



Speech by

Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR STAFFORD

Hansard Tuesday, 15 September 2009

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Traveston Dam

Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (10.20 am): I wish to inform the House of progress on the assessment of the Traveston Crossing Dam. In accordance with the requirements of the state-Commonwealth bilateral agreement for environmental assessment, the Queensland Coordinator-General has provided his draft evaluation report and draft conditions to the Commonwealth Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts for its review and comment. Once the Coordinator-General has considered any comments from the Commonwealth he will finalise his assessment. Following the Coordinator-General's assessment, the evaluation report and all relevant material for the project will be formally provided to the federal minister for his assessment under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. All reports will be released when the environment minister has received the final report.

This project will not only provide much needed water to secure South-East Queensland's future water supply but also presents a unique opportunity to deliver a substantial and enduring conservation project that will not only provide benefits for the iconic species of the Mary River but for the entire Mary River catchment.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge the good work of the Community Futures Task Force. The task force has played a central role in providing access to information, services and support in those communities impacted by the proposed Traveston Crossing Dam. Through its network of services and agencies the Community Futures Task Force ensured that Mary Valley residents were able to access support following the announcement that the draft Coordinator-General's report on the Traveston Crossing Dam had been forwarded to the federal minister for the environment. This support included 24-hour Lifeline services and the Community Futures Task Force free call number 1800 133 258. In addition, on Sunday, 13 September 2009, the Community Futures Task Force unit ensured a community support plan was in place that involved Lifeline counsellors, local support from Imbil police and the Department of Communities. The state government knows that this process has been very difficult for those affected, but it is the state government's responsibility to provide water security for South-East Queensland both now and well into the future.