

25/03/07

Mr. Alan Kirkegard
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The Secretary
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

RE: Inquiry into additional water supplies for South East Queensland – Traveston Crossing Dam

I live and work in the Mary Valley in Queensland. My wife and I are involved in the grazing industry. I have lived in the Imbil district since 1987. Unfortunately whilst timber cutting in Amamoor (at the site where an alternative dam has been proposed and where the previous state government already bought the land for the dam), I had an accident and became a paraplegic.

I returned to grazing cattle at Imbil in 2000. The daily challenges I face doing cattle work, (dipping, fencing, mustering, animal husbandry, land care, yard work etc), are unique to a paraplegic. However I love my work, and I look forward to every day. My friends from the Mary Valley have supported me since my accident. However, since the announcement of the proposed dam, our community has changed. The Beattie Government has desecrated our homes and created turmoil with every press release. His determination to go ahead with this dam “no matter what”, violates the common decency that farming communities have strived to create, and that city communities will never realise.

We find it insulting and distressing to receive mail from the Dept of Infrastructure, Office of Urban Management, flippantly suggesting we come along and “get involved” in the planning options for our towns/areas.

To discuss “future land use planning options, and recreational and tourism opportunities” makes my blood boil.

Why is it that governments push for the tourist dollar before all other? Agriculture is called primary production for a reason. Without food, an economy will fail. Do we want to import all our food in the future?

We are a clean green agricultural belt, we have rich soils, and we can grow anything and in large quantities. We are close enough to Brisbane to make transport costs economical. How does Beattie propose to feed the populations whom he has encouraged to migrate, without providing the infrastructure for them?

How can anyone truly think sailing, fishing, boating, four wheel driving and other luxury outdoor activities for suburban gorillas, can take the place of the good wholesome living that farming provides? We don't have enough hours in our day to be bored enough to go fishing, or 4 wheel driving or sailing. When you farm, you never stop working. And we love it.

I don't want anything to do with any Office of urban management. I don't want anything to do with anything urban. Urban personifies the breakdown of communities. We have worked too hard in this community for too long to create a stable and happy environment for our families, to watch it be destroyed by this proposal.

The first project the government should have undertaken during this drought is to de-silt the dams that already exist. As a grazier it is common sense to maximize dam capacity. All dams require this and no doubt this has not been done.

Raising the level of Borumba Dam is just common sense. The Government already owns this site. An option to increase the size of this dam is to move the dam wall to No. 6 crossing on Yabba Creek. This would then catch the flow of the Bella Creek and Little Bella Creek and increase the storage up these valleys. The storage areas are very steep and very deep with bedrock foundations. The land that would flood is forest grazing country not first class river flat farms that are highly productive. This valley is essentially parallel to Borumba Dam, hence minimally doubling the capacity.

This increase capacity of Borumba and the dam site at Amamoor provides the alternative to Traveston. Very few people would be affected and more importantly, first class agricultural country would not be flooded.

Government Departments tell us that this catchment will not fill, but people who live here know the power of this catchment. I have seen the equivalent amount of water that is held in Borumba Dam flow over the spillway every 2-3 hours in many floods, the last was in 1999.

I would also like to mention the hypocrisy of this Government. They want us to believe in global warming due to greenhouse gasses. What is a major cause of greenhouse gases? Dams!

Is the man mad or just an arrogant fool?

Yours sincerely,



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