

Submission to the Senate Inquiry into the Building of the Traveston

I wish to submit the following points in relation to the proposed Traveston Dam. I had 43 years on Water Resources mainly involved with dam and irrigation construction. Thirty nine years of this time was with Water Resources with the State Government and 4 years with Contractors.

I was involved with the construction of the Borumba Dam, Perseverance Dam at Crow Nest, Coolmunda dam at Inglewood , Beardmore dam at St George and the Monduran dam at Gin Gin. I was then involved with the Bundaberg Irrigation project.this was followed by working as works supervisor for the construction of the Wivenhoe dam and associated Recreation areas. I was then involved with the Isis section of the Bundaberg irrigation and transferred to Gatton to assist with the Lake Clarendon scheme. I completed my time with the Department with the irrigation scheme at Emerald.

Consultation and Studies.

I am concerned with the lack process of public consultation And study for this project.the study and public consultation process Prior to the construction of the Wivenhoe Dam took six and a half years before the first property was resumed.Owners of properties resumed in this project had the option of building removal.

Social Impact of Proposed Traveston Crossing Dam.

It should be noted that Wivenhoe dam holds 2.6 million megalitres and involved the resumption of 200 properties covering approximately 20,000 hectares where as the proposed Traveston sight involves almost 900 properties for 25% of the water storage and approximately 13,000 hectares. Another example of a typical dam sight, causing minimal social impact is the Monduran Dam at Gin Gin with holds 583,000 megalitres And covers 5000 hectares. This is the equivalent of the proposed Traveston Dam at stage 2.

It should be noted that with the construction of both Wivenhoe and Monduran there was minimal social impact for the capacity achieved.

The social impact of the Proposed Traveston sight is greater than just the Initial impact on the villages of Imbil, Kandanga, areas such as Federal, Carters Ridge and Skyring Creek because there is no provision for flood events. Because of the spiking effect of the backwaters during heavy Flooding rain Kandanga Creek and Yabba Creek and their tributaries will back up to new levels due to the dam blocking normal exit, flooding housing and paddocks which will necessitate the evacuation of people and stock .This situation has not been addressed in any of the flood mapping.

The effect of four schools in the area is already being felt and access to these schools should the dam go ahead plus flooding will also be severely affected.

The community will be denied access to the cemetery and this will also be subject to flooding when Kandanga Creek backs up .

Economic Impact of the Proposed Traveston Crossing Dam.

Apart from the loss of prime agricultural land the impact will be felt from the Valley to Maryborough as water for agriculture will not be guaranteed with present allocations as these will be cut according to the restrictions of the SEQ water grid.

Properties in the area have been devalued for ever irrespective of the outcome as there will always be a shadow over the future.

Many businesses have already been affected and should the proposal Continue then this will devalue and close down and further devalue for businesses from the valley to Hervey Bay increasing unemployment In the area.

Conclusion

It is my belief that the establishment of the Government owned QWI Is a mechanism to avoid public scrutiny of the true facts of the proposed Dam.

Any project of this magnitude, in my time, required a preliminary study and drilling before any announcement of such a proposal and certainly before any acquisition of land.

I have outlined from my experience that the lack of public consultation for this project is quite different to any that I have been involved with in the past.

John McHugh.

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24th March 2007