



The Dambusters

Newsletter of the Save the Mary River Coordinating Group Inc.
October - November 2009

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Federal Environment Minister Peter Garrett is making a decision on the fate of the Mary right now. Check out this Dambusters to get involved in helping him make the right decision.

RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP YET? If not, you can download the form at www.savethemaryriver.com or visit the Save the Mary Info Centre in Kandanga. Full, Associate and Junior memberships are available.

From the President

"Leave the Mary Mighty" a song by Ian Quinn says it all.

The good news is that Minister Garrett has announced that the Paradise Dam approval conditions will not be varied and the Paradise Court case resumes on the 9th November for 3 weeks to the 27th November. However we are still hearing from Minister Garrett that a decision on the Traveston Crossing Dam will be out before the 18th November which is concerning.

As we head into another important week in the assessment process, I'd just like to summarise briefly about our recent visit to Canberra. The annual conference for the Environmental Institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ) titled "Policy to Practice" was attended on the first two days where Steve Burgess and I presented a talk on "Environmental Assessment of the proposed Traveston Crossing Dam" to environmental practitioners interested in which environmental policies work and why. While down there STMRCG committee members took the opportunity to meet with some

politicians and their advisors from all political sides.

We were there to update on where the assessment process is at, to reinforce that we are urging Minister Garrett to just say no to the Traveston Crossing Dam proposal and unless the Minister decides to not approve the proposed Traveston Crossing Dam, any approval or conditional approval before the outcome of the Federal Court on the Paradise Dam court case is known, would be seen as totally irresponsible and a reflection of taking a narrow approach to the assessment of potential direct and indirect impacts of the project on Matters of National Environmental Significance.

Further to this we are urging the Minister to grant a 10 day public submission period as part of the EPBC Act assessment process. Some key reasons why we request this is that we have found the Coordinator General's assessment report contains a large amount of new information, obvious errors and omissions that needs to be reviewed. A full copy of the letter sent to Minister

Garrett and our summary notes are available on our website.

To help share information with others about the state Coordinator General's report, if you have written a full submission, you can also email it to Tanzi at run.mary.run@gmail.com and it will be put on the website. Also go to the [forum](#) to make a contribution or read other contributions.

As always a big thank-you to all our Volunteers and Supporters especially our events coordinator, Adrienne McVerry who has pulled together some fun events to celebrate our community resilience.

Let the committee know if you have an idea or can help at any time. For those not sure how to become involved in the Save the Mary campaign, we encourage membership either full or associate to be more informed. Committee meetings are being held weekly at this critical stage on Thursdays 7pm at the Save the Mary Info centre and members are welcome.

Glenda Pickersgill



The Silver Bullet fundraiser was a sparkling success, thanks to Adrienne McVerry and her team.



Mary in the Media Queensland drought halts Mary River flow

[www.news.com.au/couriermail/
story/0,23739,26216137-952,00.html](http://www.news.com.au/couriermail/story/0,23739,26216137-952,00.html)

PM to 'appear' at Trave- ston protest

[www.brisbanetimes.com.au/
queensland/pm-to-appear-at-
traveston-protest-20091017-h1ya.html](http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/queensland/pm-to-appear-at-traveston-protest-20091017-h1ya.html)

Bligh urged to 'walk away' from Traveston dam

[www.abc.net.au/news/
stories/2009/10/07/2706842.htm?
section=australia](http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/10/07/2706842.htm?section=australia)

Traveston Dam stage two plans doomed

[www.news.com.au/couriermail/
story/0,20797,26174926-
3102,00.html?from=public_rss](http://www.news.com.au/couriermail/story/0,20797,26174926-3102,00.html?from=public_rss)

Bob Abbot guns for Peter Garrett

[www.sunshinecoastdaily.com.au/
story/2009/10/14/bob-guns-for-
garrett/](http://www.sunshinecoastdaily.com.au/story/2009/10/14/bob-guns-for-garrett/)

Coordinator General recognises 1200 serious problems with Traveston dam

The release of the Queensland Coordinator General's evaluation report for the proposed Traveston Crossing dam raises more questions than it provides answers.

Save the Mary River Coordinating Group secretary David Kreutz said "The Coordinator General bases his report on the assumption that the Traveston Crossing dam is a key component of the Queensland Government's strategy to provide secure water supplies for South East Queensland. This is a myth."

"It would be a dogger of a dam in a drought," explained Darryl Stewart president of the Greater Mary Association.

