

The Secretary  
Senate Committee

I want to lodge an objection to the proposals to dam the rivers of the Tweed Valley in an effort to provide drought relief to South East Queensland. Past prudent planning by our local authority has ensured that our water needs are secure here in the Tweed. The same cannot be said for those responsible for infrastructure planning in the South East Queensland area where the economic interests of rampant development have stretched the capacity of a fragile environment way beyond its capacity to cope. This irresponsibility cannot be simply dealt with through the plundering of rural amenity and ecological balance of our beautiful valley. Dam construction on any catchment will have a profound and permanent negative effect on the ecology of that catchment.

Large scale collection of storm water through the retrofitting of rain water tanks to all residences in the affected areas would have a far greater impact in meeting their water needs than any dam and distribution system from the Northern Rivers. Such a solution needs to be seriously considered before any reckless suggestion of dams in northern NSW is put on the agenda.

Yours faithfully

Barry Longland  
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