

## MEDIA STATEMENT



# Murray Cowper MLA

## Shadow Minister for Industrial Relations; Emergency Services

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21 January 2008

### Country WA paying the price for Perth's population boom

A crowd in excess of 500 turned out at Logue Brook Dam yesterday to protest its closure in May to make way for 5GL of drinking water per year.

People from both the south-west region and the metropolitan Perth areas gathered to convey their anger at the Government's decision to stop thousands of people using the dam for recreational pursuits such as water-skiing, fishing, swimming and bushwalking.

Many see the closure as the first step to closing many other freshwater recreation locations for what they see as relatively small amounts of water.

Murray Cowper MLA says that the 5GL per year to be accessed from the dam should be sourced elsewhere, such as from conveyancing losses, and from working harder to enhance the efficiency of Perth's scheme water network.

"How can John Kobelke say that the decision to close the dam will not be revisited when this many Western Australians are protesting its closure?"

"The blatant disregard for the interests of country WA for the sake of 5GL of drinking water for the city is disgusting. First they took Binningup's beach for a desal plant, now they want to take one of the South-west's premier freshwater recreation spots."

"The Government seems to be panicking in its effort to catch up with the water needs of Perth's booming population, and country WA is paying the price."

"If Minister Kobelke does not want to come to the country to listen the views of the South-west, then the country will be coming to the city and the steps of Parliament to be heard."

Mr Cowper will be organising a rally on the steps of Parliament to oppose the closure when Parliament resumes in late February.

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