

To: The Australian Senate - public submissions

Re: Proposed plan to dam the Mary River

Dear Sir/Madame

With some considerable concern I learn of the proposed plan to dam the Mary River - causing irreparable loss of habitat to at least 3 vulnerable important species - including the Queensland lung fish [aboriginal 'Dala']. Not to mention the uprooting & relocation of the local populace, the destruction of the current environment and the extraordinary monetary cost.

Just to expand on one aspect of this, I wonder whether potentially wiping out the wild stock of the lungfish ['Dala'], a fish that I understand the aboriginal people of this area have viewed as sacred for milanea and have felt they were the protectors of, is really the message you want to give to the world and potential visitors.

I wonder if this might not be interpreted as evidence of a continued lack of value being placed on aboriginal peoples values, beliefs and concerns.

My understanding is that all possible avenues of water conservation and recycling have not yet been fully explored and that due to the fishes particular lifestyle and habits it is highly questionable whether 'lifts' will work in enabling the fish to negotiate the dam. It seems more likely that if the dam is built this scientifically unique and valuable fish would die out completely.

So with much concern, I would ask you to consider alternative options as fully as possible before making decisions which whilst at first glance seem plausible, in the long term may turn out to be short sighted and lacking vision.

Yours sincerely

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