From: ████████████████████████████████
Sent: ████████████████████████████████
To: █████████████████████████████
Subject: SUBMISSION - FNC Water Strategy

SUBMISSION - FNC Water Strategy

My name is ████████, I am a retired Registered Nurse of over 40 years.
I have lived in the Dunoon/Channon area for 35 years.
I am opposed to the proposed Dunoon Dam on ecological, Aboriginal cultural
concerns and the apparently flawed process adopted by Rous Water of each
time the Dam is proposed, 2010, 2013, and now, there are fewer options
considered until the dam is the only one put forward. This dam is a very
contentious issue in the community. Of the 1290 submissions to Rous, 91%
were opposed to the dam.

Rous' disregard of previous findings, that the damage to rare and
endangered plant and animal species would rule it out, is mystifying. The
2011 CHIA report stated that 'no level of disturbance' of the Aboriginal
Cultural sites would be acceptable to the local Indigenous people. This
seems to have disappeared in this latest proposal. These sites would be
destroyed by this dam.
*   2011 Terrestrial Ecology Impact Assessment statement prepared by
Rous County Council (substandard report due insufficient onground
survey, reliant mostly on desk work), due to this, 53 plant species were
not mentioned in report. Nevertheless, the assessment does establish
that there would be impacts that cannot be mitigated:
*   Loss of Lowland Rainforest Endangered Ecological Community
*   Loss of threatened flora species
*   Loss of fauna habitats
*   Severance of local wildlife corridors
According to the TEIA, 9 threatened flora species would be affected.
These forests and aquatic habitats are home to mammals, birds, reptiles
and invertebrates which have nowhere else to go. Adjacent areas are mostly
farmland. The dam would destroy/fragment a major part of koala habitat of
The Channon. In addition, Koala corridors have been planted by local
farmers over the past twenty years, to link the Gorge to other pockets of
koala trees…these would be destroyed. 71% of the North Coast's koalas were
lost
in the 2019-20 bushfires… NO MORE! …Offsets cannot replace the
complexities of natural habitat and would take 40 years to establish. More
fires will come…Therefore, we cannot wilfully and unnecessarily destroy
more habitat.

Patypus are found in Rocky Creek in and around the dam inundation area.
They are adapted to stream habitats and do not do well in large lake/dam
situations. They are about to be listed as threatened, and there habitat
has been reduced by 22% over the last 30 years. We cannot be responsible
for putting them under more habitat stress.
In the Dunoon Dam Ecological Assessment (Nov. 2012): 'It was
suggested that reduced flows and reduced flushing flows
could lead to a reduction in platypus numbers". In this
same study, there are 6 threatened amphibian species
likely to be affected , as well, 3 listed fish species.

TEIA (Threatening Processes) states 'The dam will alter the natural flow of Rocky Creek both upstream and downstream of the proposed wall. The resultant impact is considered to be long-term and irreversible.(p117).

*To have a resilient water supply, 30-50% must come from rainfall-independent sources e.g. reuse, renewable energy powered desalination and water system leakage reduction/eradication. Ground water extraction is also an option IF implemented with aquifer recharge with recycled water. We cannot just continue with extractive practices. We have to include replenishment into all use of water resources.

There are many other issues that I could address but for the sake of brevity I will end here. The gravity of the above issues should be enough to cause a rethink of WATER STRATEGY in the Northern Rivers. The dam is not
necessary and so destructive of what little forest habitat we have left. With Global Warming breathing down our necks, we need to retain the remnants of
our forests, with all their biological diversity and expand them where we can.

Yours sincerely