Canberra, viewed 6 August 2020, <<https://www.environment.gov.au/water/publications/what-are-the-ecological-impacts-of-groundwater-drawdown>>

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



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

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

Received over the counter

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

8 SEP 2020

From: Anthea Amore

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>





Received over the counter

8 SEP 2020

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

From: Emma Nichols

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

Date: 9.8.2020

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

- **Strong Demand Management**

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

- **Purified Recycled Water**

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

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

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

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

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

The Australian government advises that:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## References and Notes

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Kind Regards,





8 SEP 2020

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

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

**From:** MARY WICKHAM

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

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

## References and Notes

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Kind regards, Signature:



Date: 27/8/2020




8 SEP 2020

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

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

From: Neah Lithi

Address: 

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

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

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

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



Date: 6/9/20



Received over the counter

8 SEP 2020

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

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

From: *Kate Lair*

Address: [REDACTED]

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

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

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

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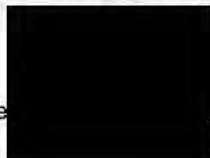
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Kind regards, Signature



Date: 6/9/2020



8 SEP 2020

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

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

From:

Address:



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

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

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Kind regards, Signature:



Date: 6/9/20



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

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

8 SEP 2020

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

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

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

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

#### References and Notes

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



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

6/9/20



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

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

Received over the counter

8 SEP 2020

From:

C. Grett

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.

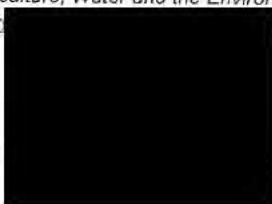
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Kind regards, Signature: 

Date: 6/9/20



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

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

Received over the counter

8 SEP 2020

From:

Vanessa Neighbour

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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- **The small population increase** predicted for the four Rous-supplied councils of 12,720<sup>(5)</sup> between 2020-2060 **does not justify** such a large and destructive dam. The dam risks diverting expenditure away from more sustainable, flexible and effective solutions.<sup>(5)</sup>

**I SUPPORT these alternatives:**

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

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

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

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

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

Date: 8/9/20



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

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

Received over the counter

8 SEP 2020

From: *Leanne Taylor*

Address: [REDACTED]

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

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

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

### I SUPPORT these alternatives:

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

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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: 6-9-20




8 SEP 2020

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

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

From: Dianne Flint

Address: 

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

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

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

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Kind regards, Signature:



Date: 6/09/2020



8 SEP 2020

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

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

From:

Carolyn Tomi

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>
- **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/pu9898oq6kacrp/NSW%20Gov%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, Signature:



Date: 5/9/2020.



8 SEP 2020

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

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

From:

Michael Rogstad

Address:



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

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

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

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



Date: 6.9.2020



8 SEP 2020

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

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

From:

David Ramsay

Address:

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