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Ms Catherine Skippington  
Assistant Secretary  
Environment Assessment Branch  
Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts  
GPO Box 787  
Canberra ACT 2601

Date: 23 January 2009  
Reference:

Dear Ms Skippington,

**RE: Request to Vary the Proposed Action – Traveston Crossing Dam (EPBC Reference: 2006/3150)**

The purpose of this correspondence is to request a variation to the proposed action (Traveston Crossing Dam) in accordance with Section 156A of the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act), to exclude the proposed relocation of a 10km section of the Bruce Highway.

On the 15th November 2006, Queensland Water Infrastructure Pty Ltd (QWI) referred the proposed action to undertake the construction and operation of the Traveston Crossing Dam. The proposed action was determined to be a controlled action by the Federal Environment Minister's delegate on 29th November 2006, and is being assessed under the Bilateral Agreement between the Commonwealth and the State of Queensland.

The referral document included the following description of the proposed action:

*The proposed action is for the construction and operation of Stage 1 of Traveston Crossing Dam on the Mary River in SEQ and the relocation or construction of infrastructure required as a result of this action..... It is anticipated that the services and infrastructure listed below will be affected by Stage 1 of the inundation and that some of these will need to be replaced or reconfigured:.....*

- *Sections of the Bruce Highway, Gympie-Brooloo Road, Kenilworth-Skyring Creek Road and many roads joining these in the project area. The length of the Bruce Highway impacted by Stage 1 is approximately 4.5km. The length of new road required to replace it (beyond Stage 2 inundation) will be approximately 10km.*

**Reason for Variation**

As described above, the description of the referred proposed action included the relocation of ancillary infrastructure associated with the primary action (the Dam), in particular the relocation of a 10km section of the Bruce Highway.

The Queensland Department of Main Roads (DMR) recently advised QWI that as the proponent of the relocation of the Bruce Highway, it is progressing the proposed Highway relocation as a high priority project independently to the timing of the proposed Traveston Crossing Dam.

The proposal to exclude the Bruce Highway from the scope of the Referral will not impact on any new Matters of National Environmental Significance which have not already been considered in the assessment process, as it will reduce the footprint and scale of the proposed action.

If you would like to discuss the above matter, please do not hesitate to contact myself or Ms Lauren Barnaby on 07 3406 7100. I look forward to your response on the matter.

Yours sincerely



Graeme Newton  
*Chief Executive Officer*  
**QUEENSLAND WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PTY LTD**