

48 Upper Pinbarren Creek Road
PINNBARREN QLD 4568

2nd April, 2007

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

Dear Sir/Madam

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

PURPOSE:

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

We live on the periphery of the proposed Traveston Crossing Dam, and, although we're not facing loss of our home, we believe that if Traveston Crossing Dam goes ahead the damage done will have wide reaching effects. We believe that the proposal is nothing more than a hastily conceived scheme which some people hope will fix a long-term problem. They are willing to destroy prime agricultural land, including people's lives for what appears to be personal financial gain. The problem is not too little water but (dare we say is - no one else will) too many people. It's time to look at the "big picture" - after all, we are the earth and we only hold it in trust for future generations. We all breathe the same air and use the same water. Whoever said "Greed is good" was, quite simply, WRONG!

History has shown that whatever has been done to increase supply of commodities (including water) has always been used up by increasing population. The fact is that we can no longer rely on weather patterns to predict dam catchment. Even over the last few years we've seen changes in rainfall patterns, to not only less rain but no torrential rain (which is what is needed to fill dams) in the local area for many years. The evidence of this is all the existing dams built by government (no doubt with predictions of many new jobs, increased agricultural and tourist potential etc) that are almost empty. (Would the government like to release copies of the predictions they made for these dams prior to their construction?). Remember the Dam Busters? If terrorists want to disable a community a dam is a much easier target than many water tanks. The point is that there are better ways to harvest water. Industry and backyard swimming pools also need to be accounted for.

Population will have to decrease as atmospheric damage begins to drastically affect sea levels, climate, our fauna, flora and agriculture - we are already seeing this beginning as individuals (with no government guidance) decide to have fewer or no children.

Present rainfall has been suitable for filling tanks, not dams. Tank manufacturers are quoting between 3 and 6 months behind demand. Water saving devices, water harvesting from roofs, re-cycling systems, population caps and other measures are the only sustainable actions which can be justified. Global warming will only increase evaporation. History testifies that bureaucrats are often the worst environmental vandals. We cannot turn the Mary River into another Murray River with all the destruction of wildlife and flora it has sustained! This problem is too big for one little State Government to handle - it is an Australian problem and a world problem.

We trust that our Federal Government will see the "Big Picture" and put some lateral thought into solutions for this not insurmountable problem. We have incredible technology at our fingertips. Enormous quantities of water could be harvested in cities, more than sufficient for their needs, and the Queensland sunshine could be put to better use in water purification on site. The fact is that dams don't work and we will be ignoring much more reliable technology if we allow this dam to go ahead. We need to know that someone in government in this country is listening!

Yours faithfully,

Patricia Ashton and Jim Powell

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