

The Secretary  
Senate and Regional Affairs and Transport  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Inquiry into Additional Water Supplies for South East Queensland – Traveston Crossing Dam Information.

My biggest wish is that the politicians who are saying that this is such a great site for a dam come down out of the helicopters that are flying around our properties and look at this area by car. They would then have a hard time saying this would be a good site. It will be a large shallow dam which will evaporate at a rate of 1.5m per year.

This area has now been included in the drought affected area and we are eligible for drought assistance. Our dams have all been dry since Jan/Feb so what makes the Queensland Government think their dam here wouldn't be as dry as ours.

Development of the Mary Basin Water Resource Plan was put together to improve the Mary River yet the State Government took that paper and used it as the basis for their saying the Mary was a good site for a Dam.

Environmental flows of 85% will not be able to maintain. Studies done in October 2006 showed there were insufficient flows to maintain the proper salinity levels to keep the river healthy, and this is before a dam wall is placed on the river.

The Queensland Government is sighting the paradise dam as its model for the dam with its "state of the art fish ladders" for the dam at Traveston Crossing. This has failed to meet the EPBC Act obligations and is sited as fifth or sixth worst dam in the world.

We are told we are "making a sacrifice for the greater good of Southeast Queensland". We were not consulted ahead of time, we found out by and announcement on the evening news. We don't want to give up our dreams for the people of Brisbane.

The rest of this letter is to give the Social and Economic Impact of the Proposed Traveston Crossing Dam on our family.

Our property was not handed down to us from previous family members. My husband and I spent three years in Saudi Arabia to save up the money for a down payment on this property. Geoff spent 18 months driving around the coast inspecting properties and researching the area. He did inquire at that time as to a proposed dam in the area, but was told it was not a suitable site and would not go ahead. The property was bare- all improvements done to the land we've done. The land in this valley is capable of running two head of cattle to the acre- making it very unique and sought after property. We would be unable to acquire anything affordable equal to what we have now. We were told that no one would be disadvantaged by having to move because of this Dam being built. NOT TRUE.

We both work as Registered Nurses at Nambour General Hospital, both with at least 15 years experience in Intensive Care. It has taken me nearly twenty years of University, College and work experience to obtain a level two position. Should this "Travesty Dam" go through we would both have to leave Nambour General and not be able to obtain equivalent positions where we go. We want to stay on property and have a working farm business. Not disadvantaged, NOT TRUE

Our children attend Federal State School. It has ranked highest in parent-school satisfaction surveys, students regularly score high on their state standings. It might be small but it's their home and they're happy there. The State Government has promised it will be save and will even give the school a new sports oval. So now all the protest signs are gone from the school. But tell me who'll go there? The families in the area will have to move away, and if they don't- would you want your child going to a school that has a large Dam wall down stream from it? If this Dam is built our children will not be

going to Federal School. They will not get the same family atmosphere and the Student to Teacher Ratio will be much higher. Not disadvantaged, NOT TRUE.

There is big talk of the drought being the worst in over a hundred years. On the news is the impact that it's having on the farmers and the wheat price, thus the bread and milk prices. This is all Prime Farmland that is producing. So in fact by destroying it you will be putting more strain on that market! We lived in Saudi Arabia and know what it's like to have to pay very high prices for imported "fresh" fruit and vegetables and if you continue to destroy what farmland is producing that's exactly what will be happening here as well. I grew up in Canada where water was plenty. We made the decision to move up here from Brisbane knowing that we would have to make do with tank water. If I can learn to conserve water then so can all the people in Brisbane. When our tank gets low we conserve even more and start praying for rain.

The Social Impact is intertwined with the Economic part but added to that is our health. Two days before Mr. Beattie announced this Proposed Dam I received a phone call to say my mom who lives in Canada was quite sick with renal failure, complications from Diabetes. I was unable to leave here to be with her, as they announced this Dam and all the meetings and inquires started. So I flew home the next week to attend her funeral. I will never forget/forgive this State Government for not allowing me to be with my mom as she died. They took something away from me they had no right to. Not disadvantaged, NOT TRUE

Since returning from my trip to Canada I have been receiving Counseling for Depression. (Funny that's what all the politicians do, go on stress leave when they screw up; but since we have a young family and no other income- we have had to plod on.) I have listened and watched as every morning my husband gets up and vomits for 10 minutes and has lost 10 kilos over this mess and being a stress eater – I have gained 10 kilos. This is his dream and The Beattie Government is trying to rip it away. Both of us are on sleeping tablets to help us sleep at night. My daughter fully toilet trained has regressed back to bedwetting; my son frequently wakes with nightmares. We moved up here for a fair go, for the peacefulness. Now we're being told we have to give up our lives and dreams because there are 1500 people a week wanting to move to the Southeast.

We moved here knowing we'd have to make this work and it wasn't by taking something away from someone else, "a sacrifice for the greater good." I guess that depends on your definition of the greater good. I really don't think there are too many people here that think Brisbane is the greater good- we already have it here.

We are, private people having to bare our lives for the world to see so that people can open their eyes and see just what Social and Economic Impacts there are to the people of The Mary Valley. You will find when you get here some much stressed, but very determined people to stop this Travesty Dam. We know it won't work and that's why we're angry, the State Government won't listen to us, or our experts.

We acknowledge that Brisbane needs water for their increasing population – but not at other's expense. By doing so, you are saying the people of Brisbane's way of life is more important than ours.

Regretfully having to write this letter;  
Henrietta R. Martin, BSc., CCRN  
Geoff L. Martin, frustrated farmer  
Mitchell C. H. Martin  
Katie L. M. Martin

163 Peacons Pocket Road,  
Tuchekoi, QLD  
4570  
(Stage One of Proposed Traveston Crossing Swamp)