

PREPARING A SUBMISSION

to the
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT [EIS]
for the
TRAVESTON CROSSING DAM PROJECT

On October 17 2007, Qld Water Infrastructure (QWIPL) released its Draft EIS for the proposed Traveston Crossing Dam Project. It is a lengthy document – the draft EIS along with two volumes of Technical Reports weighs in at over 20kg. At over 1600 pages, responding to it is a daunting task.

This leaflet aims to help you keep the Draft EIS in true perspective (the government after all, was the only submitter IN FAVOUR of the dam in submissions made to the Senate Enquiry) and to assist you in preparing a ‘proper submission’ to it.

WHAT MAKES A ‘PROPER SUBMISSION’?

The Draft EIS explains that a proper submission must

- contain the submitter’s name and address
- be signed
- deal with a matter or matters discussed in the EIS
- be addressed correctly to the Coordinator-General
- be received by the end of the submission period.

WHEN ARE SUBMISSIONS DUE?

Currently submissions are due by Monday December 3rd although there have been a number of requests for an extension.

DO NOT ASSUME THIS EXTENSION WILL BE GRANTED.

ISN’T IT FUTILE MAKING A SUBMISSION TO THE STATE GOVERNMENT?

No. Every stage of this process has been characterized by strong opposition. Individuals, local councils, organizations and a range of experts at state, national and international level have highlighted problems with the proposal. It is vital that this continues.

All submissions must be counted.

A brief submission counts just as much in this tally as a detailed one.

IS IT A DEAD-END IF MY SUBMISSION ONLY GOES TO THE COORDINATOR-GENERAL?

Yes, quite possibly. There is no obligation for them to be forwarded on to the Federal Department of Environment. This is why WE STRONGLY SUGGEST YOU SEND A COPY of your submission to the federal department, explaining that you lack confidence in submitting only to the Coordinator-General. Ask that they consider the points raised in your submission.

Please don’t boycott the process out of cynicism.

You can almost guarantee that a lack of submitters will be construed as either acceptance or at least acquiescence - a mandate for the dam. WE CAN’T LET THIS HAPPEN!

DO I NEED TO READ THE ENTIRE DRAFT EIS TO PREPARE A SUBMISSION?

No. You only need to address any matter or matters raised in the draft EIS. Some possible issues you may write about are on the next page.

WHERE & HOW CAN I READ THE DRAFT EIS?

Print copies have been lodged in 19 locations including libraries in Cooloola, Noosa and Maroochy Shires. A copy is also available at the Kandanga No Dam Infocentre. These are not for loan but can be a good starting point.

A full list of inspection locations may be downloaded from www.qldwi.com.au

If you want your own print copy, it costs \$150 (plus \$400 for Technical reports).

CD-ROM versions are available free of charge.

Both CD-ROM and printed copies of the EIS and Technical Reports can be obtained by contacting 1800 225 384 or emailing info@qldwi.com.au. You need to specify it is a CD-ROM version you require and it may take up to 5 working days to reach you.

CD-ROM versions are available for loan from the No Dam Infocentre.

INFORMATION AND SUBMISSION WRITING DAYS

Kandanga Hall	Monday	Nov 12	7pm
Ridgewood Hall	Tuesday	Nov 13	7pm
Federal Hall	Thursday	Nov 15	7pm
Imbil Public Hall	Friday	Nov 16	7pm
Kenilworth Show Hall	Tuesday	Nov 20	7pm

Enquiries:
Victor Hill 54 479 288
Kandanga No Dam
Infocentre 54 884 800

Visit www.savethemaryriver.com

POSSIBLE SUBMISSION IDEAS

- Turtles**
- Mary River has two unique turtle species
 - Their biology requires much more study but it is known that they currently breed successfully in the area proposed for damming
 - Similar species do not thrive in dams
 - Proposed turtle ramp is a ‘world first’, with no guarantee of success
 - Proposed alternative of catch and carry are unlikely to provide reliable transport.
 - Proposed nesting ‘beaches’ are useless if dam is low at nesting time
- Lungfish**
- Draft EIS is very selective as to what it includes about lungfish
 - Phrases such as ‘of no concern’ and ‘healthy population’ are at odds with the Federal classification of ‘vulnerable’
 - No long-term studies carried out in Mary River
 - Long-term study on Burnett River called for moratorium on building more dams and weirs
 - Draft EIS says “don’t know if breed in dams”. Scientific consensus is that they don’t, unless very specific vegetation requirements are met.
 - Considerable scientific disagreement as to numbers remaining
 - Fish lift at Paradise Dam has had operating difficulties due to low water levels
 - Fish lift, if operating, at best provides transport, does not guarantee breeding success if site unsuitable
- Research Facility**
- Building a Research Centre but only after construction of dam is a transparent effort to defuse considerable opposition already expressed by the scientific community
 - Captive breeding should never be seen as a viable replacement of natural breeding habitat
 - Long term studies (such as Population Viability Analyses) need to be carried out BEFORE seeking approvals
- Climate change**
- Much of the rainfall modelling seems to use historic figures and assumes no climate change. Climate change is the main reason dams around the country are at low levels
 - Brisbane already has more water storage in dams per capita than any other capital city. Need to develop more climate independent sources such as desalination and recycling
 - Rainfall over Brisbane and coastal strips still quite high. Greater role for rainwater tanks and storm-water harvesting
 - Successful uptake of tank rebate schemes suggests high public acceptance and demand
 - Draft EIS says dam should fill in one or two seasons. Paradise Dam was similarly expected to fill in the first wet season but has never exceeded 30% of capacity and that was only reached by draining a dam further upstream
- Aquatic weeds**
- Dam offers favorable conditions for major spread of aquatic weeds like hyacinth, salvinia, cabomba. Very expensive to control

WHERE TO SEND YOUR SUBMISSION

Project Manager
SEQ Infrastructure (Water)
- Traveston Crossing Dam
Dept of Infrastructure and Planning
PO Box 15009 City East Qld 4002

**SUBMISSIONS
DUE BY MONDAY
DECEMBER 3!**

WHERE TO SEND A COPY OF YOUR SUBMISSION

The federal Environment Minister deals principally with Matters of National Environmental Significance but also must consider alternatives as well as the proponent’s past record.

Minister for Environment
and Water Resources
GPO Box 787
Canberra ACT 2600

Please also include a note explaining that you are sending it as you lack confidence in only sending it to the State Coordinator-General.

If your submission contains points relating to threatened species, you may also like to send a copy to IUCN, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

IUCN Headquarters
Rue Mauverney 28
Gland
1196 Switzerland

Again please attach an explanation.

MAKE SURE YOU HAVE

- included your name and address on the submission itself
- addressed at least one matter from the draft EIS
- signed your submission
- sent the submission to the Coordinator-General’s address
- sent a copy(ies) to the Federal Department of Environment and perhaps IUCN with explanations.

Please urge and assist others to make a submission and to send a copy to the federal Minister.

“Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could only do little”

Edmund Burke