



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

# Dam the Mary River? Save the Mary River!

## MEDIA RELEASE August 22, 2007

---

**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)

## **Mary River campaign goes to international expo**

THE Mary Valley battle to stop the proposed Traveston Crossing Dam near Gympie is expected to be the only Australian issue to win a place at the international Expo Zaragoza 2008 to be held in Spain.

And like everything in this ground roots campaign to stop a predicted environmental disaster in South-East Queensland, Australia, it is being presented by volunteers.

Project manager Wayne Cameron, of the Brisbane-based Bulimba Creek Catchment Coordinating Committee, said until his project was nominated, Australia was not represented among the 100 nations involved in the expo which carries the theme "Water and Sustainable Development".

"We got in at the last minute, and we have had our professional team approved by the international body, and while our collaborators are all highly regarded in their own right, we are participating with Nobel Prize winners from some of these countries.

"Ours is the only country which has not secured government support or funding at any level for our representation at this most important expo," Mr Cameron said.

Glenda Pickersgill, the environmental officer with the Save the Mary River Coordinating Group, hopes to travel to the expo with Mr Cameron to tell the world about the embattled Mary Valley.

They will be armed to the hilt with facts and figures on the social and environmental impacts of the State Government's bid to shore up South-East Queensland's water supplies by robbing the Mary River of its flow.

Mr Cameron hand-picked his team, which also includes Kenilworth photographer Arkin Mackay, ABC film and documentary producer Randall Wood, Australian Geographic writer Peter Meredith, and researcher Elizabeth Caplice.

To prepare for the expo, two representatives of the international organising body will tour the Mary Valley on September 8-9, mingling with locals at a community barbecue at the Kandanga recreation grounds on September 10.

Roberto Epple and his wife Michelle, from the European Rivers Network, and Patrick McCully from the International Rivers Network, will join Mr Cameron to visit the Mary River catchment and fly over the dam footprint.

The project team will return to the valley mid-September to capture the "personality of the community" and the uniqueness of the Mary River as a place of international significance.

“We need to retain this area as a rural landscape and a productive region for the future, and to protect the globally recognised endangered species of the Queensland Lungfish, Mary River turtle and cod,” Mr Cameron said.

He said the proposed Traveston Crossing Dam was not a “done deal” and still required Federal Government approval under the Environmental Protection Biodiversity and Conservation Act.

Expo Zaragoza 2008 runs from June 14-September 14 in the Spanish city.

It is an International Exposition regulated by the International Expositions Bureau, and the first of these was held in London in 1851.

Since its success, numerous expositions have been held all over the world, including the Paris Exposition of 1889, which gave birth to the Eiffel Tower.

As these events increased in number, a clear need arose to control their frequency and the Bureau International des Expositions (BIE) was created in 1928.

Roberto Epple is the executive director of the European Rivers Network, which is collaborating with the Zaragoza-based Foundation for a New Water Culture (FNCA) to invite international non-government organisations to participate in a multi-media exhibit entitled “Homage to the Affected of Water Policies”, which will form the centrepiece of the Pavilion of Citizens Initiatives.

The project “Mary River Catchment – Traveston Dam Proposal” has been approved for entry along with 21 international case studies.

ERN and FNCA are collaborating to provide partial seed funding to assist the production of an artistic Australian contribution –using quality writing, photography and film to capture the human rights issues of the affected Mary River community and environmental effects on the catchment and its immediate region.

Mr Cameron said the project would cost \$24,000 overall (with \$12,000 needed from Australian sources) and to send the professional team in their field to Spain, the group still needed extra funding by the end of September to begin production.

“Any assistance for funding from Australian organisations or companies would be an investment in community-based organisations tackling world wide issues and participating along with other countries to achieve a new world water culture,” he said.

It is planned the “Homage” presentation will participate in other expositions in big cities all around the world after the closing of the three months Zaragoza exposition.

End

---

<b><u>Media contacts:</u></b>	<b>Glenda Pickersgill</b>	<b>0411 443589</b>
	<b>Wayne Cameron</b>	<b>3420 4800</b>
	<b>Kaili Parker-Price</b>	<b>0419 672947</b>