

The Secretary
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport
Parliament House
Canberra, ACT 2000

Inquiry Into Additional Water Supplies for South East Queensland – Traveston Crossing Dam

From Lin Fairlie
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I wish to make a brief submission to the above inquiry :

1. Traveston Crossing Dam is not a 'reasonable option' for increasing the water supply in SE Queensland. It is the one which the Queensland State Government has decided 'to build' not 'whether to build'. No full investigation has been undertaken into the social, economic and environmental effects of the dam.
2. The loss of this good agricultural land cannot be replaced as this is one of the richest valleys in SE Queensland.
3. There are three endangered species found in this section of the Mary River. The Commonwealth EPBC Act is responsible for the protection of endangered species.
The Lungfish is only found naturally now in the Mary and Burnett Rivers. The latter habitat has suffered by the construction of another ill-conceived dam and even though a very expensive fish ladder has been constructed the lungfish' normal breeding grounds are not nearly as accessible as before. Lungfish do not breed in deep water such as is found in any impoundment and therefore if the Traveston Dam is built its breeding grounds will be greatly reduced and probably adversely affected by the changed water flow regimes.
Little is known about the Mary River Turtle. An investigation in the next six months will not reveal the true behaviour and extent of this animal as this would require at least a twelve month investigation.
4. The affect on the important Dugong habitat and commercial fishing grounds in Great Sandy Straits has not been given sufficient importance as it should be in any comprehensive investigation. Even when experts have been engaged by local groups the Queensland Government has been dismissive of their reports. The flow patterns of the Mary River are very variable and the figures used have been

averaged rather than considering the high and low flow rates which are the common pattern throughout any year.

5. There must be a true cost benefit analysis of the Traveston Dam and the alternatives using the same methodology and these figures must be publicly released.
6. Any investigation must include Stage Two of the proposed dam and not just Stage One as at present.
7. The Mary River Catchment is a NAPSWQ priority catchment and the possible increases in salinity must be taken into account.