



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

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## Mary River dries up under Beattie proposal

GYMPIE could sit on the banks of an empty river if the Mary River dam at Traveston Crossing is allowed to proceed.

The dam would severely inhibit downstream flows to the Gold City and the communities between it and the coast, and may yield significantly less than the targeted 140,000 mega litres per year.

The Save the Mary River Coordinating Group is throwing the Queensland Government's own documentation at Premier Peter Beattie in an absence of any real facts from his office in the six weeks' since his brash announcement to dam the river.

The group's research team has produced a series of two technical notes based on the government's own modelling reports and the Draft Water Resource Plan for the Mary Basin published in November 2005 by the Department of Natural Resources, Water and Mines.

The dramatic summary quashes the government's claims that the Traveston Crossing dam will provide a significant and sustainable supply of water for South-East Queensland.

A spokesman said that claim was "fatally flawed" because the Mary River typically has extremely low flow rates. Long term average flows being quoted are heavily influenced by extreme historical flood events like the 1893, 1974 and 1999 floods.

"The median flow just downstream of the proposed dam is 103,000MI per year, significantly less than the 140,000MI the government would like," the spokesman said.

The Draft Water Resource Plan for the Mary Basin acknowledges the huge effect the dam would have on downstream flows and the draft legislation allows for reducing the flow to less than 1MI per day for 18 per cent of the time.

The technical notes state that the legislation also allows for "stopping all flow in the river for continuous periods of up to six months in the vicinity of the City of Gympie."

The data predicts that for half the time, flow volumes at Fisherman's Pocket downstream from Gympie could be reduced to less than 57 per cent of the natural flows in the Mary River, not the 85 per cent being reported by the Premier's office.

The target water yield of 140,000MI would only be available 41 per cent of the time, the data notes state, referring to historical flows from Dagon Pocket.

As well, evaporation, seepage, sedimentation and climate change will all have additional dramatic effects on the performance of the dam and the communities downstream.

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