

20 February 2007

Mr Rod Coomber  
853 Cooloolabin Road  
Cooloolabin Qld 4561

The Chairman,  
Senate Enquiry Committee.

Dear Sir,

I am a Queenslander, born at Cooroy, presently living at Yandina on top of the Blackall Range, the catchment of the Mary river. The river that Mr Beattie seems to want to DAM at any cost.

I know this area fairly well. I had relatives who farmed here and Mr Beatties proposal seems to me to lack serious thought.

The area he envisages, all fertile arable farming and grazing land would never fill to more than a few feet with the exception of the river itself. It would take many years to fill and would do nothing to ease the crisis he now faces.

Also it would kill the river, one has only to look at the Burnett river to see the result of dams.

Steamships used to come right up to the town to load sugar. Now with the dams impeding the natural flow of water it has so silted up that one can hardly get a row boat along the lower reaches these days.

The cost of the proposed dam is outrageous when Mr Beattie has to look no further than the freshwater lagoons on the seaward side of Moreton Island Just thirty miles from the Brisbane C.B.D to find ample freshwater, sand filtered from the ocean to supply the city of Brisbane, which seems to be his major concern. Redlands shire already pumps from the lagoons on Stradbroke Island and have all the water they need for the whole shire and an unending supply.

We are getting less rainfall in this area and the Mary river has not had a decent flood for years. It would take many wet seasons and floods to bring Mr Beatties proposed dam to the level he envisages.

I wrote to Laurence Springborg about my concern but unfortunately they lost the election.

Trusting you will give full consideration to what I have written in your deliberations.

Yours sincerely



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Mr Rod Coomber