Letter to the editor

I’ve noticed some signs by the roadside and advertisements saying “85% said Yes to the dam”

I assume this is in reference to a recent petition to Rous about their revised the Future Water Strategy

What the members of Our Future Northern Rivers are calling for is for government by petition, and that is not democracy. That’s not how we do things. The Rous councillors made their decision based on the understanding of the issues involved. In contrast, I am wondering if significant proportion of the people who signed the pro-dam petition were not as informed. So, while entitled to have opinions about the region’s future water strategy were not qualified to make decisions on behalf of the community.

How many signatories were aware of that the Widjabul Wia-bal Elders have consistently opposed the dam because it would flood heritage sites? That the dam would destroy rare rainforest and the habitat of koalas, platypus and other endanger species? That water experts have warned that dams will not protect us from drought because they depend on rainfall? How many were aware of how much water we could save through efficiency measures such as fixing the leaks and focusing our attention and funding a better balance between supply and demand?

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