



## NO CANOE NEEDED HERE!

While Rathdowney residents have welcomed the news that Greens Senator Bob Brown will visit their town, he will be unable to be part of a canoe flotilla like the one proposed at Traveston due to a lack of water in the dam tributaries.

The photographs below attest to that.



His visit on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May at 2pm, is an important part of the fight to save the town, but has special significance for residents who are passionate environmental advocates.

Local residents Brian and Kathleen Panitz can only despair at the potential fate of their environmental reserve situated in the Rathdowney dam site, which they jointly funded in partnership with the federal government.

Consider Wayne and Kerry Johnson, who have only just completed building their home on 50 acres. One of their key reasons for moving to the area was to continue their passion of wildlife rehabilitation. They saw it as a good omen confirming their choice when they saw a koala in the tree their first day there. Before their purchase in 2005 they researched all available information regarding their land's potential resumption as a dam site, and came up with no indication that it was.

Even some of the local "tree changers" such as Lyndie Easton, ascribe to a no pesticide and no chemical fertiliser policy for their land. Lyndie said "I'm mindful of the impact of my actions on my property and the wider environment. I have rainwater tanks for drinking and other domestic use. My grey water is used in the toilet or gardens. I grow vegetables and fruit trees fertilised with animal manure. Food scraps are fed to the dogs or the chickens. We all do that out here. The environmental vandalism that these dams represent is so sickening when the casualties are those trying to do the right thing. But I think Beattie has misread the mood of the people. A recent article in The Australian Newspaper quoted 88 per cent of Australians believing that if we don't act now we will never solve our environmental problems. That's a lot of votes and yet what Beattie is proposing here spells destruction for the river system and is irreversible."

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