"We've repeatedly made the point that it would fail in less than 18 months of dry conditions. The Government has never been able to refute this. You'd be crazy to call this water security."

The report outlined 1200 conditions of ap-

proval which Mr Kreutz labeled as unproven and uncharted. "The 1200 conditions imposed by the Coordinator General means there are 1200 serious problems with this project."

The release of this report takes the controversial project on to the next stage with Federal Environment Minister Peter Garrett finally being in a position to formally take responsibility for the future of the Mary River and Great Sandy Strait.

Mr Kreutz said "We demand that Peter Garrett calls for independent public scrutiny of the 1200 conditions and volumes of associated technical documentation that have not previously been made public."

"There is widespread unwavering opposition to this proposal. We will continue to harness greater public and scientific support in our fight against this extremely wasteful project."

Ecologist Says "Be aware"

Sunshine Coast-based ecologist Dr Lyndon DeVantier has taken the unusual step of sending to the Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and other key federal ministers, copies of an essay he authored in response to the Traveston Crossing Dam proposal. Dr DeVantier provided more formal submissions to both the federal Senate Enquiry and the Traveston EIS and was invited to personally give evidence in the Senate Enquiry.

He said that as he penned Peter Garrett a detailed, formal letter in response to the Coordinator General's recent report, "I was moved by some of the absurdities in the document, and realized that these needed to be pointed out to other politicians".

While Dr DeVantier's area of specialisation is in reef-building corals, he has experience with threatened species and also reviewed riverine ecology as part of the United Nations Environment

Program-sponsored Global International waters Assessment. He has carefully followed the Mary River dam proposal through its many stages.

"Being realistic, it's not just Peter Garrett who'll make this decision," he said. "There's a team of federal assessors who'll advise him but there'll also be consultation with key federal ministers, most notably Kevin Rudd."

"These people can't possibly read all the documentation that's been provided with this proposal," Dr DeVantier said. "What I've tried to do is draw out just some of the reasons why approving it would be a bad idea with irreversible consequences for the Mary River, and present them in less technical language."

"I also want to make it plain that this isn't the only option the Queensland government has to ensure water security; indeed it is a poor option in times of drought which is exactly when water security becomes critical. We saw this a few years back when dams all

around the nation were at perilously low levels. And with many of the key proposed mitigation strategies still 'on the drawing board', this process sets an alarming precedent in seeking to receive approval before the relevant details are provided."

So far a Queensland Government company has acted as the proponent (Queensland Water Infrastructure Pty Ltd) while the project's assessor (Coordinator General) is also part of the same government. This current 30 day review by Peter Garrett's federal department is the only real opportunity for independent assessment since the project was first proposed back in 2006. Were Peter Garrett and Kevin Rudd to grant approval, all the subsequent work, like coming up with viable fish and turtle passages, would again be assessed by the Queensland Coordinator General."

"To me there is a fundamental lack of independence and clear potential for conflict of interest in that arrangement."

"I just hope the federal ministers fully realize what they are being asked to approve. Whereas dams around the world are known to have serious adverse impacts, the Queensland government has gone to the extraordinary length of claiming that key threatened species like the Lungfish and the Mary River Turtle could be lost unless the dam is built."

"That's one of the absurdities my essay seeks to highlight," Dr DeVantier said "I urge Peter Garrett and Kevin Rudd not to be wooed by the voluminous reports but to live up to their responsibilities in environmental protection. I urge them to counsel the Queensland government to take the path of any one of a number of alternatives that would actually provide a cheaper and, in uncertain times of climate change, a more secure water supply."

Read Lyndon's essay online at [www.savethemaryriver.com/drpl/
sites/default/files/LDeVantier.pdf](http://www.savethemaryriver.com/drpl/sites/default/files/LDeVantier.pdf)

- Joint Media Release, 14 October, 2009

RESULTS OF ANALYSIS OF CG REPORT SO FAR

The points below are focussed on matters related to Minister Garrett's decision under the EPBC. Other state matters are also concerning - Garrett isn't required to take these into account, but they strike at the credibility of the process.

State issues:

- ◆ Traveston not intended to provide any water for local or regional use. This is despite promises of 10,000 ML in previous documentation and contribution to water security of Wide Bay being used as a justification of the dam in some forums.
- ◆ Making bigger land grab sooner - they are requiring additional land for their proposed mitigation measures. This could occur anywhere in the catchment, though they have already identified some areas for wildlife corridors around the dam footprint. Areas in the vicinity of Tiaro/Gunalda/Gundiah could be considered as part of this scheme if they have potential turtle nesting banks. There is a clause in the Nature Conservation Act which has never been used that allows compulsory acquisition of land for conservation purposes. We should be alert to the possibility they may look to use this though they have said they will negotiate.

