



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

# Dam the Mary River? Save the Mary River!

## MEDIA RELEASE

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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)

## Expert says Dam Will Not Hold Water

Associate Professor of Geomechanics at the University of Queensland, Professor David Williams has said that it is doubtful that the proposed mega dam on the Mary River will hold a fraction of its intended capacity.

He has said that that with evaporation, seepage, sedimentation, leakage and spare capacity for flood mitigation as promised by the Government, there will not be enough left over for the annual water yield that the Government hopes to take out for Brisbane consumers.

"If you do your sums, the average depth of the lake is only 8.6 metres. On Met Bureau figures, evaporation in that area would take about 1.42 metres off that depth. Depending on the sort of foundation they find, you would expect about 0.3m to 3m to leak out the base. Add the two together and you get a loss of up to half the storage in the dam each year".

"They want to take out about 150,000 ML or about one quarter of the storage. Add the long term effect of sediment build up in the dam and it may not be even able to supply the allocation they want to take out of it, let alone leaving anything for other water users in the region".

Save the Mary Coordinating Group Secretary Alan Sheridan said that "the Government can no longer ignore the advice which is coming forward from all sectors of the community, from experts and from people with standing and credibility"

Mr Beattie said on an interview with the ABC on 30 May 2006 "You've got to build it in an area where it's the best catchment. Now, that's where the rains going to fall, that's where the dam has to be".

Wrong, Mr Beattie! If you are going to build dams, you have to build them where they are going to work and where it is socially, economically and environmentally responsible to do so. Obviously none of this matters to the Premier. Damming a river mid stream on an alluvial flood plain just does not make sense – it is a political solution. Let the experts solve the problem Mr Beattie, not the politicians.

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For further information, contact : Alan Sheridan – 5449 5222