

I am opposed to the Dams in South East Queensland because I believe that putting families out of their homes and taking land which has often been in the family for over one hundred years is wrong. I believe that digging a hole in the ground is no guarantee that it will fill with water. It is a waste of money which could be put to a much better use to make south east Queensland drought proof. As I am not a qualified expert I felt my reasoning could be questioned but last Sunday on ABC Landline an expert did say exactly what I believed and therefore I want to draw your attention to his comments see below:

EXCERPT FROM
SALLY SARA INTERVIEW WITH CHRIS DAVIS OF AUSTRALIAN WATER
ASSOCIATION ON LANDLINE 1/4/2007 RE DAMS

SALLY SARA: Let's run through a few of those ideas. Firstly, building more dams as a solution to the lack of water.

CHRIS DAVIS: Building more dams is not the answer any longer. We have about 501 large dams around Australia and about 1 million – or maybe even 2 million – farm dams. And we built most of those dams in a period between about 1960 and 1980. After building that big rump of dams, the number of good sites that are left is pretty limited. So if a river was worth damming and a site was worth building a dam on, it's pretty much been taken up. So the rate of dam-building has slowed down to a trickle and it probably won't accelerate much at all.

SALLY SARA: I guess dams also store water, they don't create water.

CHRIS DAVIS: That's exactly right. And, unfortunately, a lot of people seem to believe that because you build a dam it will fill with water and, in fact, that often doesn't happen. To add to that challenge, we've got climate change beginning to bite. The west has certainly dropped its rainfall quite dramatically, and there's evidence emerging now that the east coast is suffering a drop in rainfall as well. So building a dam is even less practical than it might have been 20 years ago.

I feel for those families living around Traveston and Wyaralong who will lose everything to benefit a political grandstand which will achieve nothing and hope that in the end this issue will be treated with the reasoning it deserves and will not just become a tragedy to feed the political ego of a small number of politicians who will lose nothing by building dams on other people's property.

Sincerely,
Marilyn England

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