

Jeff Seeney MP

Leader of the Opposition
Leader of The Nationals



2 April 2007

The Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Re: Additional Water Supplies for South East Queensland – Traveston Crossing Dam

Dear Senators

Attached please find the Queensland Coalition submission to the Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport views on the current inquiry into Additional Water Supplies for South East Queensland – Traveston Crossing Dam.

Water is our most precious natural resource.

As well as supporting life itself and the health of the environment, water underpins social and economic development across the State. Water Supplies right throughout Queensland are desperately low, particularly in the rapidly growing and heavily populated south-east Queensland region, which could run out of water in less than two years.

The water crisis confronting Queensland is a direct result of the successive Labor Governments refusal to invest in water over years. It is also a result of Labor's decision to abandon the Wolffdene Dam during the term of the Goss Government. In fact Mr Beattie and his Ministers on many occasions laughed off and rubbished calls to urgently build new dams tagging them as '1950's dinosaur policy' and even calling them 'boys toys'.

But now our water supplies in south-east Queensland have almost run out, and, in a desperate attempt to make out he was addressing the water crisis before the 2006 State Election, Mr Beattie hurriedly announced proposals for a new dam. Such was Mr Beattie's panic that he announced the Traveston Crossing Dam near Gympie that had never been listed as a viable option in any planning document for the past 30 years.

If Labor's panic plans were delivered, the homes and land of more than 2000 people will have to be resumed, businesses will be shut down and a number of roads, including parts of the Bruce Highway, will go underwater. Furthermore, it is a poor site with many geotechnical and environmental problems.

The Traveston Dam was rejected by State Government water experts more than a decade ago.

In 1994 the Goss Labor Government, in which Mr Beattie served as a Minister, rejected the Traveston dam site as 'unsuitable because of high capital cost, inundation of prime agricultural land and displacement of rural population' (DPI Water Resources 1994, p 53).

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In contrast to Labor's ad-hoc plans, the Queensland Coalition has a long standing detailed plan to revive south-east Queensland's water supplies and this plan does not include the Traveston Crossing Dam.

The Queensland Coalition's plan includes:

Demand Side Options

- A **Water Saver Rebate scheme** for homeowners to install:
 - AAA rated showerheads;
 - Water efficient washing machines;
 - Swimming pool covers;
 - Rainwater tanks;
 - Dual flush toilets;
 - Grey Water systems; and
 - Water flow regulators
- A **Business Water Efficiency and Recycling Fund** for councils and industry to use recycled water in place of quality drinking water where it is currently being used for irrigation and industrial purposes;
- **Mandatory rainwater tanks** in new homes in south-east Queensland with rebates to offset the cost;

Supply Side Options

- **Construction of three new dams** at Wyaralong, Glendower, and Amamoor Creek and the raising of Borumba Dam to supply will between 81,000 and 125,000 ML a year for South East Queensland
- **New Industry connections through the Western Corridor Recycled Water Scheme;**
- A commitment to the **development of additional new water supply sources** including:
 - Investigation of the need for another desalination plant north of Brisbane
 - Investigation of harvesting excess water from Northern NSW river systems to the South East Corner

This water plan for South East Queensland can provide for the regions needs with acceptable outcomes in terms of social, environmental, economic and engineering impacts for the regions affected. Importantly, these recommendations do not include the Traveston Dam.

The Queensland Coalition has made three recommendations to the committee for your consideration:

Recommendation 1: That the Traveston Crossing Dam not be built

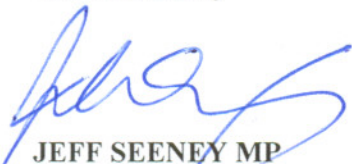
Recommendation 2: Consideration be given to alternative Demand Side Options

Recommendation 3: Consideration be given to alternative Supply Side Options

The Queensland Coalition encourages you to consider these recommendations together with the supporting evidence and ask for your support in our quest to stop the travesty that is the Traveston Crossing Dam.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the inquiry. We look forward to meeting with you at the hearings scheduled for later this month.

