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The Chairman  
Traveston Crossing Dam Senate Enquiry  
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To Whom It May Concern

We are the owner operators of a 280 acre dairy farm which is situated to the north of Gympie and the dam site.

As owners of a 100 megalitre water licence which allows us to pump from the Mary River (sourced from Borumba Dam), we have grave concerns about our continuity of water supply for irrigation purposes. Given that there is an increasing demand on the amount of water that is stored at Borumba, we are fully aware that a water storage facility in the Mary Valley area is an absolute necessity. However, it is our view, and indeed the view of many people in the area, that the proposed site at Traveston Crossing is highly unsuitable for this type of facility.

The Mary Valley has alluvial soil which has been washed down from the mountains over many years. This soil is a porous type soil that is many metres deep. There are a myriad of known and unknown underground streams that run through the valley in various directions. It is our view that with a considerable weight of water placed at the proposed Traveston Crossing site, it would not take long for the water to seep through into these underground streams and virtually siphon out into the unknown.

Having lived and worked in the Mary Valley for a good number of years and seen many floods and the effects of them, we would very much doubt that a dam structure at the site proposed by the State Government could successfully achieve the purpose that they are attempting to do.

We believe that the proposal put forward to the State Government by Mr Ron McMaha of increasing the capacity of the existing Borumba Dam is the only proposal that the State Government should be considering for the following reasons:

- We understand the State Government already owns the land that would be inundated in the event of increasing the capacity of Borumba Dam. [The State Premier has already toured this alternative site with Mr McMahon].
- There would be no encroachment into people's lives.
- There would be no need to purchase additional land, as the State Government is in the process of doing for the proposed Traveston Crossing Dam.
- There would no trauma or torment to residents in the Mary Valley.
- There would be no need to rebuild existing infrastructure i.e. roads, rail lines, electricity lines, power sub stations and schools.
- It would pose a far less number of concerns on environmental issues.
- The dairy industry has been a large part of the Mary Valley's history. There are a number of sites, both known and unknown, where arsenic concentrate cattle tick sprays and dips have been used. We now know the dangers of using this particular chemical. To knowingly use the proposed Traveston Crossing Dam site for water storage, that is contaminated in this way, especially in today's enlightened society, would be criminally negligent.

The Mary Valley has a distinctive natural beauty all of its own, from rugged mountain bluffs and rain forest, to rolling green pastures. It is a highly productive area.

At its fullest it is said that the proposed Traveston Crossing dam would only have an average depth of about 5 metres. This is without taking into account the high level of evaporation typical of a large body of shallow water and also seepage associated with being built in a valley of alluvial soil type.

In view of these facts it would be a shameful indictment in this day and age, if we were to ruin the Mary Valley, creating a stinking, boggy expanse of mud flats dotted with shallow ponds of mosquito infested stagnant water. It would turn the area into a place where no one would want to visit.

Over the last 12 months, the area's major newspaper has done an excellent job of keeping us informed with the latest developments on the issues concerning the proposed Traveston Crossing dam site.

Two of the recent articles are attached for your perusal.

The first one is dated 9/2/07, concerning revelation that the dam siting was politically motivated.

9/2/07

THE ISSUE: TRAVESTON CROSSING DAM

# Dam probe to bring 'higher accountability'

FEDERAL Member for Wide Bay Warren Truss has welcomed the move by Nationals Senators Ron Boswell and Barnaby Joyce and Liberal Senator Russell Troad to bring a higher level of accountability to the Traveston Crossing Dam.

Mr Truss said in a move that will provide some light to the people of the Mary Valley, Senator Boswell gave notice of a motion in the Senate to refer south east Queensland water including the Traveston Crossing Dam to the Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport.

"The Senate Inquiry will give a voice to those people in the Mary Valley who have been bullied from pillar to post by Peter Beattie and Anna Bligh," he said.

"The inquiry will deliver an impartial examination of the social, environmental, engineering and economic impacts of the dam.

"While the inquiry of itself cannot prevent the construction of the dam, it allows the issues to be thoroughly investigated, and gives local people an opportunity to have their say on this important issue.

## 'Woman scorned' tells truth: Flegg

FORMER Labor Member for Noosa Cate Molloy has revealed the Traveston Crossing Dam site on the Mary River was not the best site for a dam and was chosen for political reasons, Coalition deputy leader Dr Bruce Flegg said yesterday.

