

Once again we have been very busy!

Dam Busters Night

The Save the Williams River Coalition staged an event at the Newcastle Town Hall on Wednesday 28 May 2008. Speakers on the night included:

- Carol Pasenow (Dungog perspective)
- Tom Boorer (Dungog perspective)
- Martin Babakhan (Hunter & climate change)
- Simon Fane (sustainable water planning)

Music by Paul McNamara Trio

Audiovisuals Company Rubakovsky

The event was well received with over 100 people in attendance.

Saturday May 17 Stomp Festival

NTDG attended the event at Newcastle Civic Park - Information was distributed with many people interested in gaining more information on the proposed dam.

White Elephant stall Sat 31 May

This was a great success. Thanks to all who donated goods, as well as those who helped with the organisation of the stall.

Soup Kitchen – Film Festival Weekend

This was also a great success. Customers were plentiful on the Friday night with many returning to compliment us on the soup. Thanks to all who assisted with ingredients, cooking, helping to man the stall & supplying crockpots.

Labor State Conference

No Tillegra Dam Group held a small “teapots” demonstration at Darling Harbour.

This attracted some news coverage on NBN.



Teapots were used to represent the farms lost in the inundation area.

HW White Elephant Demo

We staged a small demonstration on the *white elephant* dam proposal, outside of Hunter Water's offices on Friday 16 May. The objective was to gain publicity and to show that there is mounting opposition to the Tillegra Dam proposal. May 16 marked the closing date for public submissions to HW's H2 50 water plan.



Speech in Parliament

NSW Greens **John Kaye** gave a speech in parliament about the proposed Tillegra Dam in June. His speech included the under estimated cost of construction by Hunter Water as well as the increased cost to the consumer if this proposal were to go ahead. Following is an extract from a recent press release from Dr Kaye.

'If Hunter Water pushes ahead with the Tillegra Dam, Lower Hunter households will pay a terrible price for the Corporation's mistake'.

'Our modelling shows that expert predictions of a \$700 million cost blow out to make the dam safe against earth slippages would see household bills rise by \$416 a year. That would be an 88 per cent increase on existing bills'.

'Even if the cost rose by a modest \$300 million, annual household bills would jump by \$250. Hunter Water is gambling with the family budget. They are committing to the project without properly investigating the geology of the site'.

'Not only is Tillegra likely to be very expensive but it is entirely unnecessary. Tillegra Dam is shaping up to be the Lower Hunter's very own version of Sydney's desalination plant'.

'Initially the dam was planned to supply the Central Coast. However with federal funding for the "missing link" pipeline between Mardi and Mangrove Creek Dams, water from Tillegra will not be needed in Wyong or Gosford".'

"Then it was for drought relief in the Lower Hunter. This makes even less sense after the Lower Hunter went through one of the driest periods in the recorded history of South East Australia without even needing water restrictions'.

'Now Hunter Water Corporation is claiming the Tillegra Project is needed to secure long term water supply, despite having said in their 2003 Integrated Water Resource Plan that "a new water source will not be required within the next 30 years" and that Tillegra would be far less cost effective than many demand management and water conservation initiatives'.

'Hunter Water is about to force residents to pay for an expensive dam they don't need,' Dr Kaye said.

Upcoming Events

NBN news reporter Penny Evans (who lives at Vacy) is doing a series of short programs on the Tillegra Dam proposal and the ramifications for the region. The reports will be on NBN news over one week sometime in July.

Our filmmaker Nigel has a great idea for a 30 second ad. We could use it on YouTube and perhaps get the local cinema to show it at regular screenings. It would be useful for

many situations. We are planning a production meeting at Sally and Paul's place. Please call Sally if you are interested in coming. We will need lots of hands on deck.

Helicopter ride – Martin Thorsby Electrical has kindly donated a helicopter ride to assist our group to raise money. The ride will be over the inundation area. Tickets are available for \$ 5.00 each.

T Shirts – Bags

These are selling like hot cakes. If you haven't got your order in yet, please do.

T shirts \$ 20.00 Bags \$ 5 or \$10. Orders can be sent to membership@notillegradam.com

More info

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.

