

'Benyule'
192 Happy Jack Creek rd.
Cooroy 4563
Qld.
23rd March 2007

The Secretary
Senate Rural 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**

We have lived on Happy Jack Creek for over 36 years and as farmers have lived with the vagaries of the climate and have noted the change in rainfall patterns over this time.

Happy Jack Creek is an eastern tributary of the Mary River and as such is subject to flooding. The last flood occurred in 1999 and since that time Happy Jack Creek has stopped its 'trickle' flow more than 50% of the time. At the moment it has only a few 'puddle holes' remaining.

Looking forward in this time of climate change and expected reduced rainfalls, the anticipated 'water catchment' ability of the proposed Traveston Crossing dam is in doubt. The rainfall figures used by the Government to justify their decision to build this dam do not include the dry years of this century. They have used the figure on rainfall from 1890 to 1999, when the early 1890's were a particularly wet period. This dam is expected to supply SE Qld, the local Area of Wide Bay, its residents and farmers and also supply 85% of the environmental flow at the river mouth. 85% of nothing is nothing! the river has problems doing this without the Traveston Crossing Dam.

We have the declared 'Endangered' Giant Barred frog living on our creek. The dam would destroy their habitat, as it would destroy the whole of the Mary River and its Rare and Endangered Fauna and Flora.

The rivers of Queensland have already been destroyed with the building of 'unsustainable' water storages, eg Dams.

Borumba Dam built on the Yabba Creek in the catchment of the Proposed Traveston Crossing Dam, is in a suitable place for a dam, Deep hard rock valley that runs water with a lower rainfall. Raising the Dam wall as has been suggested, would give water far more quickly and at less cost to the people of the valley and the environment.

Storm water collection should be a must for all urban areas as should be recycling. More consideration should be given to non rainfall dependent methods of 'water gathering' such as desalination plants

This Proposed dam will not benefit the people of the Mary valley. To lose 12% of SE Qld milk production will definitely have a big impact beyond the valley. The flooding a class 'A' agricultural land in this dry and arid land is madness in itself.

This is the tip of the iceberg. The human and environmental costs have not been considered in a justifiable way, no where in Australian history has there been so many people affected by such a government decision.

Yours Sincerely,
Helga Hill

Annual rainfall - Benyule



