

From: margaret LONG [longsfuel@skymesh.net.au]

Sent: Sunday, 1 April 2007 9:51 AM

To: RRAT, Committee (SEN)

Subject: inquiry - traveston crossing dam

Dear Sir/Madam

Re Inquiry into Additional Water Supplies for South East Queensland -
Traveston Crossing Dam Information

Our business as fulk fuel distributors has been operating for 38 years with us as operators since 1982. We supply bulk fuels to farmers, contractors, livestock carriers and the like and have developed the business into a "niche" business with the support of our Suppliers as the larger companies are not able to service these customers efficiently. We have gradually built the business up to the point and, on advice from our accountant, we formed a Company and put everything in place for us to continue until retirement (in approx 12 years) and for our son to take over the business. Immediately, the proposal for this dam was announced, business started to drop off, with some customers selling to the Queensland Government and moving on and others, so upset, the enthusiam they once had has gone and thus their fuel usage decreased. We now estimate our monthly litreage to be down 20% and how far it will go is not yet clear. To go from litres which were increasing steadily to this is very distressing for us and has seriously affected the viability of our business. Bearing in mind, governments of the day, encourage people to prepare and plan for their retirement as we have done, the Queensland Government's proposal for a dam has put us back to square one with not much prospect of recouping lost business. We have been in the industry for approximately 34 years and it, therefore, makes it very difficult, at this stage of our lives, to contemplate starting a new trade or career.

This is not the first hurdle we have had to fight at the hands of the Queensland Government. When Mr Beattie's government introduced The Queensland Fuel Subsidy Scheme in July 2000, we lost a high percentage of our motor spirit sales. Because the Scheme means the purchaser of bulk fuels has to pay a Queensland State Fuel Tax and then claim it back (if eligible) most customers opted to buy from a service station who do not have to charge this tax. This Fuel Subsidy scheme is very unfair and discrimates against purchasers of bulk fuels, in particular farmers. Then Mr Beattie's government signed off on dairy deregulation and gradually dairy farmers left the industry or converted over to beef, thus using less fuel. We have managed to come back after both these setbacks but the reality is if neither of these 2 events had happened, we would have been in a much stronger position when this proposed Dam was announced thus making our losses in all more than 20% as stated above. In all situations, it is the man on the land who is suffering.

We have lived in the country all our life, have always had tanks and have never had to buy water. We cannot see that this proposed Dam will in any way help solve this water crisis. There are so many good ideas being put forward but nobody will listen. The Queensland Government is treating us as idiots, it is supposed to be a "smart State" so Mr Beattie should be smart and scrap this proposed dam in favour of tanks, recycled water, water harvesting etc. and leave the Mary Valley to get on with what it does best, supplying

Queensland with milk, beef, fruit, vegetables and timber products etc.

Yours Faithfully

Neville & Margaret

Long's Fuel Supplies Pty Ltd