

# 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](http://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](mailto: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 5447 9288  
Kandanga No Dam  
Infocentre 5488 4800

Visit [www.savethemaryriver.com](http://www.savethemaryriver.com) for more info

## POSSIBLE SUBMISSION IDEAS

**Unique threatened species** The Mary River provides important habitat for a large number of unique internationally listed threatened species, some of which exist nowhere else on earth (like the Mary River Cod and Mary River Turtle). Many of these species will be directly impacted by the dam and associated infrastructure, as well as being further threatened by changes to patterns of rivers flows resulting from the damming and removal of water at Traveston Crossing. The EIS does not contain any scientific information which demonstrates that the strategies proposed for mitigating the effects of the project on these species (like “catch and carry” and turtle ramps) will work. The global scientific interest in species like the Australian Lungfish and the Mary River Turtle cannot be overstated – Australia has an international obligation to protect these species and the river ecosystem which supports them.

**Turtles**

- Mary River has two unique turtle species
- Their biology requires more study but it is known that they currently breed successfully in proposed dam area - 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 when dam is low

**Lungfish**

- Draft EIS 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 & 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.
- Much scientific disagreement as to remaining numbers
- 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** The yields and flow impacts in the EIS are based on an assumption of no climate change during the last 110 years or into the future of the project. This is not in accordance with either State or Federal Government policy. Streamflow declines at a much faster rate and becomes much more variable with the predicted changes in rainfall patterns for South East Queensland. The wisdom of basing water planning on a resource that is expected to be in rapid decline and increasing in variability when there are alternatives which are cheaper, quicker, use less energy and are much more reliable (such as demand management, on-site rainwater and run-off harvesting, increased recycling and desalination) needs to be examined.

**Aquatic weeds**

- Dam offers favorable conditions for major spread of aquatic weeds like hyacinth, salvinia, cabomba which are very expensive to control

**Evaluation of alternatives** The EIS evaluates a number of alternative water supply strategies – but nearly all of them involve further dams and water extraction from the Mary River – a river already over-allocated and under environmental stress from existing levels of extraction. The EIS specifically does not account for the huge infrastructure, running costs and impacts associated with the pipelines needed to deliver water from Traveston Crossing to Brisbane, regarding it as a separate project, even though nearly all the water carried by this project (The Northern Pipeline Interconnector) would be sourced from the Mary. For example, pumping water from Traveston Crossing to Brisbane uses more energy than running a desalination plant to provide the same amount of water. This is not accurately reflected in the EIS.

**Part of a larger set of actions** Traveston Crossing Stage 1 is merely part of a combined suite of infrastructure proposals aimed at transferring more than 150 billion litres of water from the Mary per year. This will have huge impacts on the 200 km of river system downstream of Traveston Crossing and on the receiving waters in the Great Sandy Strait, Hervey Bay and Fraser Island. Downstream impacts are downplayed in the EIS.

## 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

## 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.

**SUBMISSIONS  
DUE BY MONDAY  
DECEMBER 3!**

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*