

210 Bergins Pocket Road  
KANDANGA QLD 4570

3 April 2007

Secretary  
Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam

I am a landowner in Stage 1 and 2 of the proposed Traveston Dam. My husband and I and our three teenage children operate a grazing enterprise on our 210 acres and lease other grazing land in the proposed catchment area. We strongly oppose the proposed dam for numerous reasons and have suffered enormous hardship since the April 26, the shock announcement of the Traveston Dam. Democracy in our state is being undermined. We know there are cheaper alternatives of providing water for our increasing water needs in south east Queensland without destroying the livelihoods of hundreds of people.

In 1989, as a young married couple eager to extend our grazing interests, we searched for A1 agricultural land in Queensland securing a prime 100 acres in Goomong Road, Kandanga. Later we purchased a further 110 acres of prime Mary River grazing land in Bergins Pocket Road, Kandanga from Neville's parents where they had farmed. This grazing land is rated A1 by our Queensland Government and this was one of the main factors why the dam site under the Goss Labor Government in 1994 was disbanded. Damming our alluvial river flats and river is an environmental disaster and an extreme destruction of prime agricultural land.

My family has been severely disturbed throughout this proposal. The day of the shock announcement, a helicopter flew over our property. That night on National television, a seemingly callous Premier announced that the people of the Mary Valley would need to make sacrifices to provide water for Brisbane. We were 'gob smacked', just one month after an announcement was made to build a weir on the Mary River – Coles Crossing – the location of our Goomong property. A Premier acting without consulting the affected landowners or local Council. Evidence of a lack of strategic planning.

Tears flow on the faces of my children (and their Mum's) many times per week. Why? We are constantly amidst lies, misinformation and bullying tactics from our state government. We are faced with a Premier and Deputy Premier making dishonest statements and hurtful comments on media.

- 1 "The Government made the decision to proceed based on factors such as potential yield, cost effectiveness, environmental, cultural and social impact".  
Premier Beattie July 2006

To this day the Queensland Government has not provided evidence to prove this.

- 2 When referring to the drilling progress reports on National Television he laughs out loud and says, “This is not rocket science it is rock science”. Premier Beattie November 2006

Locals know that the rock which is reported to the media by the Premier and Deputy Premier that exists does not exist. The government has not been able to prove their results.

- 3 “ If this dam was built three years ago this dam would be full”. Deputy Premier March 2007

Obviously our Deputy Premier has neglected to check our rainfall statistics. This is a false statement.

- 4 “Mary Valley residents are in NIMBY mode” Deputy Premier, March 2007

I have evidence to prove that this is a flawed proposal. An immature and uncaring remark by a Deputy Premier when there are 10 000 plus smart Queenslanders displaced.

Following is a paragraph from a letter my 12 year old composed:-

I wonder if Mr Beattie and all his followers in his party would really understand how we will celebrate Christmas and Easter. Perhaps I should invite him to share with our family and friends camping on the Mary River bank. We wake up to the crisp flow of the Mary, we watch platypus frolicking near the waters edge, we watch fish jump, the lung fish at home in the Mary and the Mary river turtle gracefully swimming by. Our cattle and horses walk down to drink after grazing on the river flats. We swim, we canoe, we climb trees, and we skip flat stones on the water. I love the Mary River – it is a part of our heritage and it shall never be dammed!

The forming of Queensland Water Infrastructure Pty Ltd has been a ploy to take the pressure from the Government. I have received telephone calls from representatives of this Company. The message is shrewdly manipulative – suggesting we consider selling our property. This government must seek approval from the Federal Government to proceed. We are angered to be pressured with their sweet deals.

We are receiving glossy mail outs, personally addressed to us from our government stating inaccuracies. There is no supporting evidence to information being printed. The contents are overwhelming, causing a great deal of unnecessary emotional stress.

Being an extremely community focussed person, I have met with individuals in our community who are suffering serious health issues as a result of being poorly treated by our Government. This is evidence of psychological warfare being waged on our rural community.

This is our home, our livelihood, our community – a unique picturesque piece of Queensland for future generations. There are alternatives to meet the demands of our State’s water crisis that will help build a future for Queensland.

Yours faithfully  
Lyndall Ensbey