Federal issues:

- ◆ Fishway has not been shown to be effective for lungfish
- ◆ Science behind "flow protection indicators" is flawed as is the claim they will improve the health of the river
- ◆ Riparian linkages (proposed tree plantings) around the dam won't work as claimed
- ◆ Still suggesting no impact at estuary - but have done no new work except for modelling of dam and creation of "flow protection indicators" mentioned above. This work suggests flows will actually increase during dry times. The flaws in the basic data mean these claims aren't credible
- ◆ Use long term undeliverable monitoring as mitigation (rather than concrete proven measures)
- ◆ Did not use federal guidelines to assess impact on estuary. These were the guidelines we had been asking them to use
- ◆ Prediction of flow at estuary has not been checked with actual flow
- ◆ No mechanism for mitigation for multiple species (ie they have looked at one species in particular areas eg giant barred frog habitat without considering impact proposed changes might have on other species)
- ◆ Site fidelity (ie individuals return to same sites) not considered in mitigation strategies, despite the fact that mitigation strategies involved relocating habitat eg turtle nesting banks, mary river cod holes
- ◆ Imbil Weir trial for fishway (Imbil weir is only 1.7m high and has a natural fishway around it called the anabranch),
- ◆ **Flooding of "mitigation" rehabilitation for dam will occur** - significant population crash could result in endangered species
- ◆ Climate change impacts not addressed adequately - decrease of 44% streamflow possible
- ◆ No mention of methyl mercury impact on the environment due to low oxygen - raises issues associated with ecosystem health, drinking water quality & bioaccumulation in species incl dolphins & recreational fish quality
- ◆ Nothing about environmental impact of treatment plant
- ◆ Completely deny aquatic weed problem eg they say that if cabomba got into the dam it wouldn't be problem (it is not yet in the Mary River, but is a huge problem in the coastal catchments at present eg Noosa)
- ◆ No MOU with BMRG, no agreement with Tiaro Landcare - blatantly false statements
- ◆ Continue to use average flow to suggest no downstream impacts eg 74% flow from downstream BUT runoff downstream is 20 times less and worse with climate change
- ◆ Concerns with sampling cod & lungfish by electrofishing
- ◆ No demand for water - **the government's own figures** in the draft water supply strategy for SEQ shows there is no short term shortage of water. Future population growth can be adequately supplied by a number of alternatives including urban water sensitive design, retro fitting existing houses with efficient devices, raising Wivenhoe dam wall and in a bad drought, bring forward plans for desalination plants with renewable energy that are already in place by the government. the proposal isn't needed

Premier gambles billions on SEQ's water security

In what amounts to an admission that Traveston Crossing dam is not essential for SEQ's water security, Anna Bligh told reporters that without a successful fishway for lungfish, Traveston Crossing dam would not go ahead.

"The Paradise Court case has clearly shown that fishways that allow lungfish passage are the stuff of dreams. How many more years of research will be done before they admit they are flogging a dead horse?" said secretary of the Save the Mary River Coordinating Group, David Kreutz. "The Queensland Government has no fishway concept designs, no prototypes, no trials, nothing! They will fail, just as they did at Paradise"

"The \$24 million fishway built for Paradise Dam has been a complete failure, with only 3 juvenile lungfish using the fishway in 3 years of operation," said Roger Currie from Wide Bay Burnett Conservation Council. "Paradise

fishway had been touted as the blueprint for Traveston but now all mention of this failed technology has been conveniently removed from documents as if Paradise is a bad dream."

"While the Premier dreams of lungfish ladders, the bills keep mounting on this unviable Traveston proposal. Time keeps slipping by and South East Queensland's water security is put at risk by cost-blowouts and the inexcusable delay in pursuing alternatives," said Mr Kreutz.

"It is all time and money that should be used install reliable and non rainfall dependent alternatives rather than an extraordinarily expensive and inefficient dam that would be empty in a drought. Both the Premier and Minister Hinchcliffe have been trying to convince South East Queensland that Traveston was essential for water security. Now the

Premier is saying we have to wait and see if we can get the fishway to work! "You can't have it both ways," said Darryl Stewart, president of the Greater Mary Association.

"Are they asking for 10 years, like the Solicitor General has just asked for on the Paradise Dam? Does this admission by the Premier mean that she has finally digested the fact that, despite all the spin, Traveston will not provide water security?" asked Mr Stewart.