Yours Faithfully



JEFF SEENEV MP
LEADER OF THE QUEENSLAND COALITION

QUEENSLAND COALITION

SUBMISSION TO THE SENATE

RURAL AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

INQUIRY INTO ADDITIONAL WATER SUPPLIES FOR SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND – TRAVESTON CROSSING DAM

APRIL 2007

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1 Queensland Coalition

The Queensland Coalition team combines the State Parliamentary wing of the Queensland Nationals and the Liberal Party of Australia – Queensland (See Appendix 1).

The Queensland Coalition believes that for far too long, the incompetent Beattie Labor Government has lurched from crisis to crisis, failing to deliver such basic services as health, water and electricity.

The Coalition took to the 2006 State Election a comprehensive visionary Water Policy that provides the basis of this submission on “Additional water supplies for South East Queensland – Traveston Crossing Dam”. The Queensland Coalition position is determined to see the water needs of South East Queensland met without building the Traveston Crossing Dam because of its geotechnical problems and the social and economic disruption it will cause through the displacement of 2000 people and the loss of 76 square kilometres of prime agricultural land.

2 Introduction

Water is our most precious natural resource.

As well as supporting life itself and the health of the environment, water underpins social and economic development across the State.

Water Supplies right throughout Queensland are desperately low, particularly in the rapidly growing and heavily populated south-east Queensland region, which could run out of water within two years.

The water crisis confronting Queensland is a direct result of successive Labor Governments refusal to invest in water over 20 years. It is also a result of Labor’s decision to abandon the Wolffdene Dam during the term of the Goss Government for which Mr Beattie was a member.

In fact Mr Beattie and his Ministers laughed off and rubbished calls to urgently build new dams tagging them as ‘1950’s dinosaur policy’ and even calling them ‘blokes things’.

But now our water supplies in south-east Queensland have almost run out, and, in a desperate attempt to make out he was addressing the water crisis before the 2006 State Election, Mr Beattie hurriedly announced proposals for an ad-hoc dam. Such was Mr Beattie’s panic that the Traveston Crossing Dam near Gympie he announced had never been listed as a viable option in any planning document for 30 years.

The area selected for the Traveston Crossing Dam is a poor site with many geotechnical and environmental problems such as low depths, seepage, evaporation and issues with the location of the dam wall.

The Traveston Dam was rejected by State Government water experts more than a decade ago.

If Labor’s panic plans were delivered, the homes and land of more than 2000 people will have to be resumed, businesses will be shut down and a number of roads, including parts of the Bruce Highway, will go underwater.

In 1994 the Goss Labor Government, in which Mr Beattie served as a Minister, rejected the Traveston dam site as ‘unsuitable because of high capital cost, inundation of prime agricultural land and displacement of rural population’ (DPI Water Resources 1994, p 53).

In contrast to Labor’s ad-hoc plans, the Queensland Coalition has a longstanding detailed plan to revive south-east Queensland’s water supplies, without having to build the Traveston Dam.

The Queensland Coalition’s plan includes:

Demand Side Options

- A long term commitment to a **Water Saver Rebate scheme** for homeowners to install:
 - AAA rated showerheads;
 - Water efficient washing machines;
 - Swimming pool covers;
 - Rainwater tanks;
 - Dual flush toilets;
 - Grey Water systems; and
 - Water flow regulators
- A **Business Water Efficiency and Recycling Fund** to assist councils and industry to use recycled water in place of quality drinking water where it is currently being used for irrigation and industrial purposes;
- **Mandatory rainwater tanks** in new homes in south-east Queensland with rebates to offset the cost; and

Supply Side Options

- **Construction of three new dams** at Wyaralong, Glendower, and Amamoor Creek and the raising of Borumba Dam to supply will between 81,000 and 125,000 ML a year for South East Queensland. These dams have been planned for many years and, through the foresight of previous Coalition Government’s, the land for the dams has been already purchased.
- **New Industry connections through the Western Corridor Recycled Water Scheme**
- A commitment to the **development of desalination and new water sources** including:
 - Investigation of other Desalination Plants
 - Investigation of harvesting excess water from Northern NSW river systems to the South East Corner

3 Background

In April 2006, the Queensland Government announced the proposed construction of the Traveston Crossing Dam on the Mary River to assist in meeting the water needs of South East Queensland.

The proposed dam would be located 16 km south of Gympie, in the Mary River catchment. The first stage of the dam would be constructed by the end of 2011; the second stage would be completed by 2035, if required.

The Traveston Crossing Dam will be designed to be in two stages at a cost of \$3 billion for the two stages. The Beattie Labor Government claims the project will only proceed to Stage 2 if the additional water storage capacity is required to meet expected demand for water based on rainfall and usage patterns. The dam will be developed by Queensland Water Infrastructure (QWI), a company established by the State Government to obtain approvals for the planned Traveston Crossing Dam.

4 The Merits of all options

4.1 Traveston Crossing Dam

4.1.1 There are other options to the Traveston Dam

An independent review of the Traveston Crossing Dam by the Institute of Sustainable Futures led by Professor Stuart White and supported by Consultancy firm Cardno and the University of Technology Sydney concludes that the dam is “neither necessary nor desirable as part of the portfolio for ensuring supply security to 2050”(Turner et al 2007 p.i).

The study commissioned by the Mary River Council of Mayors, concludes that the Traveston Dam represents “a high total cost, high unit cost, high risk and high environmental and social impact option”... and “should not be considered for implementation” (Turner et al 2007 p.i).

A Queensland Coalition Government would consider all other options including those contained in the Queensland Coalition’s 2006 State Election South East Queensland Water Policy together with other options such as desalination and piping water from the Northern Rivers of New South Wales.

4.1.2 Water from the Dam is more expensive

The Review of Water Supply-Demand Options for South East Queensland found that water from a desalination plant could be delivered at a unit cost of \$2.00 or \$2.50/ kilolitre, depending on the size of the plant compared to Traveston Stage 1 (\$3.40/kl) and Stage 2 (\$2.60) (Turner et al 2007).

The high cost of water from Traveston Crossing Dam is due to the high cost of construction and high delivery costs. Construction and delivery costs for Traveston Crossing Dam are nearly three times than a Desalination plant due to the distance of pipe required (Turner et al 2007).

The Queensland Coalition believes that the State Government should explore better value for money options if the Traveston Dam is not built, such as Desalination and piping water from other catchments including the Northern Rivers area of New South Wales.

4.1.3 The Dam has Devastating Social Impact

The ramifications of the Traveston Crossing Dam from a social, environmental and economic perspective could be potentially devastating for the region.

The total land required for Stage 2 of the Traveston Crossing Dam is 7,135 ha. According to the Review of Water Supply-Demand options for South East Queensland there will be “significant impacts in the inundation area including loss of homes and properties (approximately 900)” (Turner et al 2007).

The report goes on to say that the “stress associated with the planned dam has resulted in social problems including depression” together with the “economic impacts including loss of livelihood in the agriculture (10% of the local dairy industry production), fishing and tourism industries are likely to negatively impact Mary River Communities” (Turner et al 2007).

The failure of the Beattie Government to address the social impact of the project has been questioned by Griffith Business School Associate Lecturer Robert Hales. Mr Hales “reviewed the government’s consultation methods using internationally recognised criteria and found they fell well short of acceptable standards” (Tucker 2007, p.9).

Mr Hales “preliminary research shows the government didn’t implement an adequate social impact management plan at the time of the dam’s announcement, which in turn has increased the adverse impact on affected residents (Tucker 2007, p.9). Mr Hales opinion is that “if the social impacts of the proposal are assessed at the appropriate standard the results would lend weight for a convincing case that the dam is not viable” (Tucker 2007, p.9).

The State Government commissioned, ACIL Tasman report “Scoping Economic Futures – Traveston Crossing Region” provides questionable conclusions in reporting on the future economic and business development scenarios for the area.

The report tends to concentrate on the gross benefit of the dam to the area, rather than the net benefit when considering the economic and social impact on the community. There is little or no commentary on whether the potential flow on effects that the dam would allegedly bring would already occur without the dam being built.

Cr Mick Venardos, Mayor of Cooloola Shire Council was recently quoted as saying "There will be 76 sq km of rich agricultural farmland being inundated. It (ACIL Tasman 2007) doesn't show there's going to be 2,000 people directly displaced by this inundation. It doesn't show the cost of the dam is far too expensive when you compare it with other alternatives."

4.1.4 Potential for Biased Environmental Impact Statement

The Environmental Impact Statement for the Traveston Crossing Dam will be completed by Queensland Water Infrastructure, the company whose focus is to build the dam. Strong doubts exist regarding the ability of Queensland Water Infrastructure to write an impartial report given its clear conflict of interest.

