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Committee Secretary
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
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**Submission to the
Inquiry into Additional Water Supplies for South East Queensland - Traveston Crossing Dam**

Dear Committee Members,

I commend you on your efforts to review and make public the issues relating to the proposed Traveston Crossing Dam. In my view, this proposal is deeply flawed, has been made in unseemly haste, and is being supported in the face of damning evidence for political reasons only.

I support all the arguments made by the Save the Mary River Group against the dam, and will not reiterate them here.

I wish to add to the debate by making one further observation:

If, on evaluating all options, it is still regarded as essential to harvest water from the Mary River for South East Queensland's urban supply, **this can be done without creating a reservoir** on the Mary River flood plain.

If the Mary River is to be connected to the SE-QLD water network, then water diverted from the Mary can be stored in North Pine or elsewhere. Only a simple and relatively inexpensive weir is needed to achieve this. Such a weir could be placed higher in the catchment, allowing for gravity flow to North Pine. It is anathema to respond to Climate Change by using more carbon-generating energy such as pumping water from place to place, making our lives increasingly dependent on the very thing which is threatening them.

A dam on the Mary River has been calculated to lose more water by evaporation and subsurface drainage than it will yield in water supply. Adding the same volume of water to North Pine reservoir would only marginally increase the evaporation and drainage it already has. That would mean we wouldn't need to take so much from the Mary system, to achieve the same yield.

My proposal was to ensure an environmental flow in the river, which must be exceeded before any diversion occurred. An opening in the base of the weir, below the level of the diversion pipe, would ensure this. Flow above the capacity of the diversion pipe would spill over the weir and allow for occasional flushing or flooding of the river.

In November 2006 I wrote to my local member of State Parliament, suggesting this alternative to the reservoir. He passed my correspondence on to the Minister, but I have had no response, despite follow-up contact.

I hope you will consider this option, and consider separately the merits of harvesting water from the Mary from the merits of a large, highly inefficient and inarguably environmentally destructive reservoir.

Yours sincerely,

Jane O'Sullivan