

# Hinterland Dental Group

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The Secretary  
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT

Dear Senators,

RE: Enquiry into the proposed Traveston Crossing Dam.

This submission is regarding the social impacts on the broader local community.

I am a dentist living near Borumba Dam, on the western side of the proposed Traveston Crossing Dam.

I own a dental surgery at Cooroy, in the Noosa hinterland.

Cooroy is a thriving semi-rural center, providing services to the broader local farming and coastal community.

Should this dam go ahead I shall be forced to relocate or sell my business due to unreasonable distance to travel to and from work each day, as well as care for my family. Currently I drive 80km each way to work and that takes 45 minutes. Any road diversion will extend my travel time and distance to a ridiculous amount and negate any benefit of my family living where we live.

Extraordinarily it has taken me 18 months to secure the employment of a second dentist in this practice. I had to sponsor her from Ireland, due the shortage of dentists in Australia. We also employ a hygienist/therapist, and 4 other support staff.

I do not expect to be able to sell my business easily and simply closing it, is a real option.

However I am not alone.

Our local vet's business and home is to be resumed

The local physiotherapist is also directly affected. Her family property will also be resumed.

Our local optometrist is also affected and her home is to be resumed

We all have the choice of relocating our homes or our businesses. These are not easy decisions, as they involve our families, our staff and our patients.

With such a shortage of medical and allied health professionals how does a thriving town replace and replenish its professional body? Our businesses are the core of any rural or regional town. Certainly over time we will be replaced, but how long will it take? How does the community cope in the mean time? Do you understand the anguish involved in changing doctors? Then compound that by four times, when seeking out new services of a dentist, physio, optometrist, and vet. Then consider our staff and their families, and then their financial commitments and the anxiety they must also be going through. The social ramifications of this proposal are staggering. That there was no consultation period and the continual arrogance that this government has shown this community belies belief.

This is just 1 town, which will be devastatingly affected by this proposal. The flow on affect will be felt in Pomona, Cooran, Kin Kin, Tewantin, Noosa, Eumundi, Doonan, Belli, Carters Ridge and Kenilworth These are the towns we draw our patients from. The point is that this proposal will have a massive follow on effect, which I doubt anyone has even begun to realise.

Mr. Beattie and Ms Bligh like to down size the personal cost of this proposal on individuals.

What is the cost of a life? The illness, the ongoing anxiety, the physical manifestation of stress, in one form or another, has been a day-to-day reality for the last 12 months, for the broader Cooroy and Mary Valley communities. The resumption of properties, the loss of neighbours, friends, colleagues and patients has become a daily event. The fractionalisation of the community in such a short period of time is incredible and devastating.

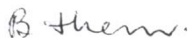
I believe that the reality of this proposal, is that it will be the largest forced relocation of Australians since the Snowy River Scheme.

I will be one of those Australians and I cannot see ANY benefit to the broader Australian community. In a time were the broader community is understanding the implications of large scale dams and the greenhouse gas emissions from such a dam, and the global warming ramifications of this proposal, the Australian community, let alone the local Cooroy and Mary Valley communities, deserve better than this desperate attempt to be seen to be solving the water crises.

I believe Mr. Beattie and Ms Bligh need broader leadership vision to embrace the " Smart State" branding. There are too many Queenslanders with too much to lose to give in to this constantly changing, made up policy, which was made on a whim, in a desperate bid to look like they knew what they was doing for the South East Queensland suburban voter.

Our community has too much to lose by this proposal. We thank you for giving us the opportunity to be heard, as this is truly the first and only community consultation we have been given.

Yours Sincerely,



Bronwyn Ahern