



Dam the Mary River? Save the Mary River!

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Opponents get extension to EIS submission period for Traveston Crossing dam

DAM opponents have won a crucial point in their fight to save the Mary River with Queensland Water Infrastructure admitting errors in the hefty environmental impact statement.

The company charged with undertaking the infrastructure project has now extended the submission period for public responses to the Traveston Crossing dam EIS to January 14.

Across Cooloolool Shire, Mary River supporters collapsed in jubilation when they were given an extra month to prepare their case against the proposed dam.

In a half-page advertisement in *The Gympie Times* on Tuesday, QWI admitted discrepancies in its much-touted EIS and announced the extended submission period.

When he heard the news, Steve Burgess thought it was a joke.

The researcher for the Save the Mary River campaigners says he completed a week's work on his submission on Monday night alone.

He said the extension would allow the anti-dam lobby to bring more issues into the open about the 1600-page EIS documentation prepared by QWI for Stage One of the dam project.

He said valley residents had already discovered that EIS downloads from the QWI website differed in content from the hard copy EIS, with blank pages and incorrect page numbers making it difficult to reference material.

There had been wide support for people writing submissions and many had been spending 24 hours a day on the job.

"This means we can slow down and expand on what we already have, making sure this is a very thorough scrutiny of this EIS, and ensuring we highlight even more with our responses to both the State's Coordinator-General and the Federal Department of Environment and Water," Mr Burgess said.

Fellow opponent Glenda Pickersgill whooped in delight when she was told of the extension.

"I am thrilled to think that they have acknowledged these errors – there are a lot and they need to be looked at," she said.

