

Newfarm
193 Caulley Road
Sexton via Gympie QLD 4570

The Secretary
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
4th April 2007

Dear Sir/Madam

This Senate inquiry must look at economic costs and benefits or otherwise to the wider community, including local, regional, state and national levels. Community disruption must be widely analyzed and social impact needs assessed.

This inquiry must look at feasible alternatives, many of which have already been proposed to government. Raising of Borumba dam and another storage higher up and feeding into the present facility as proposed by Mr. Ron McMaha sounds sensible to me. From information I have received I believe that this option has not been given enough consideration. Alternative locations must be considered which would have lesser impact on communities and also provide a deeper more environmentally friendly dam. Any location must consider the problems associated with waterweeds and evaporation. Deeper water storage would partly alleviate this problem. Many of us recognize the need for future water storages in a sensitive way. Recycling, water tanks, desalination and other methods of conservation must be considered as alternatives.

This inquiry should consider all data available and having lived on the river for the past eleven years I have my doubts whether some of the information presented in regard to river flow is accurate.

I have seen the river stop flowing and I have also experienced declining rainfall over the years. Current water entitlement holders downstream need reassurance that their operations will not be unduly affected by lack of water and their land subsequently devalued as reliability becomes uncertain. This also needs to be affordable. Our current severe drought of course is making this situation critical and nature plays a huge part in future outcomes. Changes in flow must be thoroughly examined for both irrigators and the environmental health of the river, including our rare and endangered Lung Fish and Mary River Turtle.

I cannot believe that damming this beautiful river will improve the Environment, benefit the irrigators who are the food producers of this country and the general public.

I trust you will consider this submission with high importance.

Yours faithfully

Mrs. Rosemary Burnett
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