



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

Dam the Mary River? Save the Mary River!

MEDIA RELEASE

September 2nd 2006

Save the Mary River Coordinating Group

Support and Information Centre, Kandanga Railway, Ph: 5488 4800

<http://www.savethemaryriver.com/> savethemaryriver@gmail.com

Flotilla for Water

Residents of the Mary Valley and Brisbane will take to the water on Sunday September 3 to demonstrate for smart alternatives to building new dams at Traveston Crossing on the Mary River and Wyaralong.

Dubbed the "Flotilla for Water", residents are being urged to bring canoes and kayaks to take a one-hour tour of the river, launching at South Brisbane Sailing Club Ramp at Orleigh Park nearby the Regattafest location at West End.

One of the organisers from the Save the Mary River Coordinating Group, Glenda Pickersgill said there are smarter, cheaper, sustainable alternatives to building new dams and pipelines and that is our message to Brisbane. "Political dams don't make it rain and there is no shortage of empty dams around Queensland at the moment. Why build another when there is the better technology to solve the water crisis? The economic costs of building new dams would be felt right across the region and State, and would saddle Queenslanders with billions of dollars of debt. If the Queensland Government is able to trample the rights of people, our precious wildlife and environment with the Mary River mega dam proposal, it will create a disastrous precedent for all of Australia."

The demonstration will highlight the social impact of April's announcement by Queensland Premier Peter Beattie, which has had a devastating social effect on local landholders, local businesses with reduced sales, halted housing and construction projects and trades people leaving the valley.

Already labeled "Lake Travesty", the proposal would flood 7600 hectares of prime agricultural land, inundate 500 hectares of endangered regional ecosystems along the streams, directly displace thousands of people, and impact on 10,000's of people in the Mary River Catchment.

Ms Pickersgill wants a good gathering of boats on the water, and canoeists must complete a register form available from the website www.savethemaryriver.com. Participants should start arriving at the South Brisbane Sailing club boat ramp at 9-10am to prepare for launching to avoid parking difficulties.

There will be speakers at the start and finish of the "Flatilla for Water" event. Mary Valley Musicians and Poets from the new CD "For the Love of Mary" will be performing.

Inquiries Glenda 0411443589 or Rob 0424162244

End

Media Contacts:

Kaili Parker-Price 5484 5338 Mob 0419 672947, Rick Elliot mb 0409059878, Kevin Inglesole mb 0419539499

Floatilla for Water

Key events:

9-10 am

Arrival and sort out canoes at South Brisbane sailing club boat ramp at Orleigh Park, West End.

10-10.30 am

Four introductory speakers and canoe safety briefing. Speakers include:

- Rick Elliot (Chairman of the Save the Mary River Coordinating Group) - Welcome and discuss the need for smart alternatives for solving the water issue.
- Juanita Wheeler (Spokesperson for the Qld Greens Inc) - State policies for addressing the water issue.
- Alan Sheriden (Director Works, Noosa Council and Researcher from the Save the Mary River Coordinating Group) -discussing 2 alternatives 1. The source substitution with recycled water using the example at Mt Crosby weir and 2. The water savings that could be made by converting to dry cooling technology at the power stations.
- Larissa Waters B.Sc (Envt), LLB (Hons), Grad Dip (LP), Solicitor Queensland Greens candidate for Brisbane Central. Legal issues relating to stopping dams being built.
- Rob Hale will go through the Safety Plan for the "Floatilla for Water" aiming for 10.30 to start the Floatilla on the water.

10.30-11.30 "Floatilla for Water" on the Brisbane River at West End.

11.30-12.00 Two final speakers and entertainment.

- Kevin Ingersole (Spokesperson for the Save the Mary River Coordinating Group). Difficulties in getting our alternatives message across to the Government.
- Jerry Coleby-Williams (Director, Seed Savers' Foundation. Executive Member, Qld Conservation Council. Presenter ABC 'Gardening Australia' & co-founder of 'Bellis' - Brisbane city's first sustainable house & garden.). Discussing practical urban solutions for water.
- Concluding with Poets and Musicians from the CD "For the Love of Mary"

Media Contacts:

Kaili Parker-Price 5484 5338 Mob 0419 672947, Rick Elliot mb 0409059878, Kevin Inglesole mb 0419539499