



**For Immediate Release**

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2009**

## **LNP ACCUSED OF DAM HYPOCRISY OVER NULLINGA**

CAFNEC and The Wilderness Society (TWS) today slammed the LNP for announcing that a Springborg-led Government would progress the environmentally destructive Nullinga Dam on the Walsh River in Far North Queensland.

The environment groups have vowed to continue to campaign against the dam no matter which party wins Saturday's election.

The Wilderness Society's spokesperson, Kerryn O'Connor said, "It is pure hypocrisy that the LNP is supporting damming the Walsh River, one of the healthiest rivers in the region, while trying to claim environmental kudos for opposing Traveston Dam in south east Queensland. Both dams are environmentally destructive and all parties should be opposing both".

The Walsh River is a major tributary of Queensland's mighty Mitchell River and is largely responsible for sustaining environmental flows in the upper Mitchell during the long dry season. These flows are particularly important given that the Mitchell River's headwaters are already greatly restricted by the large, privately owned South Edge Dam.

Nullinga Dam will cost over \$300 million to build and will be environmentally destructive to both the Walsh and Mitchell Rivers, storing approximately 364,000 megalitres of water (close to 75% the volume of Sydney Harbour).

Steve Ryan from CAFNEC continued, "We need to get smarter about the way we use the water we have, not just build more dams. Dams should be the absolute last resort option when considering future regional water supplies. We call on both the LNP and Labor to commit to prioritising sensible and sustainable demand management, recycling, education and other efficiency initiatives, not Nullinga Dam."

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