

The Secretary  
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport  
PARLIAMENT HOUSE  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir,

**Reference Submissions for Senate Inquiry into Traveston Dam on the Mary River.**

The Maryborough Family Heritage Institute is part of the Portside Tourist Trail in Maryborough and is situated close to the Mary River.

The very existence of our Institute originated mainly because of the historical significance of the influx of the 20 000 immigrants who came to Australia through the Port of Maryborough, which was first opened in 1859, the year of the birth of Queensland as a State. These people came through the Great Sandy Straits from the mouth of the Mary River to the Port of Maryborough, to begin a new life in this district, or to go further afield. When gold was discovered at Gympie, thousands of miners and other workers arrived in Maryborough, from where they walked to the goldfields. Some of the descendants of these people are possibly those living in the Traveston region.

It is believed that when the Mary River is dammed at Traveston, the health and the flow of the river will slow and decline, damaging forever the ecology of this river system. This in turn will flood one of the last vast fertile valleys in this Wide Bay region and ruin the livelihood of the present farmers, many of whom are third and fourth generation members of this part of Queensland. These men, women and children are already suffering stress, trauma and depression through the proposed resumption of this beautiful dairy country through this ill conceived plan to dam the Mary at Traveston.

This site is NOT the best one for conserving water for South East Queensland for many reasons, including the arsenic to be found in the hundreds of cattle dips on the properties that will be inundated by the dam; the shallowness of the dam and the type of soil, which will not hold the voluminous amount of water envisioned by the Government when and if it fills in 20 years. In the meantime, what do the people do for water and where do we go for our dairy products? China?

During the last century and the present there have been cries of indignation because of the dispossession of the lands of the aboriginal tribes by the early settlers and the fury instilled in the indigenous tribes through the "stolen generation" debacle. Who will be indignant when thousands of our farming communities lose their livelihood and way of life after their land is flooded? Not the Queensland Government!

Besides the many human factors there are the lives of the unique Mary River lung fish, Mary River Cod and Mary River Turtle to consider. The Lung fish is the only

fish in the world that has lungs for breathing and therefore the continued existence of this prehistoric fish depends on the continued flow of Mary River water.

Also, to a much smaller degree, but never-the-less a very important degree, will be the loss of tourism when our city, which is visited by thousands of overseas and Australian tourists each year, loses its lovely riverside to a slow moving stream with its banks covered in mangroves. Hervey Bay will lose its amateur and professional fishing grounds and Fraser Island will not remain the “paradise” and showcase of its renowned World Heritage Listing.

Yours sincerely,

Dell Jamieson and Kay Gassan  
President                      Treasurer

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