

1st April 2007

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

Dear Sir or Madam

Re: Inquiry into Additional Water Supplies for SouthEast Queensland – Traveston Crossing Dam Information

I was present in Gympie on the day Premier Peter Beattie announced that he would proceed with ill-conceived Traveston Crossing Dam. It is a moment which I will never forget, a moment where one man was allowed to wipe out the lives of over 900 families. And when I say one man I really mean one man, as he seems to be blind to all other possibilities.

Anna Bligh was on the local news the other night and said ‘ If the dam had been built 3-4 years ago it would be nearly full by now’. Where did this latest fact come from, 31/2 years ago we were in drought and we had to buy in water, and had 6-7 weeks wait for it to arrive. It would seem that this was just another incorrect, unchecked fact supplied by this present government and when challenged on these incorrect facts they don’t seem to be able to remember saying it in the first place.

This dam does not impact on me directly but on my community and on several good friends, some of which stand to lose everything. This to me is completely unacceptable. To see these people at the announcement in Gympie, to see them lose their lives, without any prior consultation, or knowledge, was devastating.

I received a glossy brochure in the mail this week from the Queensland Water Infrastructure, Project update. It was full of pretty pictures and graphs, the 2 that caught my eye were on page 3, actual flooding in Gympie CBD and Modeled flooding if the dam went ahead, considering that every time they put out a new map of the dam, the boundaries seem to move and they are so unsure of the actual final depth it seems inconceivable that they think they can predict any benefit to Gympie’s flood levels.

The other one is on page two, the graph showing the dairy production in Queensland, seriously they are proposing to flood one of the few remaining agricultural area’s left. Don’t they realise that with progress the way it is going, so many new people moving to Queensland, that this type of land is irreplaceable, these farmers will never again find land of this quality and production yields and have the government asked themselves how, in a few years, when the population has grown, are they going to feed, and provide for them all.

The Traveston Dam issues seems scarcely believable and at times I feel I am a living in a dream land, which is where I believe Mr Beattie resides most of the time, we do have alternatives.

The raising of the wall at the already existing Borromba Dam should have been No 1 on the agenda, if fact if the government had made it so work could conceivably have been well under way. The whole of the argument about the raising of the Borromba Dam wall would appear to make sense. It already exists, it would only impact on state Government owned land, land which has been heavily logged over the ages, so the environmental impact is far less. The social and economic impact would be virtually non existent.

Tanks, catching water from the sky, Brisbane has had enough rainfall over this drought that if homes had tanks they would more than likely not be facing level 5 restrictions. I live on take water 150000lts, I have water saving devices, showerheads and front loading washing machine, etc. If we used the same daily intake of that in the average Brisbane household, we would run out in just a few days, instead we have only had to buy water once in the past 5 year. There should be a massive push for tank water, we live on one of the driest places on the planet and yet we let the rain go straight out to sea.

I could write pages and pages of this, alternatives exist, they should be used, and quickly. Raise Borromba, install tanks, use desalination, and recycle, how obvious and straightforward can it be.

Traveston Crossing Dam should be considered as the mighty white elephant it will be.

Regards

Helen Coulter