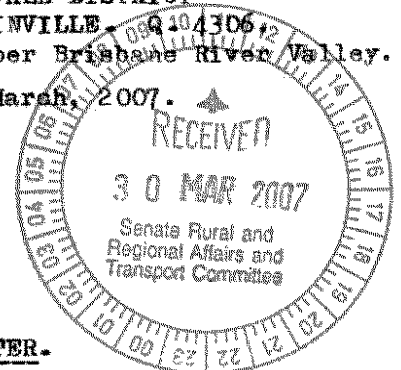


TELEPHONE (07) 54.248.140.
FACSIMILE

THE HOMESTEAD
RATHBURNIE ESTATE
1166 MT. STANLEY ROAD
AVOCAVALE DISTRICT
VIA LINVILLE. Q 4306 12
Upper Brisbane River Valley.
27th March, 2007.

The Secretary,
Senate Rural & Regional Affairs & Transport
Parliament House, Enquiry,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.



Dear Sir,

SUBMISSION TO SENATE ENQUIRE ON WATER.

TRAVESTON CROSSING DAM.

BACKGROUND.

Having lived since my marriage in 1952 on the upper reaches of the Brisbane River (above Wivenhoe Dam) catchment, prior to which I lived for 25 years in Brisbane and worked at C.S.I.R.O. Division of Plant Industry, I am most concerned at the proposal to build the Traveston Crossing Dam for the following reasons:-

1. PREDICTED RAINFALL. (FILLING A DAM LAKE)

At the International Conference at Launceston, Dr. Richard Warwick stated that "while science is conservative, the rainfall in the south-east is predicted to lessen considerably.

Living on the Brisbane River headwaters which rise across the mountain divide between the Brisbane and Mary Rivers, the lessening of rainfall since 1990 has become disturbing; and the Brisbane River (180 river miles from the mouth) is now a series of low waterholes with no water available for irrigation.

2. EVAPORATION.

The Wivenhoe Dam and the Traveston Crossing Dam are both very shallow storages; and new research (attached) by the Centre for Water Research at the University of Western Australia has found that between 35% and 45% of total loss of water annually through evaporation occurs during the night, irrespective of a dam's size or the climatic region in which it is located.

Evaporation in the Lockyer Valley (Gatton Research Station) records 300% annual evaporation above natural rainfall; and this startling figure is very evident on the ground.

- (a) I refer the Committee to "LANDCARE AUSTRALIA - MEETING THE GREENHOUSE CHALLENGE" published by the Australian Greenhouse Office ISBN.1921120037
- (b) ECOS 130 - April/May, 2006. TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE. P.28. A View of Dangerous Climate Change by International Climate Advisor, Professor John Schellnhuber.
- (c) THE WEATHER MAKERS - The History and Future Impact of Climate Change by Professor Tim Flannery - ABC Bookshop.
- (d) GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY REVIEW - Winter 2006. "HOT AIR"
"Climate Change is the greatest challenge confronting the world".

3. ARABLE LAND.

At a Conference in Brisbane, Russian Leader Mr. Gorbachev said "Russia had made a big mistake in building dams which destroyed agricultural land".

In Queensland (and Australia) we have the oldest depleted soils and the driest continent in the world; and cannot afford to destroy scarce arable land in the highest rainfall coastal belt if we are to provide food, fuel and fibre for our population.

4. HIGHWAYS.

The proposal to flood portion of the coastal highway is irresponsible and at best a gamble which may not pay off either economically or environmentally.

Also it is essential that food be produced as close as possible to point of consumption to save transport costs - a move now taking place in Europe in order to address global warming.

5. CHEMICAL RESIDUE.

Old residents report hundreds of cattle dips charged with arsenic originally will lie under the proposed lake and contaminate the storage.

6. ENDANGERED SPECIES.

It is understood that to date the proposal to build the Traveston Dam has not been referred to the Commonwealth Government which has responsibilities under the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act of 1999 to protect nationally threatened species such as the Ceratodus (Lung Fish) and many other actions likely to have a significant impact are also assessed.

7. IMPACTS ON LANDOWNERS:- THE SOLUTION.

Landholders living above the Borumba Dam on Yabba Creek (a tributary of the Mary River) are very few, and their land was resumed years ago when it was proposed to raise the wall of the Borumba Dam - the secondary stage - which would flood steeper grazing country and little infrastructure. It is 88% capacity at present.

This solution - whilst still a gamble in view of climate change - would involve less trauma, expenditure, ecological impact and disruption; and I urge Committee Members to consider this submission accordingly.

Scientists Mk3 model indicates the weather patterns of previous decades are no longer reliable; and a gamble of the Treveston Dam proportions is reckless and ill-advised surely under such circumstances. A large catchment does not ensure heavy precipitation necessary to provide run-off.

