

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**

I wish to provide information for the Senate Inquiry regarding the social impact on the community and the vulnerability of the unique flora and fauna of the region.

Over the last 22 years I have lived and worked in the Cooloola shire having originally lived in Brisbane. The work that I am engaged in is in the area of Social Welfare and my role in the community is supporting families in times of crisis.

With this background and having always worked in direct service delivery (background in counseling and case management) I feel I am able to give fair appraisal of the community that I serve.

The Mary Valley is a most beautiful and natural area; it has very fertile farming soil and supports a wide range of rural industries.

We have in every possible term, true and real communities living in the valley who have lived here for generations – the building of community is not easily replicated and something we should never destroy or take for granted.

The unique inhabitants of the Mary River itself are also in the path of potential destruction having adapted to the natural cycles of the Mary over countless centuries it is most unlikely that the Mary River turtle, Mary Cod and the Lungfish would survive the dam.

We also have vast forested areas of rain forest and valuable timber species (also home to the rare bird wing butterfly) that would be totally lost to us forever if this fabulously viable fertile land was to be covered with water.

I believe there are more qualified people than myself to give submissions on the economical loss to our lands including the impact that damming the Mary River would have of the downstream areas (including fisheries, wetlands and sea grass habitats) and I only hope that these submissions will be forthcoming and taken seriously with total consideration to the entire Cooloola and Wide Bay area.

There has been too much stress on the families in our region already and the destruction of habitat and community would be unforgivable.

The Cooloola and Mary Valley is not a wasteland but this is what it will become so other options must be considered including the raising of the Borumba Dam (this is on a Yabba Creek and does not directly affect the flow of the Mary).

I would also appreciate being contacted (0421171814) if there is any further clarification needed regarding my submission.

Yours faithfully,

Bernadette Wright