

The Secretary
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

2nd April 2007

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Inquiry into Additional Water Supplies for South East Queensland – Traveston Crossing Dam Information

The purpose of this submission is to provide information for the Senate Inquiry.

I am very grateful for this opportunity. I have written to the Queensland Government, but from the response I received it was very obvious they had not read past the title. I am feeling particularly helpless in the face of what seems to be an irrational decision which, if the dam goes ahead, will destroy a beautiful and productive valley which should be left for future generations – and for no useful result!

Deputy Premier Bligh stated recently that if the dam had been built three years ago, it would be full now. This is patently incorrect as the Cooloolah Shire (the dam catchment area) was drought declared last week. This type of misinformation from the Government has been a feature of the announcements about the dam. I am concerned that this proposed dam seems to be going ahead regardless of common sense and scientific and environmental studies.

You will have received many well researched scientific and environmental reports and I do not propose to repeat that information. I endorse the Save the Mary River Coordinating Group's submission.

The Premier has often said that the thousands of people moving to Queensland every year need water and he is going to give it to them. Hence the Traveston Crossing Dam. Once he gives them water, they will want food. Where is that going to come from if we dam the farmland?

With climate change upon us and as petrol prices continue to rise, it will become increasingly important to have food grown as close to the consumers as possible. Already South East Queensland has lost much of its best farmland to houses, roads and industry. Our ability to feed ourselves will become the next major problem.

What is wrong with the dam?

- it depends on rainfall – which is becoming increasingly unreliable in the catchment area
- the loss to evaporation of a large shallow dam in this climate will be huge
- this dam will destroy valuable food production land
- this dam will destroy the habitat of several unique and threatened species.

Alternatives to the dam?

- rainwater tanks for all structures
- recycled water to flush toilets and wash clothes

- collect the water that goes down storm water drains in built up areas with a decent rainfall and pump it to the empty dams
- price excess water use appropriately to discourage waste.

Although not a resident of the area affected by the proposed dam, many of my friends are and I live close enough to see what a disaster it will be if this valley is wrecked by a dam that is most unlikely to succeed. It makes no sense and I am still in a state of disbelief it may go ahead. I plead with you to stop this dam.

Yours sincerely

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