In a letter to me of 10th August, 2006, the Premier's Chief of Staff wrote:-

"The Premier wishes to stress that if there was a comparable alternative to the Treveston Crossing Dam that could ensure that South-East Queensland residents' water supply was secured into the future with minimised social impacts, it would certainly be undertaken".

I urge you to consider the words of Vice-President Al Gore

"The best leaders are those who know when
it is time to change and move into the
future".

Please consider!

Yours truly,

(Mrs.) V.D. BURNETT. (AGED 80)
TRUSTEE - ESTATE G.C. BURNETT (DECD.) (AIF. QX.898)



P.S. In submitting this summary, I wish to stress I have no
family nor siblings nor friends involved in the
Traveston Crossing Dam. When I was younger, I was
taught to respect my elders - now I am an "elder" I
do not have to respect anybody and can speak my concerns
for the future of my country which my late husband went
to defend.

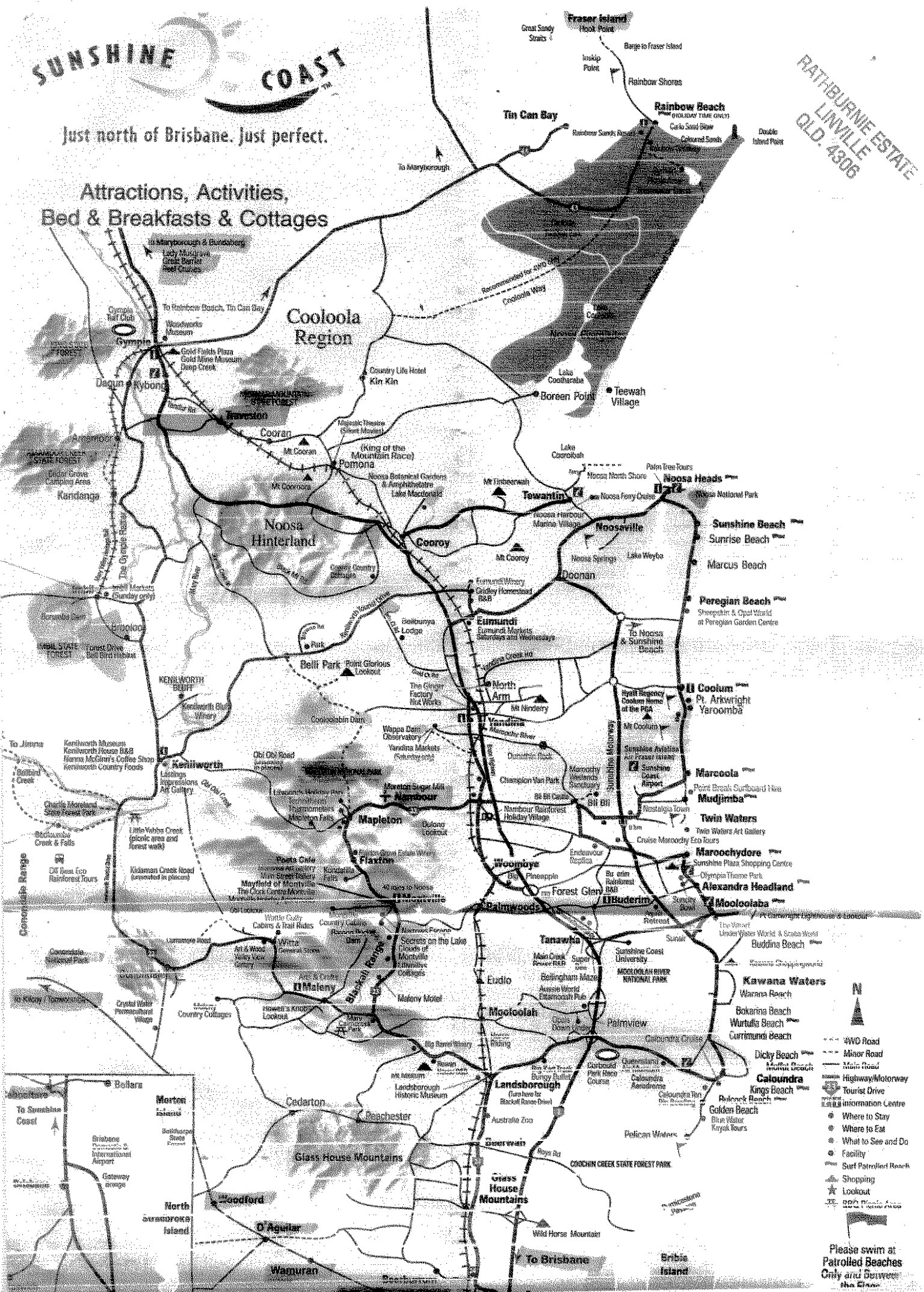


SUNSHINE COAST

Just north of Brisbane. Just perfect.

