

## RATHDOWNEY ACTION GROUP DAMS GOVT. FIGURES

**“The Govt. has used figures in a misleading and false way to support their argument to build a dam at Rathdowney”, No Dam For Rathdowney Action Group Chairperson John Robinson said.**

In a full page newspaper advertisement “securing water for Queensland’s future” in Beaudesert Times Wed 31 May, the Government has listed additional supply figures for new water projects to be completed by December 2011.

One project is a Logan River Dam (at Tilley’s Bridge, Rathdowney). The figure given for estimated water supply of the Rathdowney Dam is 45 000 ML/annum.

This figure is actually a “System Yield”. Included in this 45 000ML figure is all the water in the Logan River system from Maroon Dam down as far as Cedar Grove Weir. (refer to attached map).

The two best and most reliable streams entering the Logan River system are Running Creek and Christmas Creek. It is interesting to note that these two creeks are **downstream of the Rathdowney Dam.**

These 2 tributaries are fed from a different catchment area to that of Maroon Dam and Rathdowney Dam. (refer attached map). The catchment area for Running Ck and Christmas Ck is from the Lamington Plateau. (the same area as for the near 100% full Hinze Dam). The catchment area for the Rathdowney Dam is in the Mt Barney/Mt Ballow area (the same catchment area as for the Maroon Dam which is at 20% and it is only at 20% because no water has been released from Maroon Dam this year, otherwise it would be completely empty)

**“This Government is attempting to prop up the viability of a dam at Rathdowney by publishing System Yield figures (and not stating this in the advertisement) as these figures are substantially higher than those for actual yield at the Rathdowney Dam” Chairperson John Robinson said.**

Requests to NRMW to provide No Failure Rate Yield Field figures for just the Rathdowney Dam (not the entire Logan River System) have been made. NRMW is unable or unwilling to supply this information stating that they are only interested in an entire system yield.

In 1991 the Yield figure for the maximum capacity Rathdowney Dam was 31 500ML. As all dams in SEQ (including Hinze Dam) have had their yields significantly downgraded since 1991, one can only assume that the 31 500ML/a Rathdowney Dam yield figure would also be downgraded. (Refer Table below)

However because the Rathdowney Dam has not been mentioned in any of the Government’s Water Planning or Infrastructure Documents (it was only hastily included as an option 7 weeks ago) no figures for downgrading of the 1991 system yields are available.

### Downgrading of yield figures for Rathdowney Dam

Year	System Yield (ML/a) (Measured at Cedar Grove Weir)	No Failure Yield (ML/a) (At Rathdowney Dam)
1991 (Water Resources Appraisal Report Jan 1991)	69 750 (Page 10)	31 500 (page 13)
2005	45 000 (quoted in Qld Govt advertisement 31/5/06)	17 325 (Based on 45% downgrade from 1991 as figure currently unavailable from NRMW)

When weighing up all the environmental, social and economic costs against the benefits of a Dam at Rathdowney compared to other options, is the Government comparing the System Yield or Actual Yield of a dam at Rathdowney?

**“It does not make sense to move an interstate highway and a major connection road, resume at least 191 properties, ruin an entire community, just to get a theoretical 17 000 ML/a of water, when Maroon Dam just 12 Km away and is currently delivering far short of its theoretical yield”, John Robinson also said.**

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