

6 Kenilworth Rd  
Tuchekoi  
Via Gympie Qld 4570

14 March 2007

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



Dear Sir/Madam,

Re Inquiry into additional water supplies for South East Qld – Traveston Crossing Dam Information.

This proposal has cast a shadow over our lives and torn the heart out of this valley. There is an almost unbearable feeling of helplessness under a government, which rides roughshod over the wishes, and lives of people in its bid for political gain. Democracy in Queensland is DEAD. Many people have been unable to cope with the stress and tension and have sold their homes to the government. However we who are left here are determined to do our utmost to prevent this environmental catastrophe. There is a time in life to stand up for truth and right and oppose wrong decisions.

The government seems hell bent to push ahead with its plan to destroy the entire Mary River System and its endangered living creatures and ruin eleven thousand hectares of prime food producing land.

Queensland, taken as a whole does not have an over abundance of prime agricultural land, and this land, which is some of the best in the state, must be preserved for the future young Queenslanders. With a growing population, food-producing land is of paramount importance. However we are the ones accused of being "selfish" by our shortsighted government.

A shallow dam on an alluvial floodplain, a giant sponge, over a major earthquake fault line in a subtropical climate can't possibly work. Any water collected, which didn't leak or evaporate would soon be choked with noxious water weeds and blue green algae, so any unfortunate living creatures in this water would soon die from lack of oxygen. Add to this, at least two hundred old arsenic based cattle dips and a thousand or more septic sewerage systems to be inundated and the water would seem to be unusable.

Cooloola Shire is at present drought declared and with climate change upon us, rainfall is likely to be very erratic in the future. The showers and storms of recent

Since my husband and I were married in 1960, we have spent our lives in rural Queensland, from the central west to the Darling Downs and a number of years on the Mary River; on a Conondale dairy farm thirty odd years ago, the last twelve and a half years at Tuchekoi.

As a result of this, I am convinced that "good seasons" are few and far between, and that water has always been our most precious resource.

The Mary River at Tuchekoi is particularly beautiful, the banks are lined with huge old trees, Lillypilly and Blackbean, a stones throw across, with a few deep pools and the fast moving shallow riffles which are essential if our own living fossil, the Queensland Lungfish, is to survive and breed.

How can we allow these gentle creatures that have lived here 400 000 million years to be driven to extinction in their last natural habitat on Earth, when there are far better and more cast effective ways of obtaining water in South East Qld?

However all in all, I am hopeful that we can win this fight to save the Mary River, as we do live in a democratic society, and can speak freely if we have nothing to lose; and with the grim example of the Murray Darling Basin, surely, no responsible environmental impact study could possibly sanction the destruction of another entire river system with its endangered inhabitants.

I remain  
Yours faithfully  
Sian Beatty

