



Dear sir,

As residents of the Mary Valley we are writing to comment on the draft Terms Of Reference for the Environmental Impact Statement on the Traveston Crossing Dam. We live on a 100-acre property which currently is assessed as outside the dam inundation area, although initially we were included in the buffer zone.

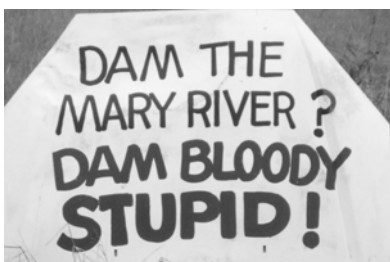
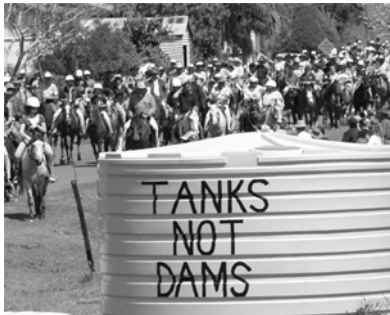
Whether residents are “in” or “out” of the dam footprint, the effects on their community, their lifestyle, their dreams and aspirations have all been severely affected by this flawed proposal.

We ask that you consider these points in expanding the TOR:

- **That the full impact of both Stage 1 and Stage 2 (including pipeline, distribution and water treatment) be considered in the EIS now, not as a split referral under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act.**
- **That you commence a full cost-benefit analysis of all other options eg desalination, recycling, water harvesting in new developments.** The Mary Council of Mayors has just released an independent analysis which states the water harvested from the proposed Traveston Crossing Dam would be the most expensive of all options open to South-East Queensland. Any of these other options would save the need to tamper with the Mary River, which is a vital habitat to species of national and international importance, including the Queensland Lungfish.

Why is the Queensland Government going against the National Water Initiative by proposing dams as the solution to water supply before considering other options available?

- **That you give proper consideration of the social impact of the dam.** It has been repeatedly stated that the instability created by the proposal which came out of “thin air” and still appears to have been policy on the run, has shattered the community of the Mary Valley. It has been argued that the so-called Community Futures Task Force has been able to achieve little in helping people repair their lives and their dreams.
- **That there is a comprehensive examination of Paradise Dam on the Burnett River – the so-called benchmark for the proposed Traveston Crossing Dam.** This would require analysis of the promises made prior to the dam, the project details, and the outcomes – as I believe the same stakeholders who implemented that dam are now in charge of the Mary River Dam. The World Wildlife Fund report stated that the planning process lacked transparency, the project threatened the rare Queensland Lungfish and water from the dam would be too expensive for farmers to buy. “To dam or not to dam?” was commissioned by the WWF to examine how well governments had taken on board the recommendations of the World Commission on Dams. The report listed three WCD priorities Paradise fails to deliver: gaining public acceptance, detailed assessment of other options and sustaining rivers and livelihoods. The same issues face the communities of the Mary River.



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