

The Secretary
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport
Parliament House, Canberra

Re: Enquiry into additional water supplies for South East Queensland
Traveston Crossing Dam information

SOCIAL IMPACT

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THE MORGAN FAMILY
2805 MARY VALLEY ROAD, KANDANGA

By Jayleen Morgan

My husband Ian (52 years) and I (49 years) own a dairy farm on prime agricultural land bounded in the North by the Mary River and on the Southern boundary by one of her tributaries – Yabba Creek. We have a substantial water allocation to run this business. The property is located five minutes drive from the township of Kandanga and Imbil, 20-25 minutes north to of Gympie, and south to Cooroy 50 minutes to Sunshine Coast University, and one hour and 45 minutes drive to Brisbane; a wonderful location and lifestyle for us to raise our family of three daughters – we had never thought of leaving.

We were devastated to hear of the Traveston Crossing Dam Proposal as we immediately knew our property (on four titles) would be flooded and unmovable (both stages one and two).

The months since the announcement in April 2006 have been most difficult with an uncertain future and pushing to continue on working and living our daily lives the best we can. We have witnesses the gutting of a community and its people.

Both my husband and my extended families reside in Gympie. Our roots are firmly entrenched here from the Gold Mining Days of Early Gympie Town, with ancestors settling on farms in the area.

In fact several farms of relatives will be taken by the Traveston Crossing Dam (so much for memories).

Our farm at Kandanga has been in my family for 106 years. This heritage will be taken from us and future generations.

During the past year we have been trying to come to terms with our impending loss, gather and make a plan for the future. After much soul searching we have decided:

1. This is one of the best dairying areas in Queensland. If we cannot farm here, we will not continue with our operation.
2. We will remain in the Gympie area, and wish to be close to our children on the Sunshine Coast. No one has the right to expect us to leave our network of family/friends.
3. My husband at 52 years of age will need to be retrained for full time employment. We need action on this now, not later. This is a matter of great concern to find a new career suitable for age and one that can be enjoyed. No other type of farming has been found suitable to pursue full time. As we love the rural life a part-time beef herd will be run, on a property yet to be purchased.

4. It is our right to be re-settled in like property with no disadvantage to us. So much land is being flooded and taken from a possible market place. Much property now coming onto the market is higher priced, and the larger acreage properties in the area have been impossible to find. Off farm, I work in Real Estate Sales Administration and have not seen anything suitable for us. Our property has not been valued at replacement value for like property.

In conclusion, after a lifetime of rural living, respecting the seasons, valuing and conserving water (as have generations before), it has been **demande**d of us to make this 'sacrifice for the common good'.

This is indeed a considerable thing for us to do! Do we not therefore deserve every opportunity and attention **immediately** to help us move forward to a happy, healthy, and prosperous future?