



## SUNFISH FRASER COAST

P.O. Box 5164  
Torquay Qld. 4655  
Ph.: (07) 41280700  
A.B.N.: 32 587 780 659  
E-mail: secretary@sunfish.com.au  
**Chairman: Mr Ray Ozich**  
**Secretary: Mr. Martin Bellert**

### Anglers are Idiots

"At least that seems to be what the Premier and Qld Govt seem to be thinking when they put out media statements lately" according to Ray Ozich, chairman Sunfish Fraser Coast.

Each media statement regarding the proposed Travesty Dam includes cover-ups for previous incorrect statements and more misleading statements. Every one knows that fishing in Hervey Bay and the Great Sandy Strait has deteriorated badly over the past decades due to over fishing and environmental degradation especially reduced river flows. "Now the Premier and her band of 'yes men and women' have the nerve to say that this dam will help the environment and fish stocks. What a load of rubbish" Mr Ozich stated.

We are hoping that Peter Garrett and Kevin Rudd are and can see through the bogus claims and smokescreen and refuse this environmental disaster.

The lies continue with statements like "Less than 4 percent of the annual flow will be taken". The annual flow is an average that includes floods. If you remove the larger floods from the equation then the average skyrockets. If you look at the "normal" flows you see that they intend to take most of the "Normal" flows. It is these normal seasonal flows that stimulate breeding in most of the estuarine fish.

The dam becomes useless after 18 months of drought, which is common in this catchment. Other SEQ dams such as Wivenhoe and Summerset last up to 5 years without rain. What is the point? The dam will be dried up before it is needed! And what about our future needs in this region?

The recently released State of The Estuaries report shows that the Mary River is already the second most degraded estuary in the region, second only to the Burnett estuary. This dam could push it into first place. That is an award nobody wants around here.

"Each time their proposals are proven to be false they pay someone to come up with bogus support or even more ridiculous alternatives. For example they said the dam would "drought proof" Southeast Qld. So you build a dam and magically there are no more droughts?"

What about the turtle walkway 'to be built to world's best standards'? The Mary River turtle has walkways built where else in the world?? And don't forget the last time this government built a fishway to world's best practice; they ended up in court over the embarrassing Paradise dam fiasco."

"Another example was when they had some boffin say that the dam would have been filled 10 times in the last few years. The dam would only fill once; the rest would still flood over the spillway carrying and killing turtles lungfish etc. And then 18 months later with no rain the dam again dries up and becomes worse than useless, stopping all those small flows that are so vital to reach the ocean. As Darryl Stewart from Save the Mary said 'Any fifth grader could tell you that'."

"Ms Bligh, Are you smarter than a fifth grader?"

"Recreational fishing is worth over \$100million every year in this region. To misquote someone famous 'God save fishing in Hervey Bay, because nothing will save the Premier'" Mr Ozich concluded.

End

Contact **Ray Ozich 0438549950**

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