

Attention: Jeanette Radcliffe

I respectfully request that the Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport invite, and if required summons, the following persons to appear before the Committee Hearings in respect of the Additional Water Supplies for South East Queensland - Traveston Crossing Dam for the reasons described below:

1. The State Controller General, Ross Rolfe, in order that Mr Rolfe may be questioned over the extent to which political considerations, as opposed to technical design and environmental considerations were discussed in the course of Mr Rolfe's dealings with the Executive Branch of Government in respect of the proposal to build a dam at Traveston;
2. Mr Henry Palaszczuk, the relevant Minister at the time of the decision to build the proposed dam at Traveston, in order that Mr Palaszczuk may be questioned over the extent to which political considerations, as opposed to technical design and environmental considerations were discussed in the course of Mr Palaszczuk's discussions with the Premier, other Members of the Cabinet or the Executive Branch of Government generally, and in discussions with the Executive including Senior Public Servants;
3. Mr Phillip Moran in order that he may elaborate and answer questions on his submission with respect to likely aquatic weed infestation in the proposed dam;
4. Professor David Williams in order that he may elaborate and answer questions on his submission with respect to the geotechnical problems associated with the proposed dam;
5. Mr Alan Sheridan in order that he may answer questions and elaborate on the submission by the Save The Mary River Co-Ordinating Group Inc with respect to design, location and environmental concerns regarding the proposed dam.

By way of explanation my interest in the matter is that I am a long term resident of the general area having been in legal practice on the Sunshine Coast in excess of 25 years, and having maintained my family's home near Kandanga in the Mary Valley for the past 8 years. Whilst I am not directly affected by property resumption I have observed the dire effects which the proposal has already had on the social fabric of the community in the loss of valuable community members whose properties have been acquired, decline in participation in local schools and junior sporting clubs and the general community malaise arising out of the proposal.

The proposal seems to be so ill-considered and fundamentally flawed as to give rise to a suspicion of ulterior motives on the part of the State Government, in particular the distraction of public attention from the failure by the State Government to adequately fund and administer the essential services of health and education and/or the location of a dam where it will have least adverse effect on the political fortunes of the current State Government.

I respectfully submit that it is essential for this aspect of the proposal to be considered in addition to the technical, environmental and social concerns raised in the various submissions before the Committee.

Yours faithfully

Steve Watson

CONTACT DETAILS:

PO Box 758, Maroochydore, Qld. 4558.

Phone: (07) 5443 5266

Fax: (07) 5443 7464

Email: steve@watsonquinn.com.au