

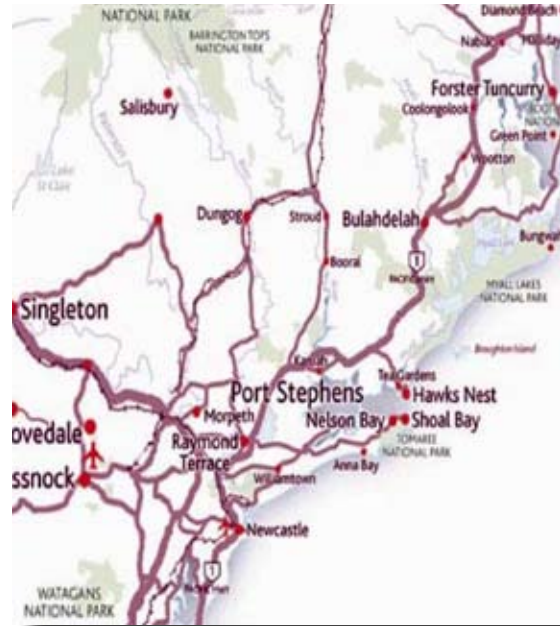


**The Williams River urgently needs your help.
You have an opportunity to protect this river and its inhabitants.**

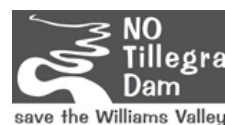
In November 2006 the NSW government announced the construction of the \$450 million dollar Tillegra Dam. The proposed dam is costly, unnecessary and environmentally destructive. Due to the geological nature of the area, construction costs will potentially blow out to one billion dollars.

Please take 5 minutes to write a letter calling on the NSW government to put a stop to this unnecessary and costly dam. This is your opportunity to support the protection of the Williams River and its' inhabitants.

For an easy guide to writing a letter, see overleaf.



VITAL STATISTICS	WHAT THIS REALLY MEANS
450GL or 450B Litres storage capacity	Approximate size of Sydney Harbour
80 metre high wall	Approximately the size of a 25 storey office building
700 metre length wall	Approximately 7 football fields long
3,500 hectares total effected area	The equivalent of 5147 football fields
Prime farmland to be inundated = 2,000 hectares	Loss of prime agricultural land
Estimated storage to be full by 2020	Unpredictable rainfall due to climate change – will it ever fill?
Estimated cost = \$400 million	Cost blow out predicted due to geological instability in area
Farming families dislocated = 90	Loss of prime agricultural land, social & community disintegration
Economic losses in Dungog = \$10 million per annum	Loss of working farms, jobs & business income
Increases Hunter system to the equivalent of 450 rain water tanks per household	Oversupply of water, encourages people to use more
Current Hunter storages at full capacity & no water restrictions	Tillegra dam not needed





**Just 5 Minutes of your time will help protect the Williams River and Valley
Write to your local M.P, the Premier, and print media today**

Writing a letter is easy. You do not need to be an expert; you simply need to care about protecting our environment and keeping the cost of living in the Hunter from rising further.

Below is a sample letter suggesting key points to make.

SAMPLE LETTER

The Premier
The Hon. Kristina Keneally
1 Farrer Place,
SYDNEY NSW 2000

(Your name)
(your address)

(Date)

Dear (insert name here)

I am writing to strongly support protection of the Williams River and surrounding Valley for future generations.

Please make the following points in your letter:

Dam Unnecessary

- o *we have more water than we can use in the Hunter Valley*
- o *A new independent consulting report has shown that the chance of us finding ourselves in a time where we would need the reserves of Tillegra Dam would be just once in 1250 years*
- o *There are many proven alternatives to water conservation*

Dam Expensive

- o *Hunter Water customers – about 500,000 of us – will pay for the construction of the Tillegra Dam*
- o *Current estimates for building the proposed dam are around \$400 million. A recent independent consultancy has found that for a mere \$115 million (almost 75% cheaper than the dam) Hunter Water could still adequately drought proof the region with alternative water management measures.*

Dam Destructive

- o *Rivers are one of our most precious assets, the Williams is one of the last healthy rivers in the region.*
- o *Destroying rivers is a short-sighted investment strategy*
- o *The Williams River is home to the iconic platypus, the long necked turtle and a variety of fish and mussel species, damming the river would be detrimental to the health of these animals.*

It's great to add why you think the Williams River is important. If you have a personal connection with the river and the area then it is a great idea to mention it (eg. you grew up near it, live there now or sometimes visit for holidays).

Yours sincerely,

Sign your name

Please ensure you have provided your address

