



Wheezer  
the lungfish  
says, "Save the  
Mary River!"

# Dam the Mary River? Save the Mary River!

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### Save the Mary River Coordinating Group

Support and Information Centre, Kandanga Railway, Ph: 5488 4800  
<http://www.savethemaryriver.com/> [savethemaryriver@gmail.com](mailto:savethemaryriver@gmail.com)

## Come clean with dam costs, Mr Beattie

CAMPAIGNER Alan Sheridan has challenged Premier Peter Beattie to come clean with the real cost of the proposed Traveston Crossing Dam on the Mary River.

The Save the Mary River Coordinating Group spokesman claims the cost will be well over \$2 billion, and has advised Mr Beattie to "do the sums himself" after the Premier claimed there was no blow-out in costings for the Mary River dam.

Mr Sheridan has questioned recent statements made by the Premier regarding cost bow-outs for the proposed dam.

In a report in the Sunshine Coast Daily on August 26, the Premier said that nothing had changed from the original estimate and that claims of a five-fold blow out in costs were not true.

Mr Sheridan advised the Premier to "review his Government's own reports and to do the sums for himself".

The State Government's own engineering report titled "SEQ Desk Top Review on Identified Dam and Weir Sites" dated June 2006, page 685 lists the proposed Traveston Crossing Dam with a yield of 215,340 megalitres per annum at a cost of \$1.0111bn – giving a capital cost per megalitre of yield of \$4695 (\$1.0111bn divided by 215,340).

In the absence of any other information, the Save the Mary group presumes that this was the report on which the Government based its decision to proceed with the Traveston Crossing Dam, Mr Sheridan said.

The Government has also publicly stated that cost effectiveness was one of the considerations in selecting the Traveston Crossing site.

Less than two months on, the official Government cost estimate is \$1.7bn with a yield of 70,000 megalitres. As a result, the capital cost per megalitre of yield is now \$24,286 (\$1.7bn divided by 70,000), making the Traveston Crossing Dam by far the most expensive of any dam option considered.

"That is a five-fold increase in the cost per megalitre of yield (\$24,286 divided by \$4695)," Mr Sheridan said.

He has challenged to the Premier to reveal the real cost of the proposed dam, which he claims will be far in excess of \$2bn because:

- the cost of acquiring at least 1,000 properties alone will be \$1bn,

- the dam wall has gone from 800 metres to a massive 1.3 km, approximately 30 metres tall and another 30 metres below the ground,
- there are three significant dams to constrain the water behind the main wall,
- a 120km pipeline to Brisbane plus pumping equipment,
- relocation of major roads, power and telecommunications infrastructure and,
- to avoid flooding the historic Queensland pioneer towns of Kandanga and Imbil, the Government is proposing to construct bunds and levies which are highly questionable solutions to the increased risk of flooding in these communities.

Mr Sheridan added that “if the Premier can produce proper costings for Traveston Crossing Dam that prove otherwise, then he should come forward with them now”.

“There are better and more cost effective options for securing water supplies in SEQ. Destroying river systems is not the answer,” he said.

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**Media contacts:**    **Kaili Parker-Price (07) 5484 5338**    **Mob 0419 672947**  
                                 **Alan Sheridan (07) 5449 5222**                    **Mob 0419 741618**