

30/03/07

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The Secretary
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

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

We are a farming business located in the Mary Valley, centered both in Imbil and Kandanga townships, and we have been trading since 1980.

We own Mary Valley Traders, which supplies produce, hardware, fertilizer, and chemicals to local farmers and the general public. Our customers range from: dairy and beef producers, poultry farmers, hobby farms, horse breeders and eventers, horticulturalists, timber growers and those involved in the timber industry as well as pet owners and housewives.

My husband's family has lived in Kandanga since 1947 and I was born in the Gympie district. We still live on the family farm in Kandanga, which is affected by the proposed dam.

We are having trouble writing this submission, because we cannot believe that this proposal could have come this far. Knowing the area intimately and knowing the land the Government already owns, it seems ludicrous to construct a dam on the location they propose.

The Government has proposed to take 5 parcels of land from us. Two for road realignment and three because they would be submerged. The three to be submerged include a railway yard allotment, which was to be used for business purposes, and two farm blocks. One of these blocks is a water easement therefore being critical for the remaining farming block.

Obviously our business and our lives have been and will continue to be grossly affected by this proposal. There is no compensation available when you don't want to stop trading. When you like your job, your home, and when you are active in your community, a proposal like this, delivered the way it was, has had a devastating affect upon our lives.

We do not believe the Government and its bureaucratic advisers truly comprehend the power of floods in these valleys. We have experienced the force of 4 floods through our business in the railway yards at Kandanga. Each flood has been different because the rain falls in different catchments at different times. Computer modeling is theoretical and we believe the bureaucrats need to do a full-scale flood model. We have asked for this, but they say the computer model is good enough. It is not.

The Government has tried to fool those landowners who are not directly affected by dam water levels into believing that they are simply not affected by this proposal. In actual fact they ALL are because of: road realignment, access to Bruce Highway, Kenilworth, Gympie, Coory, and also flood levels.

In spite of Government assurance that Imbil township will not be affected, we are confident that in flood time, the proposed Traveston Crossing Dam will cause extensive flooding. Our Imbil store is situated on the banks of the Yabba Creek and could be inundated. Those landowners between Borumba Dam and Imbil Township will also be inundated. However the Government has elected to ignore our local knowledge.

We feel it is highly offensive that the young professionals representing QWI choose to dismiss all local knowledge and treat us with disdain.

As we have such a productive Valley, it is contrite of the Government to consider a Mega Dam with its Mega greenhouse gas emissions, whilst on the other hand it is professing to encourage business and the general public of the importance to reduce their greenhouse gas production.

Centralisation has contributed to the greenhouse gas emissions because of the thousands of kilometers our local produce has to travel everyday from its primary source to a central distribution point and then onto an end user. This proposed dam would cause primary production to move even further away from population centers. Local produce needs to be sold and eaten locally.

There is no more fertile country in Queensland like there is in the Mary Valley. It is criminal to propose damming this land, if it is only for water when the Government already owns land available for a viable dam site.

We are concerned that the proposal involves more than just water.

Because of the way the Government has been dealing with us, we are skeptical and believe the Government is hiding something from the Valley people.

Their inconsistencies and creation of new departments and companies as well as legislative changes over the last 12 months leads us to this belief.

Please investigate all of this Government's actions over the last 12 months.

Finally, the number of Government employees from multiple departments, that have imposed themselves on me at work and at home, and disrupted my life is criminal and outrageous. They have interrupted the day to day running of our business with no real purpose other than to gain information for themselves and their department.

There has been no real information for us, and whatever information has been provided by one bureaucrat, is disputed by the next. This level of disputation extends from the lowest level of employment through to Mr. Beattie and Ms Bligh. The inconsistencies and lack of information is heartbreaking and soul destroying.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "K. Worth.", written in a light grey or blue ink.

Kathy Worth