"The fact is Traveston has never stacked up economically as a secure water supply. SEQs water security can and should be ensured by other means which don't require years of research into dead-end ideas and waste billions of taxpayers' dollars. Don't risk SEQ's water security Premier. Call off Traveston before another cent is wasted," concluded Mr Kreutz.

- Joint Media Release, 8 October, 2009

Decision may be only days away: 5 things to do right now

The clock is ticking on influencing the Federal decision on the proposed Travesty dam. This stage of the campaign is absolutely critical.

1. Letters

Write your own personal letter to the key decision makers and tell them how you feel about the proposal. Some key points you could mention are:

- ◆ This proposal cannot be mitigated and should be rejected outright now.
- ◆ 1200 conditions show the damage the project would do - the conditions are unrealistic, unenforceable and unachievable
- ◆ There are better alternatives. For example, the Queensland Water Commission has already costed a 2m raising of Wivenhoe. This would cost 60 times less for each litre stored compared to Traveston. It would also give 50% more storage.
- ◆ The Fishway can't be proven to work and the Paradise Case will show that. The Minister must take the Paradise Case outcomes into account. Anna Bligh has already said that the dam wouldn't proceed without a working fishway. The Govt is wasting their time on a dead-end idea when they could pursue better alternatives
- ◆ Any issue that particularly concerns you...see page 3 for some of the issues in the Coordinator General's report

2. Instant Activism

Use the letter generator at the Stop-Press website for instant activism. There are brand new letters written for you—go to www.stoppress.com.au.

3. Read

Many eyes will find more flaws - share what you have learned about the Coordinator General's report and the supporting documentation Add your submissions to the forum. Don't assume someone else has picked up the points you've noticed. Put it out there for others to read as well.

The best way to do that is join the forum and add it yourself. If you have written a full submission, you can also email it to Tanzi at run.mary.run@gmail.com and it will be put on the website. Go to traveston-swamp.info/forum/viewforum.php?f=43 to make a contribution or read other contributions.

If you haven't got it already, the Coordinator General's report is at: www.dip.qld.gov.au/resources/project/traveston/traveston-crossing-dam-synopsis-full-report.pdf

4. Contribute

Keep informed and contribute to online comment on the Courier Mail etc. As you have probably seen, there has been a lot of media coverage of Minister Garrett's impending decision regarding the proposed Traveston Crossing dam and also aspects of the Coordinator



General's report - particularly the number of conditions (1200!) and the way alternatives have not been given due consideration. All the media releases are available on the Save the Mary forum.

5. Share

Share Dambusters with everyone in your email address book, print out letters for people without email and urge them to act... Please! Everyone in Australia has a stake in this decision. It is bigger than the Mary Valley, bigger than the lungfish, bigger than Hervey Bay fishing. The state of our democracy, the power of our legislation to operate beyond the reach of politics and the capacity of checks and balances in our governments to deliver good outcomes for the general public are all at stake. If we don't speak up who will? Governments don't change without pressure. It's up to us as a community to put the pressure on!

Your Address Book for Saving the Mary

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd
PO Box 476, Morningside, QLD 4170
Email: Kevin.Rudd@PM.gov.au
Fax: 07 3899 5755

Treasurer Wayne Swan
PO Box 182, Nundah, QLD 4012
Email: Wayne.Swan.MP@aph.gov.au
Fax: 07 3266 4263

Environment Minister Peter Garrett
PO Box 249, Maroubra NSW 2035
Email: Peter.Garrett.MP@aph.gov.au
Fax: 02 6273 6101
Online form:

www.aph.gov.au/house/members/memfeedback.asp?id=HV4

Finance Minister Lindsay Tanner
280 King St, Melbourne VIC 3000
Email: Lindsay.Tanner.MP@aph.gov.au
Fax: 03 9602 1122

Climate Change Minister Penny Wong
PO Box 6237, Halifax St, Adelaide, SA 5000
Email: Penny.Wong.MP@aph.gov.au
Fax: 08 8223 5588

