



Speech by

Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR STAFFORD

Hansard Wednesday, 7 October 2009

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Traveston Dam

Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (10.06 am): As the Premier has advised the House, after a three-year environmental impact assessment process the Coordinator-General has published his conditions of approval for the Traveston Crossing Dam. This report has been sent to the federal environment minister. The project is now going through the Commonwealth assessment in accordance with the requirements of the state-Commonwealth bilateral agreement for environmental assessment. This morning I was advised that today has been defined as day zero of the 30-day process.

The Coordinator-General's assessment of conditions is based on the best scientific advice including some of this country's foremost scientific experts on the Queensland lung fish, the Mary River turtle, the Mary River cod and the giant barred frog. I table letters from leading experts including Emeritus Professor Gordon Grigg from the University of Queensland. Professor Grigg is one of Australia's pre-eminent zoologists, with more than 35 years experience. He states—

It is my opinion that, if the mitigation measures proposed by QWI as part of the construction of Traveston Crossing Dam are implemented, Queensland Lungfish as well as the other three species should end up with their security enhanced, not compromised.

He goes on—

... a 'do nothing approach' will almost certainly see further deterioration in the long-term security of these four species.

Tabled paper: Bundle of letters relating to the response by Queensland Water Infrastructure Pty Ltd to reports by the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts relating to the proposed Traveston Dam [\[1020\]](#).

The experts believe environmental measures for the Traveston Crossing Dam project will improve the situation for these species through extensive work to improve their habitat and research for the \$35 million Freshwater Species Conservation Centre. The leading experts on the species noted the impact the current state of the Mary River has had on these species.

The environmental community benefits for the Mary Valley contained within the report are both immediate and long lasting. \$75 million is allocated in this year's budget and a long list of environmental and community job creation projects await the federal government's approval. These projects include a \$20 million community and economic development program, including a \$12.2 million program of works to improve the productivity and quality of the Mary Valley agricultural practices, and \$7.8 million for tourism and recreation. The community and economic development program includes \$3.45 million to assist the establishment of, or transition to, new agribusinesses in the Mary Valley. Under the program, tourism and recreation measures will include a \$4.2 million series of walking, canoe, horse and mountain bike trails, and \$1.15 million to ensure the future of the iconic valley rattler steam train.

In addition, \$10 million will be spent on the township of Kandanga including \$4 million to upgrade the sewage and water supply, \$3.5 million to implement a Kandanga master planning consultation with the local community and \$2.5 million to construct a new Kandanga bowls club and provide land for community facilities such as a public hall, swimming pool and sports fields.

It is estimated that 770 jobs will be created during the construction of the Traveston Crossing Dam project. The Traveston Crossing Dam is another example of the Bligh government delivering on big plans

for Queensland. Just six months into our term, the state continues to come good on election commitments including this promise to provide water security for South-East Queensland well into the future.

Mr Gibson: Don't stand in this House; tell the people of the Mary Valley. Coward!

Mr SPEAKER: Order! You will withdraw that comment.

Mr GIBSON: I withdraw, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you. There is far too much interjection. I call the Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability.