

38 Blair Lane
ASCOT QLD 4007

02 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 SouthEast Queensland – Traveston Crossing Dam Information.

My family own 90.2 hectares at Moy Pocket with a frontage onto the Mary River about 1kilometre long. We graze cattle on the property and we have a plantation of hardwood trees. The Queensland Government propose to resume 20.4 hectares of our land.

We have owned the property for five years and have invested a lot of emotional and financial capital in it. This proposed resumption would destroy its viability to graze cattle and reduce its capacity to produce hardwood for the future.

We accept that SEQueensland has an acute water problem but neither we nor the scientific community have been convinced that a dam at Traveston destroying so much fertile land and so many lifestyles is even a partial solution to the problem.

The decision to build this dam seems to be a political one; a grand gesture made quickly to cover up for lack of planning and proper research and the failure to implement suitable infrastructure to cope with a rapidly growing population. This is a problem that has been many years in the making but has been bought on by the failure of rainfall in the Wivenhoe catchment area. It used to rain there but it is not now. That could just as easily be the fate of the Mary River catchment area as we would seem to be entering a drier phase.

From our observation of the river over five years there would seem to be a reduction in flow generally and a marked increase in the amount of weeds floating on it. Like all rivers it benefits from periodic flushing and flooding. Our concern is that if it is dammed the river would become totally covered by weeds. There is national and international concern that this dam will destroy already threatened species by this change in habitat.

There does not appear to be any scientific or engineering support for the building of this dam. The only people who say it will be a success are Mr.Beattie's employees. Our greatest fear is being on the edge of a muddy, mosquito ridden swamp punctuated by dead trees. This would not be the desirable water front view as promised by the Premier.

We are very pleased that the Senate has undertaken this enquiry. The state government has failed the people of this state by its total lack of planning and by its continual squandering of unprecedented wealth. It is a government which solves its

many crises by “spindoctoring”. It is unfortunate that Queensland’s only state newspaper has failed to present a balanced picture of the situation and that most people are ignorant of and indifferent to the plight of the Mary River and its inhabitants.

This enquiry comes at a time when Australia is receiving international criticism for its failure to protect threatened species ..We hope that Mr Beattie will be persuaded from justifying this criticism.

We hope that the Senate Committee will ensure that a balanced view be taken and that the people of Queensland and Australia will be made aware of the consequences of what appears to be an irresponsible and ill-considered decision taken by the Premier and his government.

Yours faithfully

Margaret Bunce