



Speech by

**Hon. Paul Lucas**

**MEMBER FOR LYTTON**

Hansard Thursday, 18 October 2007

---

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Traveston Crossing Dam, EIS**

**Hon. PT LUCAS** (Lytton—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (9.49 am): I will comply with that, Mr Speaker. The Traveston Crossing Dam EIS released today for a six-week review period places on public record comprehensive engineering and environmental studies—

**Mr Seeney** interjected.

**Mr LUCAS:** I beg your pardon? So individual members are able to hold it up when they are speaking on something but—

**Mr Seeney:** You just get on with what you are doing.

**Mr LUCAS:** I am happy to hold it up again for the member if he does not like it. The EIS has been prepared by SKM with support from Australia's top environmental—

**Mr Horan** interjected.

**Mr LUCAS:** Parliamentary Rugby won, now that the member asks for it. I got mine—

**Mr Horan** interjected.

**Mr LUCAS:** I am happy to answer that.

**Ms Bligh:** On the Champs Elysees?

**Mr LUCAS:** Did I get it in France? No, I got mine at Ballymore. Thank you for asking me. I do appreciate that. I got mine at Ballymore. How did I get there? I drove there. The EIS has been prepared by SKM with support from Australia's top environmental, engineering and economic consultants. In fact, the main 11 engineers—

**Mr Johnson** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I know we have an interest in people's ties but let us hear the Deputy Premier's statement.

**Mr LUCAS:** I will have to see what other ties I can wear—one for the member for Southern Downs and a few others.

The EIS has been prepared by SKM with support from Australia's top environmental, engineering and economic consultants. In fact, the main 11 engineers who worked on the project have a combined 400 years of experience on 350 dam and weir projects in over 25 countries.

The EIS clearly identifies that this dam would provide a reliable source of water for 2.2 million people who reside in south-east Queensland. Importantly, it also acknowledges the environmental impacts that a project of this size will have within the region. It provides a comprehensive suite of commitments—288 in total—and sustainable mitigation measures to address those matters raised in the terms of reference, including matters of national environmental significance.

The EIS highlights that the dam, which is 207 kilometres from the mouth of the river, will have no impact on the World Heritage properties on Fraser Island, and that there will be no physical or natural sediment disturbance to the Great Sandy Straits. In fact, there will be lower sediment levels at the mouth of the Mary River.

There are also some environmental initiatives that I would like to draw to the House's attention. Last week we announced one of the key sustainability initiatives that will be delivered with the Traveston Crossing Dam project, a \$35 million freshwater species centre operated by the University of Queensland. The centre's primary role will be field research into the breeding and habitat requirements of the turtle, the cod and the lungfish and then implementation of key findings—not just at Traveston Crossing Dam but also at other water storages throughout south-east Queensland. But it is important to note that this centre is only one section of a multi-tiered approach to protecting the significant species, with a number of initiatives detailed in the EIS that are aimed at improving the status of the species and providing suitability of habitat beyond the project footprint.

QWI, in consultation with the CSIRO, has proposed a number of sustainable initiatives that go beyond the requirements for the project. In brief summary, these include revitalisation of the Kandanga township, including a multi-sport and recreational centre, with MOUs signed with a number of local organisations, including the Kandanga Bowls Club and Friends of Kandanga. The development of a native timber and honey tree plantation has been proposed, which could be greater than 2,000 hectares, helping to deliver a better than carbon neutral profile for the project. There are also business opportunities for local suppliers. Already over 520 businesses, 80 per cent of them local, have signed up for opportunities associated with the project. An amount of \$2.7 million has been proposed for the DPI's Food and Fibre Futures Strategy to assist farmers in the area. There has also been outdoor recreational facilities proposed, including extensive horse, walking and mountain bike tracks, canoe trails and picnic and boat access.

From today, the five volumes of the EIS and supporting data will be made available for the public to review in 19 locations across south-east Queensland. Queensland Water Infrastructure will distribute a newsletter to over 100,000 people through local papers, post offices and letterbox drops, with an EIS information pack to be provided to over 2,000 stakeholders. An advertisement will appear in this weekend's newspapers telling people where they can view the EIS and how they can have their say.

There is no do-nothing option when it comes to securing south-east Queensland's water supply. This dam is a key element of securing Queensland's future. Our water grid is about security and it is about balance. That is why, even after the construction of the Traveston Crossing Dam, the use of recycled water would be higher than any major city in Australia and our use of desalination would be the highest contribution to any capital city urban supply in Australia.

Submissions to the Coordinator-General on the EIS will close on Monday, 3 December. I encourage all those with an interest in this project to read the EIS and participate in the assessment process.