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[http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/rrat\\_ctte/traveston\\_dam/info.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/rrat_ctte/traveston_dam/info.htm)

### **Submission to the Inquiry 28th March 2007**

This Submission focuses on whether the decision to build Traveston Dam has been made after 'all reasonable options' have been rigorously studied.

I assert that while many options have been considered there are some which have not been fully examined and addressed. I confine this submission to:-

- on-site storage - rain water tanks,
- changes to pricing of water,
- a failure to recognise the serious ecological effects of the Dam and consequent failure to solve the water shortage without building another large Dam..

The Qld Govt has taken several important steps to reduce fresh river water consumption, including the recycling to industry of Brisbane's waste water. However other options have not been recognised and considered. About half the Mary River water goes to homes and industries. The subsidy for domestic tanks is \$1000 and many householders are installing small tanks which will do little to solve the problem. Where a householder or business is willing and able to install larger tanks, the subsidy should be increased and new houses ought to be required to install larger tanks. At the same time, a significant increase in price above a reasonable amount of water, would provide incentives, and reward those who do the right thing.

The Traveston Dam decision will seriously affect the ecology of the River from Kenilworth down to the mouth of the River. Many people are concerned at the increasing extraction of water from the Mary, starting with the piping of water from the Obi Obi to Caboolture and Brisbane. As there is disagreement about how environmental flows have been measured, the research needs to be out in the public arena. How will 85% be maintained in the face of the endless demand for fresh river water. I have serious reservations about the Dam's negative affects on the health of the River, and its communities.

Both the Paradise and Traveston Dams are empitomes of unsustainable processes. Each decision went against the sounder processes set in place by such initiatives as

Queensland's Water Resource Plans. This is born out by the withdrawal of support of the Community Reference Panel. *'The formally appointed Community Reference Panel associated with the development of the Mary Basin Water Resource Plan has advised that they were "profoundly deceived" by the State Government during the formulation of the plan and have publicly withdrawn their support for the process.'* (quoted from *Save The Mary River Paper 2007*)

These kinds of decisions mark a failure of democracy.

Yours sincerely

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I have been involved in Catchment issues in the Mary for the last thirty years. I am secretary of the Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group.

28th March 2007