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29-3-07

THE SECRETARY
SENATE RURAL & REGIONAL AFFAIRS & TRANSPORT
PARLIAMENT HOUSE, CANBERRA.

Dear Sir/Madam,
RE: Inquiry into Additional Water Supplies for North
East Queensland - Trarvelton Crossing Dam Information

The purpose of this letter is to provide information for
the Senate Inquiry.

I base this submission on my concern over a report in the
Sydney Times newspaper (28-3-07) concerning a number
of cattle deaths in the vicinity of the test drilling rig
at Trarvelton Crossing in June last year. The report
mentions that Q.V.I. have admitted to finding 'mineral
accumulation' on properties. As a layman on such
matters, I wonder if there is a connection between this
and the well known fact that in times past,
unregulated arsenic cattle dips were filled in, so as to
literally bury the problem. I understand that these
cattle dips existed variously throughout the proposed
inundation area. May I submit that the inquiry
address this very worrying area of concern.

Yours faithfully,
Ross Pitcher

Cattle deaths 'hush money'

MEMBER for Gympie David Gibson yesterday called for the release of the Department of Primary Industries vets report into the mysterious deaths of cattle in the Mary Valley near a dam drilling rig in June 2006 after discovering was he claimed was "hush money" was paid to one of the cattle owners.



David Gibson

"I've been made aware that this Government has gone so far as to pay hush money to one of the cattle owners back in 2006 so that they wouldn't raise this issue in the media," he said. "That's just not acceptable."

"For QWI to say that it was 'unlikely' that there was a link between the death of the cattle and exploratory drilling on the site doesn't wash."

"They are saying 'trust us we work for the government'. Well I don't trust Peter Beattie or his sleazy Government."

"The public has a right to know what is in those reports and any other information that they have regarding soil testing in the area. The last thing we need is another cover-up."

Mr Gibson said opponents of the dam have been frustrated by the continual failure of the Government to release documents and reports relating to the site.

"What does the Government know that they

are not telling us?"

"What secrets are Anna Bligh and Peter Beattie trying to hide from the people of Queensland?"

"This happened back in June 2006 and only now nine months later has there been any statement by QWI on these concerns after the media exposed the cover-up."

He said he was also concerned at revelations by a QWI spokeswoman that they had identified "mineral accumulation" on properties and that "the potential human health or environmental concern, is also considered low".

A 2006 GHD report commissioned by the Government to assess the Traveston Crossing Dam site identified that land contamination was an issue that could jeopardise the viability of the dam.

"If there is any risk at all to the people of Queensland who would drink this water then this site must be disregarded," Mr Gibson said.