Doubts have been raised about the validity of the Environmental Impact Statement due to the scope only covering stage 1 of the project without the inclusion of the subsequent stages required to take the project to maximum capacity.

The Queensland Coalition believes that the State Government should ensure that Environmental Impact Statements is carried out by an independent source so that results are impartial and based on the science.

4.1.5 The Dam has Devastating Environmental Impact

There have been a number of significant environmental issues raised in relation to the building of the Traveston Crossing Dam. The environmental issues that have been raised and need to be resolved by an impartial and independent inquiry into the Environmental Impacts of the Traveston Crossing Dam are in relation to the:

- Disruption to breeding habitat of Mary River Turtles
- Disruption to the habitat of the Mary River Cod
- Disruption to the habitat of the Queensland Lungfish

4.1.6 The Dam was a Politically Motivated selection

There have been recent media reports that the decision making process by the Beattie Labor Government, when considering the Traveston Crossing Dam, was distorted by a politically motivated agenda. Former Labor MP Cate Malloy has claimed that the Traveston Crossing Dam was a “cynical ploy to victimise a non-Labor electorate (Gympie Times 2007 p. 4)”. Ms Malloy has publicly accused Premier Beattie of “supporting a dam at Traveston Crossing because people in the Mary River did not vote Labor anyway (Gympie Times 2007 p. 4)”.

These allegations suggest that the decision to build the Traveston Dam were of a purely political nature and that the social, economic and environmental impact of the dam were not considered in the decision making process.

The area selected for the Traveston Crossing Dam is a poor site with many geotechnical and environmental problems such as low depths, seepage, evaporation and issues with the location of the dam wall. The Traveston Dam was rejected by State Government water experts more than a decade ago.

The Queensland Coalition believes that the decision making process for Water Infrastructure should be transparent and free from political expedience.

5 Alternatives to Traveston Crossing Dam

5.1 Demand Side Options

5.1.1 Water Saver Rebate Scheme

The Queensland Coalition believes that the State Government can do more to assist councils and business to develop processes that replace quality drinking water, currently being used on parks, sporting fields and for industrial use, with recycled water.

The Queensland Coalition supports the Home Waterwise Rebate Scheme being administered by the Department of Natural Resources and Water. The Queensland Coalition believes that the scheme should have the efficiency measures expanded so that rebates are provided for by including water flow regulators that save approximately 18,000 litres per year for each regulator. Our team also believe the scheme should be appropriately funded to be available on a long term basis, not just for the two years that the State Government has committed to.

The Queensland Coalition believes the State Government should be leading by example when it comes to saving water. The Queensland Coalition supports State Government's move to commission water audits of all State Government buildings, including Parliament House, and retrofitting programs to install water saving devices, such as dual flush toilets and AAA rated showerheads, where appropriate.

5.1.2 Water infrastructure subsidies

The Queensland Coalition believes that funding provided by the Department of Local Government and Planning for schemes such as the Water and Sewage Program should be maintained. The Queensland Coalition believes that appropriate financial assistance should be given to local governments to fix water main breaks and leaks.

5.1.3 Business Recycled Water subsidy

The Queensland Coalition believes that the State Government should encourage water recycling initiatives to ensure more waste water is recycled for agricultural and industrial use. This support could comprise funding for a 'Business Water Efficiency & Recycling Fund'.

The Australian Water Association estimates that about half of South East Queensland's water supply needs could be provided by recycled water. However, currently less than 10% of the 200,000 megalitres a year treated in the region's wastewater treatment plants is recycled. (Status of Water in South-East Queensland, 2005, Australian Water Association, p 44)

It is the Queensland Coalition's aim to ensure more than 50% of south-east Queensland's waste water is being recycled and believes that the State Government could achieve this by the end of this term, providing the recycled pipelines can be delivered on time. The Coalition has a firm policy that recycled water should be reserved for industrial and irrigation uses and only introduced into drinking supplies as an absolute last resort.

5.1.4 Mandatory rainwater tanks in new homes

The Queensland Coalition supports the introduction of Mandatory Rainwater tanks in new homes. The Queensland Government has recently amended the Building Act 1975, as part of the Wild Rivers and Other Legislation Act 2006 to force Local Government's to alter planning schemes to include a provision that requires the installation of a rainwater tank for a building that is the subject of building work prior to 1 July 2007.