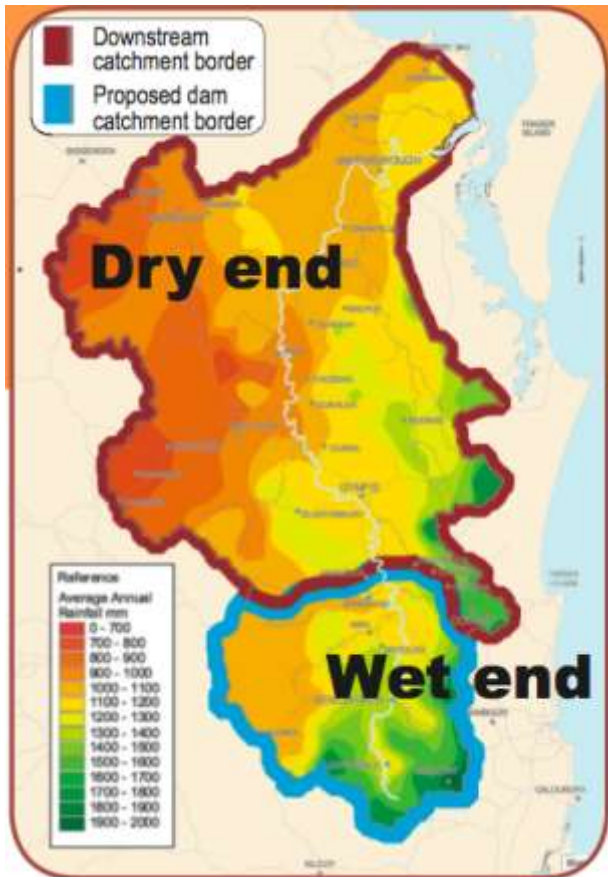
Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Minister Tony Burke

PO Box 324, Kingsgrove NSW 1480
Email: Tony.Burke.MP@aph.gov.au
Fax: 02 9554 3504

Resources, Energy and Tourism Minister Martin Ferguson
159 High Street, Preston VIC 3072
Email: Martin.Ferguson.MP@aph.gov.au
Fax: 03 9416 7810

Infrastructure Minister Anthony Albanese
334A Marrickville Rd, Marrickville NSW 2204
Email: A.Albanese.MP@aph.gov.au
Fax: 02 9564 1734

Understanding River Flows



This map shows average annual rainfall showing the dry end and wet end of the Mary River catchment.

Note how the vast majority of the downstream catchment receives less than 1000mm of rainfall annually. When translating this rainfall pattern into river flow, it is important to keep in mind that generally, when it rains, the drier a catchment is, the less water will runoff and contribute to river flow.

This is in part due to the fact that dry soil absorbs more water than wet soil and so rain falling on dry soil produced less runoff into streams and rivers. Lower runoff relative to the amount of rainfall, evaporation and extraction from the river are the reasons why the lower catchment contributes so much less water to the river than the upstream catchment.

It is also one reason why the proposed Traveston Crossing dam would have such a significant impact on the lower Mary Catchment and the Great Sandy Strait.

For Instant Activism go to www.stoppress.com.au

Mary River Stops Flowing

Recently, the Mary River has stopped flowing to the sea, raising concerns from campaigners regarding what the future holds for the lower Mary catchment and Great Sandy Strait if the proposed Traveston Crossing dam were approved by the Federal Government.

“No water is flowing over the tidal barrage on the Mary River to connect the Mary to the sea,” said Darryl Stewart, Chairman of the Greater Mary Association. And what is more, Brisbane has not received a drop of water from the Mary yet. When there is no flow over the barrage this means no fresh water to nurture the estuary and its fishery or the Marine Park of the Great Sandy Strait and its internationally vital Ramsar wetlands for migratory shorebirds. The longer the flow stops, the more effect it has on water quality in the estuary. This means steadily deteriorating conditions for estuarine creatures.”

In most years, whether in drought or not, the flow in the Mary falls markedly in the so called “JASON” months from July to November which are the driest months of the year. It then requires substantial rainfall, most of which falls in the upper reaches of the catchment, to provide sufficient run off to regenerate flow down the length of the river.

“The fact that 78% of the Mary catchment happens to lie below the proposed dam is irrelevant rubbish and is one example of the desperate depths that the Queensland Government has reached in trying to justify this unjustifiable dam,” said Mr. Stewart.

“Would someone please advise the Premier and her lame duck cabinet that even Queensland fifth graders know that it is rainfall that drives river flow. The part of the catchment downstream of the proposed dam site might be bigger but it is drier. For example between 1996 and 2005 the part of the catchment around Tiaro produced only 10mm of runoff into the river each year. That is twenty times less

than the amount contributed upstream of the proposed dam. Clearly, we need the flows from upstream where more rain falls to provide flows downstream. If we can get that message through to the Premier this week, we might try another simple learning message next week. Watch this space.”

