

THE SECRETARY  
RURAL & REGIONAL AFFAIRS  
AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE  
PARLIAMENT HOUSE CANBERRA  
2600

S.H. WILLIAMS  
137 PINJARRA RD  
PINJARRA HILLS  
Q. 4069  
15/3/07

Dear Sir

07-32026361

TRAVESTON SENATE INQUIRY  
INFORMATION SUBMISSION

Please find attached INFORMATION  
SUBMISSION for TRAVESTON SENATE INQUIRY.

I am a retired Consulting  
Engineer with considerable experience  
in the investigation, design & construction  
of major water supply projects including  
dams.

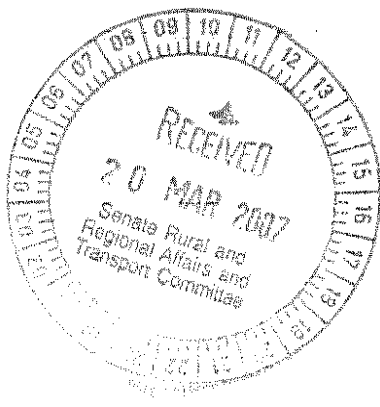
I know the MARY VALLEY & GYMPIE  
areas very well, being born in Gympie  
& having lived there, until leaving  
school & attending university.

I hope the attached information  
will be of some use to the Senate  
Inquiry.

Please contact me if you have  
any queries on the information.

Yours faithfully

*S.H. Williams*



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## TRAVESTON SENATE INQUIRY INFORMATION SUBMISSION

### LOCATION

The Traveston Dam site is located on a large flood plain. The following are major problems with such a site.

- Large shallow storage areas with very high evaporation rates.
- Large depths of sands & gravels below the river bed with high seepage rates & very large costs of measures to reduce such seepage.
- Very high costs involved in relocation of infrastructure such as roads (incl Pacific Highway), power lines & telephone lines.
- Large costs involved in property resumptions.
- Loss of large areas of very fertile land along the river which results in loss of revenue to the community & Qld.

The best location for a dam site is where the river cuts through a range of hills where all of the above problems & costs are considerably reduced. This is usually further upstream in higher country where there is considerably more rainfall. Such sites should exist further upstream of the Traveston site. It is understood that several such sites have been investigated including on Amamoor Ck where the Ck cuts through a range of hills with a narrow gorge. The cost of resumptions & infrastructure relocations appear to be very low for this site. Why hasn't this been pursued? There is a rumour

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going around that the Government has leased the timber rights of the crown land upstream of the site for many many years to a Japanese Company and this is why the site has been abandoned by the Government. This should be fully investigated.

### COSTS

The cost of the Traveston Dam appears to be escalating all the time.

The full costs should be released to the public for stages 1 & 2. Those costs should include the following:-

- Costs of all investigations & designs etc.
- Full costs of construction including construction supervision & administration.
- Full costs of relocation of highways, shire roads, power lines & telephone lines etc.
- Full costs of resumptions for all properties affected.
- Full cost of all government & other admin. costs involved.

### COMPARISON WITH OTHER DAM SITES

The full cost of dams at other sites further up the Mary Valley such as Amamoor Ck. should also be looked at and compared with the Traveston site.

Before the Traveston Dam site is allowed to proceed the Government should be required to demonstrate that the cost of water from the dam is more viable than from say 2 dam sites at better locations further upstream. Such costings should

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include all costs such as investigations, construction, infrastructure relocation, resumptions etc.

Dams located further upstream of the Traveston site would be in higher country & pumping costs of water to S.E. Qld. would be considerably lower than from the Traveston site. This should also be included in the overall cost of water from the various sites.

The Traveston Dam site should only be allowed to proceed if the Qld. Gov. can demonstrate that the overall cost of water to S.E. Qld. is lower than from other sites upstream. The loss of revenue earned on the fertile land along the Mary River upstream of Traveston should also be considered.

S. H. WILLIAMS.

B. E. FIEAUST.