



Dam the Mary River? Save the Mary River!

MEDIA RELEASE

Save the Mary River Coordinating Group

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Greens join fight for Mary on Sunday

Greens Leader, Senator Bob Brown, and residents of the Mary Valley will take to the water on Sunday May 28 to demonstrate against the flawed proposal to place a dam at Traveston Crossing on the Mary River.

Dubbed the “Flotilla of Hope”, residents are being urged to bring canoes and kayaks to take a two-hour tour of the river, disembarking at Traveston Crossing nearby the site of current drilling, surveying and seismic studies.

The demonstration will highlight the social impact of last month’s announcement by Queensland Premier Peter Beattie, which has had a devastating effect on local business 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 and displace thousands of people.

Local property listings have stopped according to Imbil realtor, Nick Smith, who has had a considerable amount of contracts fall over, and at least six offers on properties withdrawn since the announcement of the proposed dam.

Christine Stuart-Nairne and husband Brian have cancelled work on a farm stay development near Tuchekoi, signing a contract to acquire 80 acres three days prior to the announcement.

“We have no choice! We have to pay,” Mrs Stuart-Nairne said.

“I’ve cancelled a fencing contractor, the purchase of up to five kit homes and the construction of our own home,” she said. “It will all go under water if this goes ahead”.

Save the Mary River Coordinating Group leader Rick Elliot said the economic costs would be felt right across the region and State, and would saddle Queenslanders with billions of dollars of debt.

He said residents and farmers were looking forward to Senator Brown’s visit.

“Bob Brown has the knowledge and the national and international standing to highlight the disastrous effect this proposal will have on the endangered and threatened species of the Mary River, and to galvanise action by concerned people across Queensland, Australia and the world,” Mr Elliot stated.

“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.”

Mr Elliot wants a good gathering of boats on the water, but people have to register their participation on the website www.nodams.org.au and download a waiver to cover their participation.

“They must have that piece of paper with them to hand to the marshals at the car park where they will launch into the water,” Mr Elliot said. Participants should arrive at 1865 Mary Valley Road, Amamoor, at 9am, to launch at 10am.

They are then invited to a barbecue lunch with the Senator at the Kandanga Hall after the river trip. The veteran campaigner will discuss the lessons learned from the fight against the Franklin Dam campaign and show a short film, from 12.30-1.30pm.

Inquiries 0417 825972.

End

Key events:

9am:	Arrival at 1865 Mary Valley Road, Amamoor
10am:	Departure for two-hour trip down-river to Traveston Crossing
12 noon:	Press conference, Traveston Crossing
12.30–1.30pm:	Barbecue and film about the Franklin Dam campaign, Kandanga Hall, Kandanga
2pm:	Sen Brown will address a gathering at the University of Sunshine Coast, Lecture Theatre 2, also speaking is Jo Bragg, Environmental Defenders Office, on the EPBC Act and the Mary River

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