

Dawn Forrer,
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Dear Mr. Garrett,

In 1982 the High Court delivered a new instrument to the Federal Government by finding that the Federal Government was entitled to overrule State Governments because of its power in Foreign Affairs.

As Geoffrey Bolton states in his book 'The Oxford History of Australia', p 282. "Ironically, this blow to states' rights resulted from the Bjelke-Petersen government's obstinacy." (*As we still have today 27 years later!*) Bolton goes on to say, "The Queensland Cabinet refused to allow the sale of a pastoral lease to an Aboriginal community on the Cape York Peninsula. As the Government would not relent, the Aborigines appealed to the High Court, which found that the Federal Government was entitled to overrule Queensland because of its power in Foreign Affairs, having ratified an international covenant on civil and political rights. The use of the foreign affairs powers sustained the Hawke government in 1983 when the Tasmanian government planned to dam the Franklin River, a region of wilderness much valued by environmentalists. Because of the river's World Heritage listing (an international agreement) and environmental considerations the dam was vetoed."

The Federal Government today has International Treaties with Ramsar, Migratory Bird Treaties with JAMBA (Japan), CAMBA (China) and KorAMBA (Korea), the latter being signed after the Queensland government announced the proposed dam at Traveston Crossing on the Mary River in 2006, and before the Federal government had approved it.

Another point of concern is that an area of the proposed dam is also in the Noosa Biosphere Region, Queensland's first biosphere region, also that the new Great Sandy Biosphere region includes Fraser island. If this information was made public I'm sure there would be an international outcry.

In light of this information these treaties designed to protect the Ramsar Site, the Great Sandy Strait at the mouth of the Mary River and the World Heritage treaty with the protection of Fraser Island, including the independent reports which you commissioned, the proponents have had their attention drawn to the fact that the proposed Traveston Crossing dam will have an effect on the Strait and Fraser Island and they still deny it will.

Would you use these powers and stop the proposed dam on the Mary River which will ultimately damage these areas and which is also a parallel with the Murray-Darling and the Coorong?

I look forward to your reply,
Yours faithfully,
Dawn Forrer
Coordinator of Twitching for Mary (2007)