5.2 Supply Side Options

5.2.1 Construction of three new smaller dams

Approximately \$40million has been spent by successive State Governments over the last decade acquiring the 12,000 hectares of land for four major dam propososals.

- \$7.5 million has been spent buying 2326 hectares of land for the Wyaralong Dam, on the Logan River in the Beaudesert region;
- \$23.3 million has been spent buying 2634 hectares of land for the Glendower Dam, on the Albert River in the Beaudesert region;
- \$3.3 million has been spent buying 1516 hectares of land for the Amamoor Creek Dam in the Mary River catchment near Gympie; and
- \$4.6 million has been spent buying 5507 hectares of land for the raising of Borumba Dam in the Mary River catchment near Gympie

A Queensland Coalition believes that the State Government should build the three smaller dams and raise the Borumba Dam. The building of these three dams and the raising of Borumba Dam where the land has already been purchased would cause less disruption to the Social and Economic environment of the area and will provide between 81,000 and 125,000 ML a year for South East Queensland.

5.2.1.1 Wyaralong Dam

Wyaralong Dam is located on Teviot Brook, a tributary of the Logan River and would operate in conjunction with a weir on the Logan River at Cedar Grove. According to the Project Overview of Wyaralong Dam provided by Queensland Water Infrastructure, the Wyaralong Dam would have a yield of 21,000 and 35,000 megalitres of water a year. The Wyaralong Dam and Cedar Grove Weir is expected is estimated to cost \$500 million (Water for South East Queensland report, July 2006 and Queensland Water Infrastructure website viewed 29 March 2007).

A Queensland Coalition believes that the State Government should complete construction of the Wyaralong Dam and the associated Cedar Grove Weir, for which planning and land purchases are well advanced, within five years. In addition, the Queensland Coalition believe the Government should investigate and develop an off- stream storage at Bromelton to boost water supplies in the Beaudesert region.

5.2.1.2 Glendower Dam

The Glendower Dam, on the Albert River will have a yield of between 20,000 - 30,000 megalitres a year and preliminary estimates suggest the dam would cost \$261.5 million (SEQ Regional Water Supply Strategy Stage 1 Report, August 2004 and South East Queensland Regional Water Supply Strategy – Desk Top Review of Identified Dam and Weir Sites 2006). Almost all of the land required for the Glendower dam has been purchased. Because of the foresight of previous Coalition Governments in purchasing land for this project it could begin immediately.

A Queensland Coalition government would fastrack the final investigations, land acquisitions and planning work for the Glendower Dam.

5.2.1.3 Amamoor Creek Dam

Numerous State Government reports dating back to 1994 have recommended the construction of a dam at Amamoor Creek in the Mary Valley. The potential storage capacity of a dam at Amamoor Creek will be approximately 220,000 megalitres and preliminary estimates suggest the dam would cost \$162.2 million (South East Queensland Regional Water Supply Strategy – Desk Top Review of Identified Dam and Weir Sites 2006). Because of the foresight of previous Coalition Governments in purchasing land for this project it could begin immediately.

The State Government has already spent \$3.26 million buying 1516 hectares of land for this dam site and the South East Queensland Regional Water Supply Strategy – Desk Top Review of Identified Dam and Weir Sites 2006 states that a dam at Amamoor Creek will have a potential yield of 17,000 and 20,000 megalitres a year (South East Queensland Regional Water Supply Strategy stage 1 report, August 2004). Because of the foresight of previous Coalition Governments in purchasing land for this project it could begin immediately.

A Queensland Coalition Government would commit to fast tracking final design of the Amamoor Creek dam.

5.2.1.4 Raising of Borumba Dam

The Borumba Dam, in the Mary River catchment, currently has a storage capacity of 46,000 megalitres (Sunwater website, www.sunwater.com.au viewed 29 March 2007). Because of the foresight of previous Coalition Governments in purchasing land for this project it could begin immediately.

The progressive raising of the Borumba Dam by up to 25 metres to provide additional water supplies has been recommended in various State Government reports since 1993 and the Coalition Government purchased more than 5000 hectares of land towards the project in 1997 and 1998. Preliminary estimates suggest raising the Borumba dam would cost \$266.7 million (South East Queensland Regional Water Supply Strategy – Desk Top Review of Identified Dam and Weir Sites 2006).

