

To: The Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to voice my strong objection to the proposed Rocky Cutting dam, west of Murwillumbah in northern NSW.

That the Government has sat on its hands regarding the environment for the past 11 years, clearly demonstrates to us all that its sudden appearance as being environmentally responsible, due to public concerns, is pathetically shallow.

Flooding prime agricultural land which is in the middle of seven national parks, in order to fill the spa baths of the Gold Coast is nothing short of gross neglect and again shows the Government's extreme short-sightedness.

I also question why, over the past few years, the Government has allowed a property boom to occur in the Tyalgum area, thus filling the pockets of real estate agents and taxes to government bodies. If this was not the case, then obviously the Government has made this Rocky Cutting decision "on the run".

In fact, it would appear that the Government is simply resurrecting an old idea, since a similar dam at this location was rejected in 1972. The reasons were that the costs of property resumptions and road and infrastructure replacement would prove astronomical. Just what these costs would be in 2010, one might only imagine!

Recently, I had a letter printed in the Tweed's *Daily News*, concerning the Tallebudgera Dam in the Gold Coast's hinterland. In 2005 the Gold Coast Council debated on what to do with it. One suggestion was to remove it! My argument was to improve on it and perhaps construct another on the Currumbin Creek.

Having said that, I do not think dams are the right direction in this day and age. Subsidies on the installation of water tanks is of *urgent* importance. There was a time, before people became dazzled by 5-star luxury living, when most country residents had a water tank. It was quintessentially Australian! The cost of subsidising water tanks would surely be far cheaper than what the Government would need to fork out on land resumptions. Especially with today's land values!

Considering the tourism dollar and the natural heritage value of this area, it would be, in my opinion, an international embarrassment if it were to be destroyed; in favour of unsustainable lifestyles which has resulted in over-development due to poor planning of past and present Gold Coast councils.

Yours Sincerely,
Peter Conde
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