

SUBMISSION RE PROPOSAL TO DAM THE ROUS RIVER, TWEED VALLEY

- The proposal to dam the Rous River in the Tweed Valley has received inadequate publicity and a number of interested people have only very recently become aware of the proposal.
- There has been too little time for detailed submissions to be prepared.
- The Tweed Valley is one of the major biological hotspots of the east coast of Australia and in particular one of the top most important refugial areas for rainforest on the continent. The combination of geological diversity and high rainfall result in the area having the most species rich rainforest ecosystems in NSW.
- A number of species that are listed as endangered or vulnerable under the Commonwealth EPBC Act and/or the NSW TSC Act are known to occur in the affected area. Significant areas of habitat in the affected area have as yet to be surveyed. These known threatened species include plants such as *Diospyros mabacea*, *Diploglottis campbellii*, *Macadamia tetraphylla*, *Syzygium moorei* and *Syzygium hodgkinsoniae*, and animals such as the Wompoo Fruit-dove, Rose-crowned Fruit-dove, Marbled Frogmouth, Albert's Lyrebird, White-eared Monarch, Koala and a number of bat species.
- At least two plant communities listed as Endangered Ecological Communities under the NSW TSC Act will be affected – Lowland rainforest on floodplain and Lowland Rainforest.
- Parts of Mt Warning National Park and Wollumbin National Park will be flooded.
- Mt Warning and its surround is an area of outstanding importance to Aboriginal people. It is very likely that the proposal will have a negative effect on Aboriginal sites.
- The effects of this proposal on landholders and residents of the affected area, including the village of Tyalgum will be catastrophic.

John Hunter, ecologist, former resident of the Tweed Valley.