

What a busy time it has been!

Wise Ways for Water weekend

A great success! The need for Tillegra Dam was strongly questioned. There were ten expert speakers and over 100 participants. The Central Coast Shadow Minister for Water Utilities and Member for Terrigal, Mr Chris Hartcher, who attended, said that the Central Coast has its own solutions in place to provide water security to that area. 'The Central Coast had a water problem long before 2006 and everyone from the Central Coast was amazed that in November 2006 that the solution was a dam in an area no one had ever heard of,' Mr Hartcher said. 'The Central Coast now has a major pipe under construction which will alleviate its water needs and that, combined with recycling of brown water and storm water catchment is the solution for the Central Coast. **We do not need Tillegra Dam.**'



Dr Simon Fane from the Institute for Sustainable Futures, at the University of Technology, Sydney, set out ten key arguments **why we should not be building this dam** and stated it will be the Coalition's task to get the message out, that the State Government can spend taxpayers' money far more fruitfully and far less destructively.

Graham Holt, geologist in the Hunter region for over 25 years said that due to the instability of the land and the amount of fault lines within the inundation area of Tillegra Dam the **cost of the dam was going to be 'one hell of a lot more than \$300 million, it's more likely to be a billion dollars'**.

One of the resounding questions that was asked throughout the weekend was who was going to be paying for this dam with the water users of the Lower Hunter and the Central Coast having to foot the enormous bill for this unnecessary dam.

Well known meteorologist and climatologist **Mr Martin Babakhan** from Newcastle University argued that changing weather patterns could increase the reliability of rainfall in Hunter Water's region in future, with the likelihood that **existing reservoirs would be adequate for future needs.**

'This is the dam that is not needed, to supply water we don't want, at a cost we don't need to bear — financially, socially or environmentally' – Dr Charles Essery, Sustainable Water Solutions Pty Ltd, former Senior Executive Advisor to the NSW Government on town water treatment and recycling water, Adjunct Professor School of Engineering (University of Western Sydney).

The weekend also saw a new coalition formed to fight the Tillegra Dam. **The Save The Williams River Coalition (SWRC)** will bring together a number of different community, industry and environmental groups to join the fight against the NSW Government and Hunter Water's proposed Tillegra Dam.

The formation of the SWRC 'is a major step forward in the campaign, it will increase awareness of this proposal that the principal speakers agreed was highly contentious and unnecessary,' Chairperson for the No Tillegra Dam Group (NTDG), Sally Corbett said.



The Save The Williams Valley Coalition will bring together highly qualified personnel to make submissions to Hunter Water's Environmental Assessment Report to be published later this year. The SWRC will organise repeat presentations from the Wise Ways to Water speakers at events to be organised in Newcastle and Sydney.

'We had people across the whole political spectrum gathered under one roof this weekend. The clear picture that emerged was that the **Tillegra Dam is a political decision with no clear justification**. We are strengthened in our opposition to the dam as it is a waste of money, a waste of prime farmland, and an unwarranted destruction of a precious riverine environment,' Sally Corbett said.

Meetings

The Chair of NTDG, Sally Corbett, along with various NTDG members have held meetings with the following people to outline our cause & request alternative water harvesting methods are looked at:



- Minister for Water Utilities, Nathan Rees
– 11 April & 23 April (with CRG)
- Honourable Bob Baldwin–21 April
- Wyong Mayor–22 April
- Greg Piper, Independent MP for Lake Macquarie
- State Opposition Leader Barry O'Farrell
–22 May
- Save the Williams River Coalition attended the State labour Conference in Sydney to take our message to state members & Sydney.

Upcoming Events

Saturday 17 May Stomp Festival, Newcastle Civic Park - all day
NTDG and SWRC will have an info stand at the festival. Come along & see us.

Wednesday 28 May Dam Busters SWRC event at Newcastle Town Hall 6–8pm

A mini Wise Ways to Water forum with guest expert speakers. Information, entertainment, fund raising, prizes, music, campaign with the community.

Important fundraising events:

Funds raised will assist NTDG in the preparation of reports, obtaining information & making submissions to Hunter Water's Environmental Assessment Report.

Fri 30 & Sat 31 May Dungog Film Festival White Elephant stall Saturday morning

We need anything that will sell. Home cooking, jams, pickles, books & bric a brac. Please drop all saleable goods at 108 Lord St Dungog on veranda side or cooking to the stall in Dowling Street on the day.

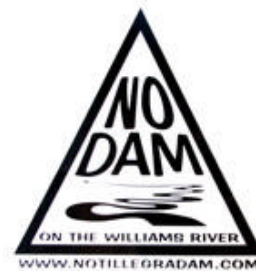
Soup Kitchen–opp. Dungog Picture Theatre.

We will be selling cups of home made soup on Friday & Saturday night of the Film Festival. If you can help by cooking soup, supplying pumpkins or soup ingredients, help to man the stall, supplying crock pots to keep soup warm or in any other way please let us know.

T Shirts – Stickers

T Shirts are now available with our new logo (pictured on page 1) which incorporates the platypus. These can be ordered by contacting membership@notillegradam.com.

Stickers are also available for your car.



Our website www.notillegradam.com is full of information including alternative means to harvest water, recycling information, an on line forum, photographs & maps. You can also sign our on line petition.

Our meetings are held each 3rd Thursday of the month in the Anglican Church Hall, Dowling St, Dungog.

Everyone is welcome.