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COALITION POLICY DRAFT WILL DAMN THE FITZROY

The Central Queensland community should be alarmed about the draft Coalition “100 dams” policy discussion document which would *damn* any remaining natural condition of the Fitzroy River.

Capricorn Conservation Council Coordinator Michael McCabe said, “The proposed Rookwood Weir and the raising of Eden Bann will drown over 200 kilometres of riparian vegetation, damaging the integrity of the natural river levees and floodplains, reducing water quality, preventing fish migration and destroying habitat for vulnerable species such as the Fitzroy River Turtle.”

“The ‘mighty’ Fitzroy, for much of the time is just a trickle though gravel beds below the conjunction of the Dawson and Mackenzie. The proposals would reduce the ‘natural’ condition of the 310 kilometre long Fitzroy to less than 60 kilometres.”

“Rookwood Weir would backup the Fitzroy into the lower Dawson and Mackenzie Rivers to become a stagnant pond with still, cold water, low in oxygen, ripe for toxic blue-green algal blooms and a with bacterial sludge over the natural filters of the sand and gravel beds.”

“Dams and weirs would have negligible flood mitigation effect during major Fitzroy floods. The peak flow of the January 2013 flood was 1,252,239 Megalitres per day at The Gap (Eden Bann). That volume would fill an *empty* Wivenhoe Dam (1,165,238 MI) in just one day.”

“The water from four existing proposals, Nathan Dam, Connors River Dam and the Fitzroy Weirs is already being considered almost exclusively for mining and industrial expansion.”

“Previous Queensland government plans for Rookwood and Eden Weir, linked to suggestions of several industrial scale cattle feedlots (15,000 head each) on the floodplain, lapsed when no investors came forward, let alone there being any serious consideration of environmental hazards.

“Irrigation licences for water allocation from the Fairbairn Dam are being sold off to Galilee Basin coal mine proponents. So much for food security; only the mining companies could afford the water!”

ENDS
