

Tuesday, April 03, 2007

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

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: Senate Inquiry into Traveston Crossing Dam

Although our property is no longer *directly* affected (ie. the portion of our property initially required is now not required) by the proposed Traveston Dam, we believe most strongly that it is an environmentally and socially destructive proposal that was hastily formulated purely to save the Queensland Governments political backside at the election held in September last year.

Our experience with the power-that-be in the early stages of this proposal has led us to believe that the government has been manipulative and deceptive in its dealings. We have a small property of 33 acres on Oakey Creek which is a tributary of the Mary River. We have lived here for the last 10 years and during that time we have experienced two minor floods and one major flood. The greater part of our property is creek flats which is split from the higher part of our land by a gully. We attended all of the public meetings held here in Kenilworth. We were (and still are) concerned as to the impact the dam would have on us and at the first meeting we requested the flood level at the Traveston Crossing for the 1999 flood. As the government employees at the meeting did not have the information at hand they took our details and said they would be in touch. We received a couple of phone calls from a government office in Bundaberg (the department responsible for the Paradise Dam), clarifying what we were requesting. We did not receive any further word for some days. We then received a phone call, after business hours, from a gentleman from that office asking if we had received the information we requested. When we said we had not he said in a frustrated tone that the government was not letting out any information. He then proceeded to tell us what we were after but requested that we don't tell anyone who told us as he felt his job would be at stake. He then reiterated a story about a colleague who had lost his job under similar circumstances. We cannot remember the gentleman's name and even if we could we would not be prepared to say it as we gave him our word.

We believe that our request was a simple one and if the Queensland Government is not prepared to give out this sort of information and is "blackmailing" its employees in this manner, we are not dealing with an honest, and as Mr Beattie refers to it, a transparent government.

We are also very dubious about the water holding properties of this proposed dam. A number of years back we hired Noosa Water Drillers to drill on our property water. He advised us prior to starting that he did not expect to be successful as he had drilled around this area for other clients on many occasions without striking water. He said that the soil structure around here was too gravelly and that for the ground to hold water it needed to be more solid, ie. there needed to be a rock base. Much has been said about seepage from the proposed dam and from our experience with both drilling for water and with the speed at which we see the creek that we back onto empty, we feel that the Government has grossly underestimated and over marketed the suitability of the water holding capacity of the soil structure in the Mary Valley.

.....con't2/

.....2/

There have been several other very good proposals for water security in southeast Queensland put forward by outside parties. Some of these include recycled water for industrial use, raising Borumba Dam, water harvesting during flood times and piping water down from north Queensland. Many of these ideas have been dismissed with little or no interest from the government. It seems Mr Beattie is prepared to waste billions of dollars of taxpayers money on a very shaky proposal or to spend billions of dollars redirecting water into the Murray Darling Basin but when the idea of piping water down for the people of southeast Queensland was raised he was not even prepared to listen.

Mr Beattie's lack of public consultation, along with his implied threats to his employees can only signify that this proposal is being dealt with in a fraudulent and deceitful way. We trust this inquiry brings out the truth.

Yours sincerely

Tony & Sharon Keetley
80 McGinn Road
Kenilworth Qld 4574

Phone: 5472 3007
Fax: 5472 3333
Mobile: 0417 008 622