



Private Members' Statements
GLEN ELMES
Member for Noosa

Hansard, 26 November 2008

TRAVESTON DAM

Mr ELMES (Noosa--LNP) (11.37 am): I was shocked beyond belief at the breathtaking hypocrisy of the Premier and the Deputy Premier at the announcement that the construction of the proposed Traveston Crossing Dam would be put back by years. I understand that there will be policy differences between political parties and I understand that it is the role of the Premier to sometimes take hard decisions, but if they are made they should be made because they are right and, at the same time, if they are wrong the government should come clean and admit it. The Premier has shown that she now stands for nothing.

The proposed Traveston Crossing Dam did not stand the test of time. As a dam site, it has been rejected before. It should never have been put back on the agenda. The experts told the government it was wrong. The local people know the country. They told the government it was wrong. But, instead of listening, this Labor government embarked on a campaign to destroy the Mary Valley community through something like death by a thousand cuts--a nick here, a nick there; a bit of blood here, a bit of blood there; a slow, painful, agonising death for a wonderful hinterland community.

The announcement made yesterday is a victory of sorts, but it also draws out the pain and the uncertainty. To me, it is unbelievable that some Queenslanders would inflict on other Queenslanders a purely political plan that will not work and was aimed at nothing more than to shore up Labor Party votes in Brisbane. It is unbelievably callous. The government has forced families off their properties. It has forced the renters out of the very homes it bought. Even those businesses and families who tried to work with the dam found out yesterday that their planning and investments will come to nothing.

The government is treating these Queenslanders like the stuff Labor wants to put in our drinking supply. Government members should all hang their heads in shame. It is no wonder the Courier-Mail recently reported that the Sunshine Coast is a Labor Party wasteland.
