

## **Inquiry into Additional Water Supplies for South East Queensland – Traveston Crossing Dam**

- (a) the merits of all options, including the Queensland Government's proposed Traveston Crossing Dam as well as raising the Borumba Dam

Through no fault of their own, our members and those also in the Mary Valley community in close proximity to the dam site will have to vacate their family farms and start again. For many of them, their homes have been in their family for generations and now will only be left with memories of what was.

Destroying an area of 76 square kilometres of prime agricultural, income producing farmland close to major population centres and force the un-negotiated relocation of hundreds of business and around 900 families.

- (b) the social, environmental, economic and engineering impacts of the various proposals

The proposed dam will destroy habitat for rare and threatened species – the Lungfish, the Mary River Cod, and the Mary River Turtle, and other endangered ecosystems. The Lungfish is a living fossil which existed alongside the dinosaurs. It is feared it will become extinct if its breeding habitat is not preserved. The Mary River and Burnett River systems are the only natural habitat in the world for this fish. It will adversely impact on environmental flows along the Mary River system which discharges into the Great Sandy Straights Declared Ramsar wetland area.

It will have serious implications on fishing industries in the Great Sandy Region.

It has been conservatively estimated that between 100 and 200 arsenic cattle dips are littered throughout the Mary Valley in the location of the dam site and upstream catchments.

Arsenic is odourless and tasteless and enters drinking water supplies from natural deposits in the soil from agricultural and industrial practices. Arsenic has been linked to many cancers, and other ailments. The presence of these facilities within the dam and the broader catchment areas raises serious questions about the suitability of this proposal to provide safe drinking water supplies.

The area of the proposed dam is located within an area of moderate to high Salinity Hazard.

The 1971 Convention of Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran 1971) is an International Treaty that aims to halt the loss of wetlands. Australia is a signatory to this Treaty which is legally binding. Any action which will, or may, have an impact on a Ramsar Wetland, cannot proceed without approval, after a rigorous environmental assessment, from the Commonwealth Environment Minister.

The location of the proposed dam also contains areas of notophyll rainforest on alluvial plains which is protected under the Queensland Vegetation Management Act 1999. These ecosystems will be destroyed if the proposed dam goes ahead.

on behalf of The Queensland Country Women's Association  
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