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

Dam the Mary River? Save the Mary River!

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Environmental outcomes from Paradise Dam are a failure

Water Minister Henry Palaszczuk has held up the Paradise Dam on the Burnett River as the model on which environmental outcomes would be dealt with for the proposed Mary River Dam at Traveston Crossing.

What the Minister is not telling his constituents is that the Environmental Protection Agency and Sunwater have been have been investigating a major fish kill in the Mingo Creek area for the past four weeks.

The fish kill was reported in the Fraser Coast Chronicle on May 19, 2006. The report indicated that thousands of fish are dead, and that drought and the environmental impact of the Paradise Dam are believed to be responsible.

Professor Jean Joss, world renowned expert on the Queensland lungfish, said she thought the fish most probably died by oxygen deprivation, as rotting vegetation starves the water, and that the full environmental impact of the dam may not be fully realized for up to 100 years.

Save the Mary River Coordinating Group secretary Alan Sheridan holds this up as yet another reasonable issue on which to query Premier Peter Beattie's dam decision.

"Is this really the level of environmental excellence which the State Government aspires to for the proposed Mary River dam?" Mr Sheridan asked.

"Premier Beattie keeps telling us that the threatened and endangered species in the Mary River - the lungfish, cod and turtle – will be looked after.

"However he is not giving us any proof of his Government's ability to do so."

End

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