A Queensland Coalition Government would raise the Borumba Dam by 25 metres, increasing the dam's water storage capacity to between 250,000 and 350,000 megalitres and providing an additional annual yield of about 23,000 and 40,000 megalitres (Water for South East Queensland report, July 2006 and South East Queensland Regional Water Supply Strategy – Desk Top Review of Identified Dam and Weir Sites 2006).

The raising of Borumba Dam under a Queensland Coalition Government would include construction of a weir at Coles Crossing on the Mary River, as recommended by the Department of Natural Resources and Water, to improve water supply security for Noosa and Gympie, providing an extra 25 megalitres of water a day.

5.2.2 New Industry connections through the Western Corridor Recycled Water Scheme

Since 1996 the Queensland Coalition has supported the concept of using recycled water from waste water facilities in Brisbane to replace potable water currently being used by industry and agriculture. The Queensland Coalition's support stemmed from the Vision 2000 concept created by business people, farmers and local government that suggested water should be piped to the Lockyer Valley and then to the Darling Downs for use in Agriculture and Industry.

The Western Corridor Recycled Water Scheme has the immediate focus to supply recycled water for industrial use, primarily the power stations at Swanbank and Tarong. To do this, approximately 200km of underground pipeline, up to 1.5m in diameter will be built to take treated water from existing wastewater treatment plants to an Advanced Water Treatment Plant to be constructed at Bundamba.

The total cost of the Pipeline is \$1.7billion and the scheduled completion date for the entire scheme is the end of 2008. When constructed, the pipeline will have the capacity to supply more than 200 megalitres of water per day to end users.

The Queensland Coalition Government would explore additional opportunities on the Western Recycled Water Scheme that would allow industry and agriculture to utilise the water from the system to substitute current use of potable water sources. The Queensland Coalition has a firm policy that recycled water should be reserved for industrial and irrigation uses and only introduced into drinking supplies as an absolute last resort.

A Queensland Coalition Government believes that the State Government should ensure that more than 50% of south-east Queensland's waste-water is being recycled within this term of government.

5.2.3 Development of additional new water supply

The Queensland Coalition recognises desalination could be a key water supply source for south-east Queensland in the future. The Gold Coast City Council together with the State Government are in the initial stages of building a desalination plant at Tugun, that will provide 125 ML per day for regional water supplies. The total cost of the Tugun Desalination plant will be \$1.126 million.

A Queensland Coalition Government would direct the Queensland Water Commission to investigate additional options for desalination plants in south-east Queensland as a matter of priority. In the near future, it will be necessary to identify and preserve desalination sites and preserve them for future generations.

The "Review of Water Supply-Demand Options for South East Queensland" report advocates the option of a desalination plant that should be considered as an alternative water source. The report commissioned by the Mary Valley Council of Mayors and prepared by the Institute of sustainable futures, Cardno and the University of Technology Sydney, suggests that a similar type of operation to the Tugun plant could be constructed.

There would need to be careful consideration of the site of a desalination plant and the social, economic and environmental impacts that a plant may bring.

The "Review of Water Supply-Demand Options for South East Queensland" (Turner et al 2007) has prepared preliminary costs for three plant sizes:

- 125 ML/day or 45,600ML/a – Total Cost \$1.104 Billion – Unit Cost \$2.55 per KL
- 250 ML/day or 91,200ML/a – Total Cost \$2.027 Billion – Unit Cost \$2.34 per KL
- 400 ML/day or 146,000ML/a – Total Cost \$2.865 Billion – Unit Cost \$2.06 per KL

A Queensland Coalition Government would investigate the option of building a Desalination plant north of Brisbane.

5.2.4 Support the Southern Regional Pipeline

The Queensland Coalition recognises the importance of the Southern Regional Pipeline, a proposed water supply pipeline network that will transport water to Ipswich, Beaudesert, Logan and the Gold Coast, and progressively connect new water sources to service new developments. The 100km long pipeline will have reverse flow capacity between Brisbane and the Gold Coast.

The Southern Regional Water Pipeline Company (owner of the pipeline) is an incorporated company with six major shareholders: Ipswich, Brisbane, Logan and Gold Coast city councils, Beaudesert Shire Council and SEQWater.

