

59 Richard Street,
MARYBOROUGH. 4650.

2nd April, 2007.

The Secretary,
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport,
Parliament House,
CANBERRA, ACT. 2600.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re INQUIRY INTO ADDITIONAL WATERSUPPLIES FOR SOUTH EAST
QUEENSLAND – TRAVESTON CROSSING DAM INFORMATION.

The purpose of this letter is to provide information for the Senate Inquiry. I am very concerned as to how the people in the lower Mary River will cope if this Dam goes ahead.

As far as I know, no study has been done to see the effects it will have on our area. As I see it, three endangered species will suffer greatly. The one I am most concerned about is the endangered Mary River Turtle “Elusor Macrurus” which is already facing an “uphill battle” without the flow of the river being taken away. This turtle needs clean oxygenated water to breed and this won’t happen once a dam is built. This is the only river in the world that has the Mary River Turtle and if the dam goes ahead, the turtle is doomed! Also, the Lungfish and the Mary River Cod are vulnerable species that live in these waters and need the existing conditions in the river, to survive.

To say Mr. Beattie is modelling this dam on his recently built “Paradise Dam” says enough. It is an environmental disaster and nothing to be proud of (one of six worst built dams in the world). I have even heard it said that the dam wall leaks like a sieve.

This “Dam” will impact to great detriment on the environmentally significant Great Sandy Strait. This is an area full of migratory birds, dugong, endangered marine species, etc. and their existence will be in doubt if the environmental flows are impeded to the extent it is imagined.

As well as the suffering caused to the environment downstream, this “Dam” is doomed from the start. It is to be built on land that is a shallow alluvial plain that is peppered with fractures and faults. If you want to hold water, you don’t pour it into a sieve. The farming area to be covered is also known to be the site of 700 – 1000 cattle dips. What will that do to the water the Brisbaneites are to drink?

All in all, this so-called water producer seems to be the most hideous of all Peter Beattie's uninformed ideas. There are many other ways to provide quicker and cheaper water to Brisbane.

Yours faithfully,

TONY & SUE WEDLOCK.