



# Dam the Mary River? Save the Mary River!

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### Save the Mary River Coordinating Group

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## Dam fighter backs 'lateral' idea for water pipeline

RICK Elliot likes the plan to pipe water from the tropics to the parched allotments of South-East Queensland.

“At least it shows that some people are thinking laterally about the water crisis facing this part of the State,” the anti-dam campaigner said.

The outspoken leader of the Mary Valley fight against the proposed Traveston Crossing dam on the Mary River stands to lose the Dexter stud he has established with wife Carol just kilometres from the dam wall site.

Mr Elliot said the pipeline proposal outlined by Cairns Mayor Kevin Byrne this week could work because it was “actually taking water from where it is” instead of building a dam which “may or may not hold water”.

Cr Byrne has challenged Premier Peter Beattie to think “Smart” in the State’s current water crisis and consider the opportunity to “piggy-back” on the future construction of a gas pipeline from Papua New Guinea and build a parallel water pipeline that could carry water from the yet-to-be built Nullinga Dam on the Walsh River, west of Mareeba to the south-east.

“This proposal deserves serious consideration before any decision is made on the flawed plan to dam the Mary River,” Mr Elliot said.

Cr Byrne said in a statement that the proponents of the PNG gas pipeline had spent 10 years planning the project and had the necessary agreements in place such as Native Titles and easement access.

“So why not piggy-back a water pipeline along the same route,” he said.

Cr Byrne said the project would need to be developed as a private and public partnership and would require the involvement of a large development-focused financial institution like the Macquarie Bank.

“It would certainly fit into the Smart State vision and would serve multiple purposes:

- The Far North would have an additional water storage facility which it will need in the next 15 years;
- Communities along the pipeline would have access to clean, drinkable water;
- The plan would negate the need to displace people from properties earmarked for the future dams in the south.

