

WHERE'S THE MISSING WATER?

Quoted yield 45,000 megalitres, **ACTUAL river flow 22,572 megalitres**

Despite numerous invitations, Premier Beattie has not agreed to meet with the residents who face losing their properties to his proposed Rathdowney dam. The people of Queensland are being told that we must have these dams. Despite many media statements by the premier and newspaper advertisements placed by the government on water policy, the government has not conclusively proved the claimed dam yield, not revealed its cost (including rerouting roads and other infrastructure) nor has it produced evidence that real alternatives have been given appropriate consideration.

Why is Rathdowney dam so necessary when according to the government's figures in its full page newspaper advertisement entitled "Securing water for Queensland's future" it contributes only 5% of the total water.

How does the government explain the discrepancies in the yield it's quoting. The Water Resources November 1990 document "Water supply sources in South-East Queensland" shows the yield of Wyaralong dam (referred to as Teviot) as 87% of that for the Rathdowney (Tilleys Bridge) dam. If that's the case then Rathdowney's 45,000 megalitre yield would correspond to a yield of 39,000 for Wyaralong, which is close to the figure of 40,000 megalitres quoted in the Australian Water Association's August 2005 "Status of Water in South East Queensland" report.

However, the yield figure currently being quoted by the State Government for Wyaralong is 21,000 megalitres. Maintaining the ratio of Wyaralong as 87% of Rathdowney would mean that the yield for the Rathdowney dam is actually 24,000 megalitres. Given that the catchment for the existing Maroon dam forms one fifth of Rathdowney's catchment, an extra 20,000 megalitres makes it's yield no greater than Wyaralong. This yield figure is supported by the measured flow of Logan River at Tilley's bridge of an average 22,572 megalitres per annum (DNR <http://www.nrm.qld.gov.au/watershed/precomp/145020a/afd.htm>) over the last 3 recorded years.

So Mr Beattie we're missing over 20 billion litres. You're planning on spending hundreds of millions of dollars to provide 2% of our water. Queensland is waiting for answers. Is there a hidden agenda?