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Queensland

5th April 2007

Committee Secretary
Senate Rural & Regional Affairs & Transport Committee
Department of the Senate
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Submission – Federal Senate Inquiry – Proposed Traveston Crossing Dam

Dear Sir/Madam,

Attached is a copy of a file note I prepared the morning following a meeting on 25th May 2006 in Brisbane with the Minister for Natural Resources. The contents of this file note were verified on 26th May 2006 by Mr Peter Wellington, Member for Nicklin, as being factually correct.

Senators will be interested in the first three lines of the second paragraph. These clearly explain that at the time the Queensland Government made a decision to select Traveston Crossing as the site for a large dam, there were no studies that were relied on to make that decision when compared with other dam sites or other water delivery initiatives.

Senators will I am sure draw their own conclusions about whether Traveston Crossing was a political decision as advised by Ms Cate Molloy, Labor Member for Noosa at the time, or a decision based on sound technical and economic analysis.

Yours Sincerely,



Kevin Ingersole

Attachment: Notes from meeting with Henry Palaszczuk 25th May 2006.pdf

Notes from meeting with Henry Palaszczuk 25th May 2006

Present: Peter Wellington, Elisa Roberts, Scott Spencer (NRM&W) Joe Mc Leod, Graham Smith, Mike ? (NRM), Wayne Sachs

Estimated 100,000 MI – 150,000 MI of yield annually is required.

There are no studies that underpin the selection of Traveston Crossing over any other or a combination of any other sites or initiatives, and there are no estimates of costs yet. Having “eyeballed” it, Traveston will yield the required volumes. It is quite apparent that Traveston is the best site from a hydrological point of view; it is the biggest yielding site. Previous studies have been reviewed however there is much more work (maybe 2 years) before the costs of the Traveston will be known. Lots of site investigation work, design etc is required and data needs to be generated, in some cases by independent experts. Construction will begin in 2008.

The process for building the dam will be the same as was the case for the Paradise dam. The government will establish a private company - Qld Water Infrastructure Pty Ltd in August 2006.

The Qld government has asked the Commonwealth government to get involved ASAP; approaches have been made to Ian Campbell however, this will need to be done through the new company established to run the dam project.

The dam wall will be built to full height immediately.

There is no formal project plan that sets out the timetable yet but the Coordinator General's department may have a Gantt chart. (Nobody seemed to know for sure)

Following the formation of the new company it is likely that stakeholders will be involved in the establishment of the terms of reference which presumably will be part of the design and planning process.

Issues of threatened or endangered species are not seen as a problem. Turtles and Lung fish were dealt with in the approval process for the Paradise dam so no problems are expected for Traveston.

When asked “what are the showstoppers for Traveston”, HP said there was only one, the foundations, and since the tests had established that rock is present this problem does not exist.

General

Local councils have the authority to mandate the use of water tanks for new dwellings and the next budget may provide incentives for this to happen however there may be an issue where dwellings are built on small blocks.

Water tanks would be required in approximately 800,000 households to equal the yield from Traveston but Brisbane has only 300,000 households.

Kevin Ingersole
25th May 2006.