



Anna Bligh questioned over unsustainable Wyaralong Dam

No credibility on protecting the environment

As Anna Bligh visits Boonah to announce the propose scale of the Wyaralong Dam, the Beattie Government has failed to answer fundamental questions that demonstrate the Government's lack of credibility on their core promise of protecting the environment and being a Smart State.

The Acting Premier, Anna Bligh, and anyone informed about this dam knows that the Logan and Albert River Estuaries failed the recent 2006 Healthy Waterways Report Card and Southern Moreton Bay is heading that way to.

The Government's own technical reports for the Draft Logan Water Resource say that the dam will further reduce fish stocks in the most fished part of the bay. We know this size dams will stuff up already poor environmental flows on the over allocated Logan River.

The dam is likely to create a salt water lake on the most saline tributary on the Logan and release saline water into the Logan.

Speaker for the Boonah-Beaudesert Greens says "We know that there are sound cheaper alternatives of indirect potable recycling and storm water harvesting that will deliver water almost immediately they are constructed".

"When the State government, local councils and the community are committing millions of dollars and effort into trying to improve the condition of the river, why are going to build this dam?"

"Why are we doing this when we all know and your grandchildren will know that we knew that the Wyaralong Dam is unsustainable and avoidable?"

Further more technical questions

The Teviot is the most saline freshwater watercourse in Queensland (identified as such by a DNRW staff member at a meeting with the Running Creek Water Advisory committee), how does the government intend to treat the water and dispose of the concentrated salts from the treatment plant prior to being able to use the water for irrigation, stock water or town water supply?

The Teviot is a major source of coarse sediment into Moreton Bay - how does the government intend to harvest the sand and silt which will invariably in-fill the dam within one or two major flood events?

Will the government guarantee that shut down and start up protocols for the dam gates will include the use of a 2 day lead or fall time to allow for the appropriate growth and recession of a shut down or start up wave going down the catchment? (This is essential if the creatures who rely on the ebb and flow of this ephemeral stream are to have the proper environmental triggers to either move to higher ground or indeed to deeper water). This problem has been identified with fish and platypus kills in the Burnett Creek area directly downstream of the Maroon Dam in the Logan Catchment and was directly attributed to the management practices of Sunwater.

What protection measure will be put in place for the continued security of the water quality between the dam wall and Cedar Grove Weir? This portion of the catchment will have unfettered industry and agricultural practices right up the top of the bank. Declaration of a "Declared Catchment" only protects the portion of the catchment upstream of the dam wall, not the portion of the catchment between the dam wall and the out-take/treatment point several km's downstream of the wall. Especially with regard to the Bromelton Industrial Estate impacts on the future water supply weir?

Boonah-Beaudesert Greens Convenor: Desley Agnoletto will at the event on Mobile: 0411361044