



Anna Bligh MP



Queensland
Government

Deputy Premier,
Treasurer and
Minister for Infrastructure

01 AUG 2007

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Cnr Alice and George Streets
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petition number 833-07, tabled in the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 23 May 2007, regarding the proposed Traveston Crossing Dam on the Mary River.

Firstly, I apologise for the delay in responding to you. I request that the following response be tabled.

The Government acknowledges that a decision to build any new dam is a very difficult decision to accept, especially for residents and communities affected by the proposal. No dam can be built without having an impact; however, by necessity, dams will continue to be an important element of the future regional water supply strategy.

The potential impacts outlined in petition 833-07 are important issues to be fully assessed in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process. On 20 October 2006, the Coordinator-General declared the proposed Traveston Crossing Dam to be a significant project under the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971*, commencing the process to fully investigate the environmental, social and economic impacts of this project, in accordance with Commonwealth and State Government requirements.

The draft Terms of Reference (TOR) for the project's EIS was released for public comment on 9 December 2006 and closed on 19 February 2007. I can confirm that the issues raised in petition 833-07 are covered by the draft Terms of Reference.

The draft Terms of Reference and the Initial Advice Statement on the project may be viewed at <http://www.coordinatorgeneral.qld.gov.au/eis>.

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The Commonwealth Government is currently delaying release of the TOR's by revisiting the decision to assess Stage 1 independent of Stage 2. Pending their response, and release of the TOR's, I would expect the EIS to be released for public comment by the end of October 2007.

Yours sincerely

Anna Bligh MP
Deputy Premier,
Treasurer and
Minister for Infrastructure

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