

Press Release 21 June 06

Uniting Church Condemns Govt's Approach On Dams

The community of Rathdowney will meet this Friday with Rev Dr David Pitman, moderator of the Uniting Church in Queensland.

Morning tea in the hall at 10am will be followed by meeting and talking with those affected and visiting significant sites in the area.

Rev Pitman marched and spoke at the rally protesting both Rathdowney and Mary River dams in Brisbane on June 10 and described as "shameful", "abusive and callous" the government's treatment of the people in the areas.

Also in attendance will be Rev Ray Reddicliffe, presbytery chair South Moreton, Rev Rob Parker, Beaudesert District Uniting Church Minister and Father Bernie Gallagher, St Mary's, Beaudesert Parish Priest.

The No Dam For Rathdowney Action Group has provided Rev Pittman with a copy of a report which outlines their many and varied objections to the dam, as well as copies of recent press releases calling into question the government's claimed yield for the dam.

"We have been provided with no evidence whatsoever by the state government that a dam in this area will make any significant contribution to South East Queensland's water needs", says resident Lyndie Easton. "Beattie refuses to explain the multiple unbuilt dam sites in our shire which have resulted in many people having gone through the heartache that we have. He refuses to include consultation as part of the process. He just keeps saying we will build these dams, without any real evidence that they will solve the problem. South East Queensland may run out of water before construction of the dams even start, because of Beattie's refusal to listen to real solutions"

Rev Pitman has already visited the Mary River site and has said that his June 10 message "I want you to know that there are a lot of people in the city who are with you. There are those of us who are willing to change our lifestyles so you don't have to lose yours. The Uniting Church will stand by you in your struggle." applies equally to all those affected.

Links to Rev Dr David Pitman's articles relating to SE QLD dams are at.....

<http://www.journeyonline.com.au/showArticle.php?articleId=524>

<http://www.journeyonline.com.au/showArticle.php?articleId=518>

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