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10 April, 2007

The Secretary  
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600



**Re: Inquiry into Additional Water Supplies for South East Queensland –  
Traveston Crossing Dam Information**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I'm writing to express my concern regarding the building of the Traveston Crossing Dam in Queensland. Unfortunately, most Brisbane residents have not been made aware of the futility involved in the construction of this dam. Indeed, were they aware of the financial, environmental and social costs in relation to its actual impact on the Brisbane water supply, there would be greater Brisbane uproar and no doubt you would be receiving many more letters of this kind.

Official estimates shown in the documentary "Damning Mary" reported that at the current rate Brisbane will run out of water in 2008. However, the proposed Traveston Dam will not supply water to Brisbane for at least another five years. Furthermore, the financial costs of the construction of the dam outweigh the costs for alternative and more effective water solutions. For this reason, the environmental and social damage caused by the building of this dam appear to be completely unnecessary as they will not alleviate the current crisis and indeed will use up important financial resources that could be better channelled towards more immediate relief.

The current water crisis is caused by poor management as well as decades of water waste by Brisbane residents. There are numerous better alternatives to the dam which not only provide more immediate, not to mention socially and environmentally responsible, solutions to the water crisis now and for a sustainable future, but which will also help to educate the population and government to change their behaviour to create long-term water sustainability.

I trust that my letter and others like it will be treated with due concern during the upcoming Senate Inquiry into the Traveston Crossing Dam and I look forward to hearing of the outcome in your response.

Yours faithfully,

TRACEY CHARLTON