



THE RIVER, THE BAY AND THE STRAIT:

A public forum on the downstream impact of the proposed Traveston Crossing dam

9am to 5pm, 5 October 2008

Hervey Boat Club, The Boat Harbour, Urangan

Cost \$10/\$5 concession

(Please RSVP for catering purposes before 30 Sep. Call Tanzi on 0405848375)

9:00am-9:30am Registration

9:30am-9:45am Welcome to Country by traditional land custodian, Jan Williams

Welcome to Forum by FCRC Mayor Mick Kruger

9:45am-10:10am Introduction and setting the scene, Tanzi Smith

10:10-10:40am Impacts of the Traveston Crossing Dam on Estuarine Water Quality in the Great Sandy Region

Max Winders, Principal, MWA Environmental

Modelling conducted by Max has shown that the proposed dam will further reduce nutrient concentrations in the estuarine areas and increase salinities. Of particular interest is the extent to which a significant strategy for the release of environmental flows into the estuary will be required to offset these effects and, in particular, restore the relatively frequent river freshes essential to the health of the waterways and wetlands. If a responsible strategy is recognised by QWI, the sustainable yield of the dam will be reduced and make other, more eco-friendly options of satisfying the SEQ Water Strategy more attractive to the decision makers in our community.

10:40-10:55am What the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) should address with respect to climate change

Ashton Berry, University of the Sunshine Coast

Ashton is part way through his post graduate studies in climate change adaptation and is soon to undertake a Masters degree focusing on climate change impact and coastal geomorphology. Ashton will be explaining why it is so important that the EIS for the proposed dam includes an analysis that considers all the impacts of climate change on the Mary River's flow rates and dam viability.

10:55am-11:10am Phosphorus in the Mary and vulnerability of storages to algal blooms

Graeme Esslemont, BMRG

Graeme will report on the results of recent sampling of sediment-bound phosphorus in the Mary River, and explain what this means for future management and water storages on the river. The significance of phosphorus in the catchment will be a particular focus.

11:10 – 11:45 Morning tea followed by music and poetry by Kitch in Sync from Tuan

11:45am-12:15pm Increasing salinity in Hervey Bay and the role of the rainfall, evaporation and the Mary River in controlling salinity

Associate Professor Joachim Ribbe, University of Southern Queensland

Dr Ribbe has recently completed a two year study of hypersalinity (high salinity) and temperature in Hervey Bay. The study considered the impact the rainfall, evaporation and river flow have in determining salinity of Hervey Bay. Salinity is an important influence on the marine ecosystem.

Dr Ribbe will discuss the findings of this research and explain the role of river flows in determining salinity levels in Hervey Bay. (www.bmrg.org.au/information.php/2/55/237)

12:15- 12:40pm Why the Mary is at risk from low flows

Steve Burgess, Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee

Steve has conducted an extensive review of the measured streamflow data in the Mary River and the catchment modeling conducted for the Mary Basin Water Resource Plan and the proposed Traveston Crossing dam. He is not worried about the average flows in the river, he is concerned about proposals that would make the problems that already occur in the dry times any worse than what they currently are.

12:40-1:25pm A light lunch will be served

1:25-1:35pm Wader Birds of the Great Sandy Strait

Tim Thornton, President Wide Bay Burnett Conservation Council

The Great Sandy Strait supports large numbers of migratory birds from the Northern Hemisphere. Tim will describe some of the species, their journey and the importance of the Great Sandy Strait to their survival.

1:40-2:00pm Traveston Dam: The Ramsar Ramifications

Roger Currie, Water Policy Officer, Wide Bay Burnett Conservation Council

The Ramsar Convention is an international agreement aimed at protecting internationally significant wetlands. The listing of the Great Sandy Strait as a Ramsar wetland is one of the reasons why Peter Garrett has the final say on the proposed dam. Roger will explain the ramifications of the Ramsar listing for the assessment processes of the proposed dam.

2:00pm- 2:15pm Looking out for seagrass and dugongs

Gordon Cottle, Project Coordinator for the Great Sandy Strait Seagrass Watch

Seagrass in the Great Sandy Strait is an important food source for green turtles and dugong. For many years a dedicated band of volunteers have monitored seagrass in the Great Sandy Strait. Gordon will explain this program and what they have found.

2:15-2:30pm What part of environmental flow don't you understand?

Joe McLeod, Independent Trawlers Association, Tin Can Bay

That is the question Joe McLeod has been asking the Queensland Government for years. In his presentation Joe will explain why commercial fishers care about environmental flows and flood plumes and ask why the government appears to disregard the precautionary principle when it comes to dams and tidal barriers.

2:30-2:45pm Recreational fishing counts too!

Ray Ozich, President Sunfish

Recreational fishing is an important part of Hervey Bay, contributing about \$150 million to the economy each year. Ray will explain the concerns that recreational fishers have about impacts of the proposed dam.

2:45-3:15pm Afternoon tea followed by entertainment by Kitch in Sync

3:15-4:30pm Panel of all speakers and open discussion

4:30-5:00pm Wrapping up and Statement of Concern to Peter Garrett