

**Question on Notice**

**No. 911**

**Asked on 7 June 2007**

**MR GIBSON** asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Infrastructure (MS BLIGH) –

**QUESTION:**

With reference to reports in *The Courier Mail*, Tuesday 29 May 2007 in the article ‘Bogged Down – Councils gang up on Premier as compensation calls grow’ and in particular where she is quoted as saying ‘the Commonwealth was reconsidering its initial approval of a 55km pipeline connecting the Mary River to the southeast of Queensland water grid because of concerns about rare turtles, lungfish and cod’ –

1. What concerns were expressed by the Commonwealth Government about rare turtles, lungfish and cod?
2. What actions will the State Government be taking to allay the fears of the Commonwealth Government about rare turtles, lungfish and cod in the Mary River?
3. If the environmental impact study shows that there will be adverse impacts on the populations of rare turtles, lungfish and cod, will the State Government immediately cease plans to build the Traveston Crossing Dam?

**ANSWER:**

The Commonwealth Government did not express any concerns about turtles, lungfish, cod or any other matters. The Commonwealth’s reconsideration was based on two submissions from community groups. It should be noted the Commonwealth Government confirmed its original decision, that the Northern Pipeline Interconnector is not a controlled action under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the EPBC Act), on 26 June 2007.

Potential impacts on species that include the Mary River Cod, Mary River Turtle and Australian Lungfish will be thoroughly explored during the open and transparent Environmental Impact Statement for the Traveston Crossing Dam – Stage 1 which is a controlled action under the EPBC Act.