“The situation where we see no flow going to the estuary occurs under the guidance of the Mary Basin Water Resource Plan,” explained Tanzi Smith, Research Coordinator from the Greater Mary Association.

“This is the same regulation that will be operating if the proposed dam goes ahead. This is the same regulation which mysteriously and without scientific justification identified 150,000 ML of water in the Mary Catchment that is available for use. This is the same regulation which is used as a justification or the proposed dam.”

“The Queensland Coordinator General continues to rely on this flawed regulation. He seems to be saying “trust me, it’ll be all right,” suggested Ms Smith.

“But we know that the very foundation of the Coordinator General’s claims is full of yawning holes! If the proposed dam goes ahead, nothing is going to improve. Irrigators entitlements won’t improve, the health of the river and the estuary won’t improve. It will only get worse. It is Peter Garrett and Kevin Rudd, our Prime Minister from Queensland, who now have the power to stop this unnecessary dam,” concluded Ms Smith.

The Greater Mary Association is calling on the general public to talk to their local member and write to both Peter Garrett and Kevin Rudd to express opposition to the proposed dam. The public is asked to urge Rudd and Garrett to “Just say No” and to assist the Queensland Government to pursue cheaper and more reliable alternatives.

- GMA Media Release, 15 October 2009

Drought proofing SEQ the cheapest alternative

A coalition of concerned groups issues a direct challenge to Minister Hinchcliffe regarding his claims that the proposed Traveston Crossing dam is the most cost effective option for South East Queensland's water security, "SEQ can be climate proofed, for a mere \$10M", said Narelle McCarthy, Sunshine Coast Environment Council manager.

"We challenge Mr Hinchcliffe to explain why he is pursuing a multibillion dollar option when the Government's own Queensland Water Commission has identified a vastly cheaper option that provides much more water."

The option proposed was outlined in a QWC report titled *Provision of Contingency Storage in Wivenhoe and Somerset Dams 2007* and involves raising the height of Wivenhoe dam 2m, a measure that would also contribute to the safety of the dam. The report

states that this option "provides a significant increase in storage, 228,000ML, for a relatively small capital cost (i.e. compared to a greenfield site) and could be achieved relatively simply."

"By pursuing Traveston instead of raising Wivenhoe, Hinchcliffe is asking Queenslanders to pay forty times more to get, at best, one third the water! He's asking us to fork out for a Rolls Royce and in return he's going to give us a BMX with flat tyres," explained Dave Kreutz from the Save the Mary River Coordinating Group.

Roger Currie from WBBCC said, "End of system flows into the Moreton Ramsar could be ensured using water produced by the western corridor recycled scheme, which is surplus to power generation requirements, at the Bundamba Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant. The plant is having maintenance problems from lack of

use. The use of this water would compensate for any reduction in flows from the extra storage in Wivenhoe, and improve water quality in the dry times. This is a win/win situation for Bligh government.

Tanzi Smith from Greater Mary Association said "This enables the fisheries, tourism and ecosystems services of the Moreton Ramsar, to be protected, as the recycled water acts as an alternative environmental flow to Moreton Bay. It also allows the Premier to 'walk the talk' of being green, rather than pretend that there are 1200 reasons to build Traveston Dam".

The cost savings of \$2.5B, from not having to build Traveston Dam would put the Qld budget back into surplus, Traveston Dam is not the cheapest and most secure way to provide water for the future growth of the SEQ region, said Glenda Pickersgill from STMRG.

- Joint Press Release, 15 October 2009

Lungfish day in court welcomed

We welcome the announcement by Federal Environment Minister Peter Garrett that he will not alter the federal conditions imposed on the Paradise Dam. Glenda Pickersgill said, "We commend Minister Garrett on this decision. He has followed the prudent pathway of allowing the Federal Court to test the material regarding the performance of the fishway at Paradise Dam."

"The position of the Queensland Government on the success of the Paradise fishway has been nothing short of a debacle. "Initially labelled as "state of the art", the fishway was widely acclaimed as so successful that it would be used as a model for the proposed Traveston Crossing Dam. It has turned out to be a \$24 million failure that has only been able to transport three juvenile lungfish over the wall in three years. When questioned by the media in 2007 about this same fishway, former Premier Peter Beattie said that as far

as he was concerned it was working effectively," explained Mr Kreutz.

