



Bundaberg
Fruit & Vegetable
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MEDIA RELEASE

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COMMISSION TOLD: "NO NEED FOR EXTREME MEASURES TO FIX PARADISE DAM"

Bundaberg irrigators are asking why the State Government and the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy Dr Anthony Lynham, MP are determined to lower the Paradise Dam wall despite independent expert evidence which indicates safety issues have been overstated.

Several world leaders in construction of major water storage and dam projects have presented evidence to the Commission of Inquiry into Paradise Dam including geotechnical expert Dr Paul Rizzo, who said data indicating problems was "inadequate, misleading and insufficient to assess the integrity and safety of Paradise Dam." In a supplementary report '[Assessment of Dam Safety Issues](#)', Dr Rizzo says an alarmist atmosphere has evolved over the safety of the dam without adequate basis.

His report says:

- Allegations of defective construction practices are unproven
- Test data used to assess the properties of the dam wall are inadequate. New testing is required
- The dam is "distressed" but highly unlikely to experience catastrophic failure
- The issues can be remediated at reasonable cost, as done at other dams around the world
- Corrective engineering actions should be measured, not extreme or dramatically disruptive

At the final hearing of the Commission in Brisbane this week, another global authority on RCC dams, Dr Ernest Schrader, also questioned the validity of testing used to assess the stability of the dam and said he was "99 percent sure... that there isn't a problem". Dr Schrader said the results of the tests Sunwater relied on were "suspect" and no dam of similar construction in the world had shown such results.

Dr Schrader said the testing appeared to have been performed on core samples that had been taken apart and put back together and said that while cores tested showed faults "that's not what's in the dam". Dr Schrader urged the Commission to review the recommendations in Dr Rizzo's report. In defence of the region's water security and the need to repair rather than reduce the dam, irrigators are launching a campaign to explain and gain support to 'Save the Paradise Dam'.

A full page advertisement initiating the campaign appears in this Saturday's edition of the Bundaberg NewsMail newspaper. No one disputes the need for repairs to Paradise Dam. They are essential. However, there are no ifs, buts or excuses. The dam has to be restored to full capacity.

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For comment contact BFGV Managing Director Bree Grima 0403 616 702 or 07) 41533 007