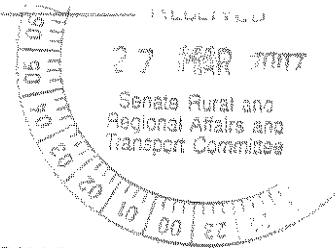


The President  
Senate Committee  
Canberra



Dear Sir/Madam,

**SUBMISSION AGAINST CONSTRUCTION OF TRAVISTON CROSSING DAM.**

Having read the Environmental Impact Study (EIS) draft, I find the exclusions raise more questions than the draft raises in respect of justification of the incumbent Governments actions by assuming the dam at Traviston Crossing is a forgone conclusion, and that residents upstream and down stream of the Mary River are going to have that dam whether they like it or not. While the EIS suggests alternative water sources, the State Government's actions have, hitherto, advanced so far with resummptions, controversial land valuations and, depriving the community of viable dairy farms, prime grazing and farming lands where such replacement land is unavailable elsewhere to supply the needs of high population areas of Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay Region.

Political expediency appears to be the *modus operandi* here because of the unpopularity of the incumbent Government in this electorate. Sacrificing the votes of the affected community against the greater voter population of Brisbane & the South East is not the way of determining a possible dam site. The Traviston Crossing site was rejected by the Goss Government, yet no explanation has been given why **such a decision was ignored by the Beatty Government.**

Under due democratic process, John Citizen would expect:

1. The rights of freehold land tenure to be honoured and respected.
2. Riparian rights preserved.
3. The welfare of communities dependant on the Mary River protected and preserved along with livelihoods derived from families occupying adjacent lands.
4. Preservation of ecosystems dependant on the Mary River, the adverse effects of the dam on marine environment and Fraser Island which is part of the Mary River delta.
5. Determination of sustainable water levels in proposed dams couple to rainfall, evaporation, seepage and other related criteria has not occurred.

The State Governments actions thus far have bypassed these considerations, alternative water sources have not been assessed as a prerequisite before

formalising a draft EIS. There are abundant sources of water that should have been explored before land resumptions etc. took place. Namely:

- Supplying domestic housing with water tanks. For you general information the roof area of SE Queensland covers approximately 22,000 hectares. This is the cheapest and most efficient way of water catchment with no evaporation where water loss would only be through minor leaks and usage. It is interesting to note that one full 5000 litre water tank would save 23% of metered usage per month, for a family of four on level 1 water restrictions. The \$1.7 billion set aside for the Traviston Dam construction should be used for this purpose.
- Incentives given to industry to harvest roof rain water from industrial buildings, at a conservative estimate, industry would add a further 15,000 hectares or more to the collection area.
- Pipe water from the monsoon belt in North Queensland. Forrester and O'Connor proved this possible in West Australia at the turn of the 20th Century prior to Federation when they built a 500 mile pipeline into Coolgardie. In this modern era, with sophisticated technology and machinery, such an undertaking is a real long term alternative with lasting benefits to the rainfall deprived south.
- Tapping the **perennial streams** of Fraser Island by using a well managed water diversion scheme hat will preserve this ecosystem.
- Natural drainage and catchment areas of future and existing urban developments to be developed solely for water catchment and connected to a grid system for general distribution.
- Recycling used water for general distribution.
- Desalination of ground water in select areas of very low rainfall.

Clearly it is quite apparent, that the incumbent Queensland State Government, in its haste to rectify the water shortage, has put the cart before the horse. The State Government should now rethink their existing departures and **prioritise alternative water sources** before proceeding any further with the proposed Traviston Crossing dam.

A very concerned Wide Bay Resident

Monty Woodbridge