"But last week, Premier Anna Bligh admitted a successful fishway was a major stumbling block for her plan to dam the Mary River. They don't even have a design for this fishway. This 'trust us, just give us the approval and we'll sort out the details later' request is an incredibly cavalier way to approach environmental protection, After what they've done on Paradise, why would the public trust them. The fishway is one of the key mitigation measures. The community deserves to have the Paradise court case heard and all the information in front of the Minister before he makes a decision on the proposed Traveston Crossing dam," concluded Ms Pickersgill.

The court case is set to resume in the Federal Court in Brisbane on November 9.

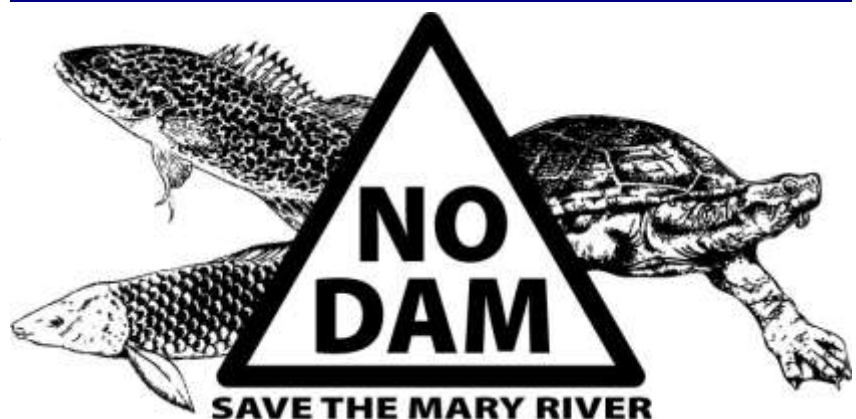
Ride on Mary
Imbil
Kayak & Bike Hire
0400 297 678

- Pick up & drop off • Safety equipment • Route maps
- If you have your own kayak or bike we can pick you up and drop you off where you like!

Email: imbilkayakandbike@hotmail.com Website: imbilkayakandbike.com

Ride On Mary, Leave No Tracks! CALL 0400 297 678

The Paradise Dam court case is happening right now. To make a donation towards legal expenses, and be involved in a landmark environmental case, go to <http://wbbcc.wordpress.com/donate/>. Donations are tax deductible.



Premier's "Green light" announcement a "shot in the arm" for dam opposition

The Premier's misleading "State grants green light to Traveston" announcement opposition has, if anything, galvanized opposition to the proposed Traveston Dam. Save the Mary reports that memberships are up and a diverse spread of fund-raising events have been well attended.

The Kandanga 1000 horse ride saw several hundred riders take part in a leisurely 20km ride through Mary Valley forest while an auction and fundraiser dinner, held the evening before the ride, raised funds towards the forthcoming Paradise Dam Court case.

The following Friday, Save the Mary hosted a very successful screening of the acclaimed film "the Burning Season" in Nambour and next morning, an abundance of poets turned out to delight a Poet's Breakfast crowd in Kenilworth.

In addition to these fundraisers, information and merchandise stalls at the U-tribe festival in Conondale and the Seafood Festival in Tin Can Bay were well-patronised. The Greater Mary Association, based in Maryborough, recorded an excellent response to their information stall at Station Square less than a week after the Premier's announcement.

Through all of these events, several thousand people put pen to paper to protest the dam proposal.

Monday October 5 saw an excellent and penetrating coverage on the '7.30 Report' and next day the Coordinator General's report was out and winging its way to Canberra.

What an intense couple of weeks since then! Media and meetings!

A welcome interlude was the Silver Bullet ride to Kandanga. Not even a mechanical problem rendering the Bullet unavailable could dampen the spirit of the 100 or so who came along for this special night. The hastily substituted original Red Rattler rail-motor brought delighted supporters to the station at Kandanga where Adrienne McVerry and a dedicated team of helpers had created an wonderful open air restaurant. An evening of great food, music and poetry followed, and the late appearance of the ubiquitous pro-dammer Adam Damon was met with the resolute resilience of a bunch of people who know what they want for the Mary.

- Ian Mackay

500 Year Old Giant Awaits Woodchipper

It has been discovered that dozens of giant fig trees, targeted for destruction by the Queensland Government to make way for Traveston Dam, are estimated to be 500 years old, with several having been missed by surveys for the projects EIS.

Owner of one of the trees, and Mary Valley Farmer Doug Haigh said "Leonardo Da Vinci painted The Last Supper in 1498 depicting the last meal of Christ. That's roughly when the fig on my property began its life. I hope the Federal Government stops this project as to destroy a tree of this size and age would be a tragedy. I hate to think that my special tree may soon to have its last supper."

