

MEDIA STATEMENT



Murray Cowper MLA

Shadow Minister for Employment Protection; Emergency Services Member for Murray

20th March 2008

Logue Brook being closed for 5GL whilst 19GL goes missing each year : MLA

Over 100 protesters headed towards Parliament from Belmont Park yesterday in a convoy of boats and caravans, to protest the closure of Logue Brook Dam in May.

Protesters were angered that the dam is being shut down for the sake of 5GL of water each year, when 19GL of water are lost each year to conveyance losses in the mains scheme network, and Wellington Dam lost 20GL to overflows last year.

“The Government has not convinced the community that closure of the dam is necessary,” Mr Cowper said at the rally.

“They need to look seriously into the decision to see whether this 5GL can be obtained elsewhere.”

“The Government commissioned a report last year on utilizing the Wellington Dam, but after spending taxpayers money on a steering committee to look into options for desalinating the water from the dam for drinking supplies, they are ignoring the report.”

“The report says that up to 57 GL of drinking water can be obtained from Wellington Dam if 14 GL per year was diverted, either into the ocean or into a mine void and then desalinated.”

“Coal mining corporations have made offers to be involved in the process, yet this report is just lying around, ignored, on the Minister’s desk.”

Minister Kobelke addressed the protesters yesterday, saying that the unpopular decision was being made for the “good of the wider community.”

Mr Cowper says he was glad that the Minister spoke to the crowd, but showed that he was not interested in their views when he voted with the rest of the Government against a motion to inquire into decision and postpone a closure until a committee looked into it.

“I think the public are beginning to clearly see that the decision to close Logues is simply a quick fix solution that seeks to avoid the more pressing problems of efficient and smart water management in this state.”

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