The revelations provide further proof that Premier Peter Beattie has been misleading the people of Queensland over the water woes of southeast Queensland, he said.

"Beattie's decision to put the dam at Traveston was purely political," Dr Flegg said. "It was only because the area was strongly National Party that he decided he would put the dam there," Ms Molloy is quoted as saying. Dr Flegg said although Ms Molloy may be

a "woman scorned" by Mr Beattie, it was now up to the 50 remaining members of the Labor Caucus who were present with Ms Molloy when the comments were made to refute them.

"Ms Molloy has nothing to lose by now telling the truth about Mr Beattie and some of the revelations are highly insightful.

"Mr Beattie must release any advice he provided to the Labor Caucus so the people can assess whether there are better sites for a dam than Traveston Crossing.

"Ms Molloy's comments show the sleazy Beattie Government is prepared to pay politics with people's lives and waste taxpayers' resources rather than do the right thing."

"The people of the Mary Valley can be forgiven for being a little sceptical of Mr Beattie when he says the dam stacks up on all grounds but he will not release any data to support his

claims," he said yesterday.

"And this makes the Senate Inquiry proposed by Senator Boswell all the more vital. It will give Mary Valley residents a forum to discuss

the issue, and to obtain information on the real facts."

Mr Truss urged support for the motion from the Labor Party given that Labor Leader Kevin Rudd indicated he would support any moves for a Senate Inquiry into the Traveston Crossing Dam.

"Kevin Rudd said in a radio interview on 2GB Sydney on January 25, 2007 'Absolutely. All the facts should be on the table. No problems. I don't particularly mind if it gives difficulties to State Governments around the country'," he said.

"That is despite his so-called Environment Minister Peter Garrett being unaware of the dam site just a few weeks before.

"Peter Garrett: 'The dam that they want to build outside of Queensland, outside of Brisbane?' ABC Wide Bay, Bundaberg, 11 December 2006.

"I look forward to the people of the Mary Valley and the wider community having their say on this dam, and I congratulate Senators Boswell, Joyce and Troad for their commitment to democracy."

The second article dated 28/3/07 titled Cattle Deaths "Hush Money".

## Cattle deaths 'hush money'

MEMBER for Gympie David Gibson yesterday called for the release of the Department of Primary Industries vets report into the mysterious deaths of cattle in the Mary Valley near a dam drilling rig in June 2006 after discovering was he claimed was "hush money" was paid to one of the cattle owners.



David Gibson

"I've been made aware that this Government has gone so far as to pay hush money to one of the cattle owners back in 2006 so that they wouldn't raise this issue in the media," he said. "That's just not acceptable.

"For QWI to say that it was 'unlikely' that there was a link between the death of the cattle and exploratory drilling on the site doesn't wash.

"They are saying 'trust us we work for the government'. Well I don't trust Peter Beattie or his sleazy Government.

"The public has a right to know what is in those reports and any other information that they have regarding soil testing in the area. The last thing we need is another cover-up."

Mr Gibson said opponents of the dam have been frustrated by the continual failure of the Government to release documents and reports relating to the site.

"What does the Government know that they

are not telling us?

"What secrets are Anna Bligh and Peter Beattie trying to hide from the people of Queensland?

"This happened back in June 2006 and only now nine months later has there been any statement by QWI on these concerns after the media exposed the cover-up."

He said he was also concerned at revelations by a QWI spokeswoman that they had identified "mineral accumulation" on properties and that "the potential human health or environmental concern, is also considered low".

A 2006 GHD report commissioned by the Government to assess the Traveston Crossing Dam site identified that land contamination was an issue that could jeopardise the viability of the dam.

"If there is any risk at all to the people of Queensland who would drink this water then this site must be disregarded," Mr Gibson said.

THE GYMPIE TIMES, Wednesday, March 28, 2007. Page

All in all, throughout this whole period of time, the State Government has appeared to conduct its self in a secretive, bombastic and untrustworthy fashion; with statements like "We will build this Dam whether it is feasible or not!"

All without complete environmental and other essential studies being undertaken first!

Yours faithfully

*J & R Schroder*

John & Rosalind Schroder