



Speech by

Glen Elmes

MEMBER FOR NOOSA

Hansard Thursday, 8 March 2007

TRAVESTON DAM

Mr ELMES (Noosa—Lib) (6.02 pm): I rise tonight to highlight two reports recently released concerning the supply of water in south-east Queensland and the proposed Traveston Crossing Dam. The first report was released on behalf of the Mary River Council of Mayors, which I attended in Gympie on Friday, 23 February. The second report released by the Deputy Premier earlier this week talks about economic futures for what is now called the Traveston Crossing region.

The difference between the two is that the first report was a carefully considered document compiled by experts and sponsored by our local authorities; the other is a base piece of Labor Party propaganda which tries to justify the government's position on the proposed dam at Traveston Crossing. I want to compliment the Council of Mayors and, in particular, thank Professor Stuart White, from the Institute for Sustainable Futures from the University of Technology in Sydney, who presented the findings of the report.

On the same day that the mayors' report was released, the Deputy Premier issued a media statement calling it, amongst other things, 'a flawed assessment'. She then attempted to justify the Beattie government's poor position on Traveston and added this incredible line in her media statement: 'It fails to take into account the impact of spending \$1.7 billion in this community and the economic spin-off that it will create.' This statement was quickly followed by this report, which tries to justify the Beattie government's reasoning.

Any child with a computer can look up census and other data and present 98 per cent of what is in this report. Population projections, age demographics, manufacturing businesses, shopping habits et cetera are readily available to anyone. When it comes to how the government is going to spend the \$1.7 billion, the Deputy Premier's report includes lines such as 'there is an opportunity to consider', 'the region may benefit from', 'there is also potential', 'it would be valuable to investigate the viability', 'the region could use the stimulus', 'it may be useful to identify', 'it may be useful to investigate', 'one possibility may be to explore'. That is the extent of planning and preparation for the so-called Traveston Crossing region.

There is nothing in this report that has the least benefit to existing residents in the Cooloola shire, the Noosa shire or anywhere else for that matter. The mayors' report proves that this proposed dam may not be of any use. It is not needed and it is certainly not wanted. But our propaganda experts on the other side of the House have spent taxpayers' money producing what a schoolchild with a vivid imagination could produce. The Premier has admitted his mistakes before and on many occasions. Why won't he admit his government has made a mistake to build the Traveston Crossing Dam?