



Dam the Mary River? Save the Mary River!

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Save the Mary River Coordinating Group

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Dam opponents take up fight under leadership reshuffle

Mary Valley dam opponents are thanking Anna Bligh for fuelling their fight to stop the Traveston Crossing Dam.

Riding on the wave of anger caused by the fact that the Deputy Premier and her Government are still fudging the edges of the dam footprint, the Save the Mary River Coordinating Group and its supporters are in deep research to prove that the proposed dam would be a disaster environmentally, economically and socially.

At Monday's committee meeting members were buoyed by the overwhelming support from both within Cooloola and its neighbouring regions, demonstrated by the turn-out at the Gympie Pavilion last week.

They voted Kevin Ingersole as group chairman, following receipt of Rick Elliot's resignation due to increased overseas work commitments.

The former leader was congratulated by the group in a warm commendation from member Steve Dennis, who said the campaign would not have reached its current stage if it had not been for Mr Elliot's quick and astute action.

Mr Elliot told members via his letter of resignation that no matter where he was in the world, he could not wait for the day when the Queensland Government finally comes to its senses and abandons this travesty of a proposal.

"For the past six months I have been involved in an Australian Government-funded project to design an Australia Pacific Technology College which will deliver trades related training to people in the Pacific countries of Fiji, Samoa, Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea," Mr Elliot said.

"At the Pacific Leaders Forum in Suva on 25 October 2006 Prime Minister Howard announced that the Australian Government will commit \$149.5m over the next four years to the establishment and operation of the College.

"As a result of this announcement, from early next year I am likely to be overseas for extended periods as part of my continuing involvement with the establishment and operation of the college."

Mr Elliot said it was a difficult choice to have had to make, but the Save the Mary campaigners deserved a leader who could commit a significant amount of time to the fight and he would be unable to do that.

"I am passionately committed to stopping this dam and in the end I believe it will not go ahead," he said, "but there is a lot still to do.