A Queensland Coalition Government would provide all necessary support and leadership to ensure this important project is completed on time.

5.2.5 Harvesting of water from Northern River's area of New South Wales

Recent publicity has suggested that a report commissioned by the Federal Minister for Environment and completed by the Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation, known as SMEC, shows that piping 100,000 ML of Water from the Clarence River and 10,000 ML from the Tweed to Queensland is technically and financially possible.

Presently there isn't any cross-border water sharing proposals for such a scheme; however it is a proposal that is worth investigating due to the proximity of the river system to South East Queensland. The storage infrastructure is already in place and the project would connect via a new pipeline to the South East Queensland Water Grid through the Southern Regional Water Pipeline.

QUEENSLAND COALITION SUBMISSION
Additional Water Supplies for South East Queensland – Traveston Crossing Dam

The pipeline from the Northern Rivers to the Southern Regional Water Pipeline would be an ideal opportunity for New South Wales and Queensland to jointly apply for funding through the Federal Government's National Water Initiative.

According to the Interim Report of the Toowoomba Water Supply Task Force (section 3.5.3), which also considered this option; the likely success would be dependent upon a number of factors including:

- Inter-state agreement between Queensland and New South Wales;
- Water allocation availability;
- Purchase of water by other potential users and subsequent cost sharing;
- Common timing requirements for infrastructure construction between users;
- Significant environmental approvals; and
- Community acceptance.

A Queensland Coalition Government would investigate this option with a view to negotiating with the New South Wales Government for a cross border water agreement for the Clarence and Tweed River catchments.

6 Recommendations

Recommendation 1: That the Traveston Crossing Dam not be built

6.1 There are other options to the Traveston Dam

6.2 The Water from the Dam is more expensive

6.3 The Dam has Devastating Social Impact

6.4 The Dam has Devastating Environmental Impact

6.5 The Dam was a Politically Motivated selection

Recommendation 2: Consideration be given to alternative Demand Side Options

6.6 Water Saver Rebate Scheme

6.7 Water infrastructure subsidies

6.8 Business Recycled Water subsidy

6.9 Mandatory rainwater tanks in new homes

Recommendation 3: Consideration be given to alternative Supply Side Options

6.10 Construction of three new smaller dams

- Wyaralong Dam
- Glendower Dam
- Amamoor Creek Dam

6.11 Raising of Borumba Dam

6.12 New Industry connections through the Western Corridor Recycled Water Scheme

6.13 Further investigation into the development of desalination plants

6.14 Support of the Southern Regional Pipeline

6.15 Investigate harvesting water from NSW Northern River's to South East Queensland

7 Appendix 1 – Queensland Coalition Members

Seeney Jeffrey, William (Jeff) [Mr] Leader of The Nationals, Leader of the Opposition and Leader of the Queensland Coalition and Shadow Minister for Trade	Member for Callide
Flegg Bruce, (Bruce) [Dr] Leader of the Liberal Party, Deputy Leader of the Queensland Coalition and Shadow Treasurer and Shadow Minister for Infrastructure	Member for Moggill
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Hobbs Howard, William Thomas (Howard) [Mr] Shadow Minister for Local Government, Planning and Sport	Member for Warrego
Hopper Raymond, Gordon (Ray) [Mr] Shadow Minister for Natural Resources and Water	Member for Darling Downs
Horan Michael, James (Mike) [Mr] Shadow Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries	Member for Toowoomba South
Johnson Vaughan, Gregory (Vaughan) [Mr] Shadow Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Shadow Minister for Indigenous Affairs	Member for Gregory
Knuth Shane, (Shane) [Mr] Shadow Minister for Mines and Energy	Member for Charters Towers
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Malone George, Edward (Ted) [Mr] Shadow Minister for Emergency Services & Shadow Minister for Northern Development	Member for Mirani
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Messenger Robert, Desmond (Rob) [Mr] Shadow Minister for Police and Corrective Services	Member for Burnett
Nicholls Timothy, James (Tim) [Mr] Shadow Minister for Tourism, Fair Trading and Wine Industry Development	Member for Clayfield
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Rickuss Ian, Phillip (Ian) [Mr] Opposition Whip	Member for Lockyer
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