"Very few people will ever see trees of this size and age" said arborist Bill Wilcock. "In Brisbane there are some very large figs in the CBD, Davies Park in West End and along Kelvin Grove Rd. These are of immense value, priceless in many people's eyes, however they are barely half the age and size of these Mary Valley giants, which from the initial photos I received, look to be 50 to 60m tall."

Steve Burgess from STMRCG has also revealed that the Government's flora surveys, conducted for the EIS have missed a significant number of these forest giants and not even counted other smaller native fig species which are equally important sources of food and habitat. We decided to check the accuracy of the surveys conducted for the EIS. After ground-truthing approximately 40 Ha, which is about one percent of the total EIS survey area, we discovered just how dense the populations of native sandpaper figs along the creeks in the dam footprint are. More worrying is that in the small area surveyed we also found many individuals of the large strangler fig species which were not reported in the EIS. All these figs form critical habitat for many species of animals especially the endangered Coxons Fig-Parrot. How can the Federal Government make informed judgements when such glaring errors exist in the reports supplied to them by the Queensland Government", said Mr Burgess.

Faacebook Fans Send Messages for Mary

"A fish that has not changed in 120 million years! You must not, and cannot, dam the Mary and destroy this species. It is not a salmon and cannot jump fish ladders. This amazing creature with a lung as well as gills lives in the Mary at Kenilworth. I saw these incredible fish from the bridge at Kenilworth, looking into the clear water about a metre deep and observed their "nests" in the gravel of the river bottom. I pray that next September when I return to Queensland they will still be there, and the Traveston Dam project will be "dead", instead of the fish!"

"com'on everyone.....this is IMPORTANT. Please don't let them destroy the Mary."

"Anna Bligh will go down in history as "the premier who killed qld" a nice legacy to leave her grandkids....."

"she is just such a "Blighar!""

"i took action www.stoppress.com.au"

"They may have destroyed the social fabric of my Valley but I'll be damned if they can destroy our river too!!"

Saving the
Mary River?

It takes
people power!



Notes from supporters

The Save the Mary Information Centre at Kandanga has been flooded with notes from supporters. Here's a few of them:

"I am a resident of the Gympie area and have a keen interest in the dam project. The stopping of it completely."

"I am an environmental activist...I would very much like to join your group and contribute my ideas for how to save the Mary River from the proposed Traveston Dam."

"This Dam will endanger the Queensland Lung fish or Ceratodus, flood the nesting sites of the recently discovered and endangered Mary River Turtle and endanger the Eastern Cod a sub species of the Murray Cod all these species are totally protected from ordinary people anywhere in the catchment of the Mary River. Please do what you can to end such madness."

"I read and listen with interest about the Dam, I have heard a lot of media reports and so on, but you never seem to hear what it will cost to move the Highway."

"I am interested in supporting your project as far as possible."

"Anything my family and I can possibly do to help Save the Mary will be done gladly. She is very close to our hearts."

Jenny Mengel is doing an amazing job of responding to every email and message that arrives. Thanks Jen!

Snippets

Volunteers always needed

Adrienne Mcverry is the Special Events Co-ordinator for the Save The Mary River Coordinating Group. To volunteer a helping hand, please contact Adrienne on 5485 5046, 0407 591 475 or lea-my44@hotmail.com.

Letter Generator Rush Hour

There are brand new letters on the letter

generator and, because time is of the essence, we're asking you to consider printing and posting your letters. The 'you sign-we send' method still works, but it means they'll take longer to get to Canberra.

Save the Mary Membership

If you haven't paid a membership fee in 2009, yours is now due. Please contact the Info Centre at Kandanga for renewals.

The Dambusters Newsletter is published every two months and Dambusters Bulletins are released if there is big news that can't wait until the next edition. All Dambusters can be accessed online at www.savethemaryriver.com.

Contributions and feedback to The Dambusters are welcomed and can be sent to the Editor, Tilly Hinton: tillyhinton@hotmail.com or 5456 2910 (a/h).

The Dambusters is distributed by email to Friends of the Mary - everyone on the Save the Mary River mailing list, all members and associate members of the Save the Mary River Coordinating Group and fellow groups involved in saving the Mary River. You can become a Friend of the Mary by contacting the Save the Mary Info Centre in Kandanga. Print copies of the newsletter are available at the Save the Mary Info Centre.



Contacts List

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Forum: www.travestonswamp.info/forum/

Save the Mary Info Centre - Open 7 days
Visit: Kandanga Railway Station, Kandanga
Phone: (07) 5488 4800

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