Attractions, Activities,
Bed & Breakfasts & Cottages

RATHBURN ESTATE
LINVILLE
QLD. 4306



Please swim at
Patrolled Beaches
Only and Between
the Flags

Night-time evaporation proves

New research has found that the rate of night-time evaporation from farm dams far exceeds previous estimates – in fact almost half of evaporation losses – forcing a significant re-think on design and construction to ensure efficient storages.

The study was funded by the National Program for Sustainable Irrigation (NPSI) and conducted by Matthew Hipsey at the Centre for Water Research at the University of Western Australia.

After modelling 10 dams in four different climatic regions, it's been

found that, irrespective of a dam's size or the climatic region in which it is located, between 35 and 45% of the total annual loss of water through evaporation occurs during the night.

There was significant seasonal variability, with predictions for a considerable increase in the night-time contribution during the winter months at all sites to between 55 and 70%.

South-west WA displayed the lowest



Matthew Hipsey

night time contribution (36%) and Murray-Darling Basin region of Queensland showed the highest (44%). Both northern Victoria and the Barossa region of SA showed contributions of approximately 40% over the simulated year. However, the analysis concluded that climate

and dam shape had little to do with the fraction of evaporation occurring during the night so it is an issue irrespective of where you are.

significant for farm dams

"Evaporation losses from farm dams are a major potential area of real water savings as roughly one-third of water captured nationally is lost through evaporation," Mr Hipsey said.

"What this study shows is that evaporation is a constant, not just a day time issue, and many methods used in the past to calculate losses to seepage will have to be revised.

"To reduce evaporation, ensure the dam is sheltered from sun and wind, and minimise the surface area to volume ratio."

The study used the Centre for Water Research's "Dynamic Reservoir

Simulation Model" (DYRESM). As part of this project, DYRESM was upgraded for irrigation storages and is now available free online to help engineers and farmers design more efficient dams.

More details of the research are available through the National Program

for Sustainable Irrigation website: www.npsi.gov.au.

NPSI is focused on research that will drive the development and adoption of sustainable irrigation practices in Australian agriculture. It is managed by Land & Water Australia on behalf of its 14 partners.

Research Bulletin 5: New Tools for Measuring Evaporation from Farm Dams has been released by NPSI. It includes a ready reckoner spreadsheet that calculates the cost of installing an evaporation reduction system and calculates how much water is saved from evaporation. The Research Bulletin is available from www.npsi.gov.au.









Landcare Australia - Meeting the Greenhouse Challenge
 ISBN 1921120037. Free phone 1300 130 606.
 Published by Australian Greenhouse Office

PLATHURNE ESTATE
 LINVILLE
 QLD. 4306

CONTENTS

FOREWORD	3	Farm management for multiple benefits	18
LANDCARE AUSTRALIA - EVERY FARMER, EVERY Paddock	7	1. Livestock management	18
THE IMPORTANCE OF GREENHOUSE TO LANDCARE MEMBERS	7	2. Nitrogen management	18
What is the greenhouse effect?	7	3. Soil management	19
Agriculture and the enhanced greenhouse effect	10	4. Water management	19
Key greenhouse gases from agriculture	11	5. Energy consumption	20
1. Methane	11	6. Vegetation management	21
2. Nitrous oxide	12	A FEW EXAMPLES OF 'HAVING A GO'	22
3. Carbon dioxide from burning of fossil fuels	14	'Taroonia' - Wendy and Kim Muffet	22
4. Carbon dioxide from reduced carbon stocks	14	BF White and Company	24
THE LANDCARE GREENHOUSE CHALLENGE	16	Brigalow Jimbour Floodplains Group	25
The Greenhouse Challenge Plus Programme	16	'Briandra' - Brian Wilson	26
Recruitment	16	'Dobies Bight' - Sam and Fleur Tonge	27
Workshops	16	FUTURE DIRECTIONS	28
Planning and implementation	17	Whole farm planning	28
Progress reporting	17	Research and development	28
		Landcare's plans	28
		GLOSSARY	30
		REFERENCES	32

P.7. Figures 1 & 2 Greenhouse Effect 1000-2000
 P.8. " 3. Variations in Earth's Temperature past 145 years
 P.9. " 4. Projections to 2030, 2070 } OSIRO, Box 3
 " 5. " " " " } Glueck Models
 " 6. " " " " " }

INFORMATION BOXES			
 CLIMATE CHANGE IN AUSTRALIA: IMPLICATIONS FOR AGRICULTURE	8	 NATIONAL CARBON ACCOUNTING SYSTEM & TOOLBOX	15
 NATIONAL GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORY	10	 THE GREENHOUSE CHALLENGE PLUS PROGRAMME	16
 EFFECT OF DIFFERENT GASES ON GLOBAL WARMING	11	 SOLAR POWER	20
 CARBON SEQUESTRATION	15	 STRATEGIC RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT PLAN	28

A.B.C. World's largest ice mass - Greenland Ice melting 3 times faster than scientists predicted.