

No Tillegra Dam Group Save the Williams Valley

The No Tillegra Dam Group (NTDG) was established in December 2006 by residents of Dungog Shire and supporters opposed to the Tillegra dam.

NTDG has engaged its own consultants in geology, engineering, hydrology and environmental impact assessment.

NTDG KEY OBJECTIVES

- raise public awareness of the dam proposal
- question the ethics, need and viability of the dam
- seek sustainable and environmentally sound water harvesting alternatives

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- join NTDG
- support the "Back to Bandon Grove" fundraiser Sat 11 August (see advert this page)
- write letters of protest to Ministers Koperberg, Rees, Sartor and to your local member
- install a water tank

HOW TO CONTACT US

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WILLIAMS VALLEY VOICE

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Legendary Bandon Grove supper

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Bookings
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Williams Valley Voice

Inside:
 Letter from the Chairman
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August 2007

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Munni

Dungog

Bandon Grove

Fosterton

Brookfield

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There's still time to

Save the Williams Valley

Opinions: Why Tillegra Dam is not the best way...

Over 75 percent of respondents to an opinion poll conducted by No Tillegra Dam Group said they are against the proposed Tillegra Dam. Here are statements by notable individuals and organisations that lead us to question the wisdom of the proposed Tillegra Dam development.



The (proposed) Tillegra Dam will remove approximately 90 family farms from the area. ...the area of the proposed dam site is prime agricultural land and the inundation of valuable land holdings that provide significant produce to the nation is not the answer... Migration out of the local community is one effect the dam is likely to have on our area. If this happens it will also have a flow on effect to schools and local services. The dam is the last thing we really need in this area.

Craig Deasey, Dungog Shire Council General Manager
Local Agenda, Issue 12 (official magazine of Local Government Association and Shires Association of NSW)

Rainwater, stormwater and recycling are the first measures to take before considering another expensive dam, which will destroy one of the Hunter's most fertile regions, its environment and the long standing communities that have lived there since early settlement... Why do we need a new dam?

Dr Charles Essex, water industry consultant
Newcastle Herald, 22/2/07



The story so far...

- Premier Morris lemma announced the construction of the Tillegra Dam on 13 November 2006 contrary to Hunter Water Corporation's advice earlier in the year that the dam was at least 30 years away.

- The proposed Tillegra Dam is to be constructed on the Williams River near Dungog, 230 kilometres north of Sydney in the Upper Hunter Valley, displacing a whole community and destroying highly productive farmland and one of the most pristine rivers in New South Wales.

- 'No Tillegra Dam' Group has obtained expert scientific advice on alternative methods of water harvesting proving that this dam is NOT needed.
- 'No Tillegra Dam' Group has uncovered extremely serious geological problems within the proposed Tillegra Dam site.

Scenario for failure

F A line of hills contains the "Tillegra Fault" and forms the east side of storage for nearly 3 km north from the proposed dam wall.

A Landslips inside the proposed storage area already weaken rock strata forming the reservoir rim.

I As the water level rises with filling of the reservoir the groundwater table will rise and water will soak through the fault, weakening the rock strata further.

L If the rim collapses the entire Williams River valley downstream would be inundated.

The Tillegra Fault Zone is one of unknown width and depth and is over 3 kms long. To attempt to make this fault safe will exceed Hunter Water's entire \$300 million budget.

Graham Holt, NTDG geological advisor
Dungog Chronicle 25/5/07



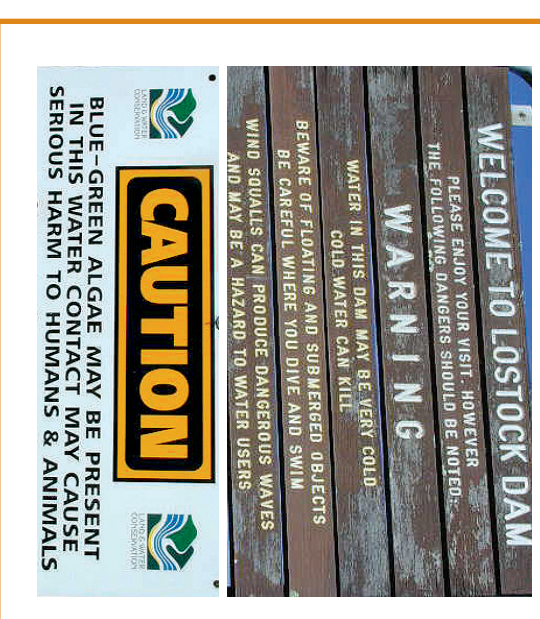
Imagine this

'Vital statistics' of the proposed Dam

Dam wall 25 storeys high and 3 football fields long

Inundation area 3,500 hectares or 5.5 Sydney Olympic Parks (the entire area, not just the stadiums)

Capacity Sydney Harbour (or similar) but with mud instead of sand on the beaches, no sandstone cliffs, no tidal rise or fall and water so cold it could kill you.



Message from the Chairman

Welcome to the first edition of the *Williams Valley Voice* the official newsletter of the No Tillegra Dam Group.

The Williams Valley Voice will keep the community up to date with news and views about the Tillegra Dam proposal, with a regular series of informative briefings and articles from contributors ranging from technical experts to local residents.

The No Tillegra Dam Group has been campaigning hard against the proposed Tillegra Dam through the media, during community information sessions, and in the halls of Parliament. And we will keep up our fight until the State Government realises that their proposal is ill-founded for geological, economic and environmental reasons.

Our best hope is that the No Tillegra Dam Group and this publication are short lived – because our aim is to get the Tillegra Dam proposal off the table completely. However, Hunter Water are not known for their swift action, so you may be hearing from us for a while yet.

As the title of the publication suggests, this newsletter aims to give the people of the Williams Valley a Voice in debates about the proposed Tillegra Dam. I encourage you all to contribute your comments and I welcome your ideas and feedback. See over for our contact details.

It is not too late to save the Williams Valley.

Warwick Thomas
Chairman



pictured: Simon Brownbridge

How does the Valley compare with other places you lived? In terms of quality of life, this is the best place we've lived in. Dungog is a healthy rural centre and the Hunter Valley affords good marketing opportunities for my products.

If friends from overseas came to stay with you, where in the Valley would you take them? Barrington Tops, a drive over Binglebura to the Gresford pub, and a canoe or fishing trip down the river is always popular. Local beaches are not too far away.

About the valley

Simon Brownbridge Fosterton Farm Bakery

"We have a 110acre farm on the Williams River, raising 30-35 breeding cows and turning off vealer calves to the saleyards. We practise the bio dynamic system of agriculture, which is a sustainable, self supporting land management system. We are certified by Australian Certified Organics. Being a baker by trade, I've built a small bakery on the farm to supplement our income. We mainly supply Maitland and Newcastle areas. Some bread is available at the IGA in Dungog."



What do you like most about the Williams Valley? It's a good mix of fertile land, natural bush and a healthy river.

What do you least like about it?
Political and bureaucratic interference in peoples lives without proper reference to opinion within the community, namely the proposed Tillegra Dam project.

Was there ever a time when you saw the Valley in some particular way and thought "this is where I want to be?"
When we first saw our farm in Fosterton. At the time it was a dry period and didn't look too pretty, but it had a good 'feel' to it. Friendly neighbours helped us to settle in.

continued >



"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." Margaret Mead