

It is difficult to find any rational logic in the proposed Traviston Dam. The only apparent "justification" would seem to be Premier Beattie`s bloody-mindedness.

If build there is serious doubt that it will ever fill.

If it does fill it will be of shallow average depth, leading to warming of water with subsequent increased evaporation rates, increased potential for poisonous blue-green algae blooms, increased potential for fish kills, and the death of other aquatic creatures. Further endangering the lung-fish and the Mary River turtle.

The underlying strata is pourous and leakage rates are expected to be high, greatly reducing its water supply capacity.

Because of the underlying strata the cost of building the dam wall will also be high.

The cost in lost productive farm land will also be high because this dam will cause the lose of many thousand of hectares of highly productive farmland, at the same time as urban sprawl is increasingly covering more and more of our limited productive farming land around the coastal fringes of Australia.

Many former salad bowls have already been lost to urban sprawl, at a time when climate change could further reduce viable farmland acreage.

Without doubt there will be serious envirnmental damage to the Mary River downstream from the dam.

Mangroves have been intruding on the river since the construction of the Mary River barrage, and this can only increase.

There is no way damage to the Great Sandy Straits can be calculated, but

the potential for greatly increased sand bank development is high. Long-time fishermen in the area report an increase in sand bars with some now forming islands permanently above water level since the construction of the barrage has reduced the flushing affect of the river in flood. This too can only increase if the Traviston Dam is built, with the possibility that eventually a sand bridge could be formed between the mainland and Fraser Island. We do not need this dam. The money for its construction would be more productively spend on water recycling projects and subsidising the installation of water tanks. If we reclycled all of our water Queensland would have ample water storage capacity at the present time. Every shower of rain puts water into a tank, but it takes large falls of rain to put run river catchments. Those large falls are becoming less frequent, and scientists predict that global warming will make them even less frequent in the future. So on what rational grounds can the Traviston Dam be justified?

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