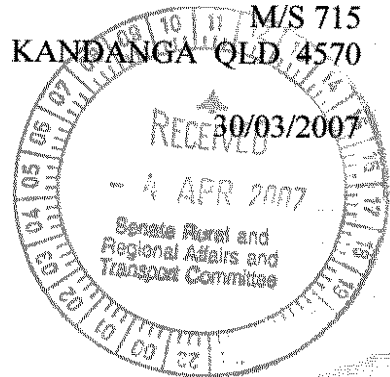


Mrs Maree Wesener
Jemmarvale
Dodt Road
M/S 715
KANDANGA QLD 4570



The Secretary
Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: SUBMISSION TO TRAVESTON CROSSING DAM INQUIRY

My family nightmare/heartache and pain began when my late husband Paul was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukaemia on 21 October 2005 and was admitted to the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital to have treatment. We then had to make a painstaking, heart wrenching decision to try and give our two children some normalcy by leaving them at home on the family farm in the best care with their grandparents, while I stayed in Brisbane in a small unit beside the hospital to be my husbands carer during and after his hospitalisation, but keeping in contact with home everyday. It was not easy, no thanks to the Beattie Government failed hospital/health system with no treatment facilities available closer to home.

The next devastating, heartbreaking news was when Paul and I were sitting on the sofa in the unit where we were staying in Brisbane watching the 6.00 pm news on Channel 7 on 26 April 2006 when Premier Peter Beattie first announced on TV that he was going to build the proposed Traveston Crossing Dam right where we live. Within a few minutes our children were calling us on the mobile phone, saying "mum, dad did you see on the news about Mr Beattie wants to build a dam where we live," yes we replied. We were trying to keep our emotions together to help our children to be calm as they were extremely emotional. This announcement by Premier Beattie was the very first time that any of this family had heard about.

On returning home in July 2006, we were contacted and handed official letters from Mr Scott Smith of QWI Company on the 29-07-06 and 2-08-06 telling us that they had authority to come on our property to carry out testing, drilling, etc for their dam construction reports. This made us feel upset, angry and we wanted to know where our rights were. I also want to express and add while we were staying in Brisbane, at least once a week every week it rained, it was so disgusting to see all this rainwater go to waste, run off all the buildings rooves down into the stormwater drains collecting rubbish on the way straight into the creeks. There was NO WATER STORAGE TANKS in place anywhere. Then we witnessed people washing cars and boats, watering lawns and gardens, and burst water pipes gushing for a long period of time. There was no water saving devices and appliances in the units where we were staying. We have always had water storage tanks, water saving devices and appliances as well as commonsense in place on our farm. Yes it does make us angry to see many of the

NO DAM!

Brisbane city people and a Labour State Government has a "don't care" attitude towards the rural farming communities.

My worst fear was when my husband Paul died on the 20-08-06 lost his battle to beat the Leukaemia and pneumonia, with the added stress of Beattie's stupid dam concept; leaving behind myself and our children having to fulfil his wishes of where to bury him, **an unsettling decision**, at the Kandanga Cemetery which is where he is laid to rest and my children and I are able to visit his grave whenever we may wish to. People often underestimate the importance of cemeteries but if you recall the words once written by British Prime Minister, William Gladstone, you might understand how graveyards can reflect the psyche of an entire nation: "Show me the manner in which a nation or country cares for its dead and I will measure with mathematical exactness tender sympathies of its people, their respect for the laws of the land and their loyalty to high ideals."

My family's whole life has been turned upside down, having to face the grief, pain and anger and some unprepared for changes, such as being widowed, sole parent and single income earner. My late husband Paul and I owned and operated a successful Rural Contracting services business – fencing, livestock mustering, etc; in conjunction with grazing our own beef cattle on our property. But this has not stopped my children and I from living here on our precious beautiful farm that we have worked so hard to save for and own for 14 years. We are stronger and more determined to keep our dream alive and my late husband Paul, my children's father memory. But this has not been without the high stress levels placed upon us due to Beattie's Labour State Government arrogance. We do have wonderful supportive and caring friends and neighbours within and outside the Mary Valley community.

This is our family home and our future, we are not moving for a lying, unfair dictating, greedy Labour State Government. There is no other valley in Australia as rich and fertile in agriculture and livestock grazing (Primary Production) and beautiful as the Mary Valley. There are other better and cheaper alternatives for the State future water needs, commonsense, conserving and preserving, and responsibility to be met by everyone including the State and Federal Governments.

Yours sincerely



M A Wesener

NO DAM!