

COMMUNITY FUTURES TASK FORCE

Issue 2 **Traveston Crossing Dam** August 2006

Community Futures Task Force Hotline: 1800 133 258



Queensland
Government

Message from Peter Arnison



I have invited Cr Joe Natoli, the Mayor of Maroochy Shire and Cr Bob Abbot, the Mayor of Noosa Shire, to join Cr Mick Vernados the Mayor of Cooloola Shire on the Task Force, to ensure that the Local Government perspective is considered by the Task Force, particularly as part of the acquisition program impacts on residents in all these shires.

Following my early visits to the region and local representations, the Department of Local Government, Planning, Sport and Recreation has arranged to provide support to local sporting clubs and teams, particularly to assist them in attracting and retaining players, coaches and supporters. The Department of Communities has arranged for Lifeline to work with community members to undertake outreach visits in the region. In this regard, I was very pleased to see the appointment of Carol Elliot to the one-stop shop team. Carol, as a highly experienced local leader, will be able work closely with the communities and I will very much appreciate her advice.

I will continue to visit the Mary River regularly to meet

individuals and community groups with a view to facilitating an appropriate Government response to address the immediate effects of the decision to build the dams on the affected communities.

I am very conscious of concerns by members of the community about the impact of the dam on the number of people who will live in the area after the dam is completed. I am recommending that planning proceed on the basis that the population in the valley will remain the same or be greater after the completion of the dam.

As part of the process to confirm the impact on individual properties there will be a significant degree of investigative activity taking place, including helicopter mapping and survey flights, drilling and ground surveys over the coming months.

In this and subsequent regular issues of the newsletter, on our website and in your one stop shop we will seek to answer questions and inquiries to ensure you remain as fully informed as possible.

Major General Peter Arnison, AC, CVO (Retd)
Chairman, Community Futures Task Force

Retaining community spirit key aim

The mayors of Maroochy Shire and Noosa Shire, have joined the Community Futures Task Force to ensure the best possible input is received regarding the opportunities presented by the Traveston Crossing Dam.

Task Force leader Major General Peter Arnison said the Task Force was seeking to maximize every opportunity for the regional communities and he would continue to meet with local groups, communities and individuals to advance the strategic opportunities and prospects for the region.

Major General Arnison said that the Task Force would continue to identify and address the immediate issues affecting the communities and these were being presented for urgent action at the Task Force meetings.

“Members of the Task Force are complementing my visits meeting with residents on a face to face basis to listen and take action as appropriate,” General Arnison said.

The work of experienced Lifeline counsellors attached to the One Stop Shop has been effective in providing personal and individual support to members of the effected communities.

Major General Arnison said his visits to the One Stop Shop at Kandanga and meetings with the Mary Valley Action Group and other community interests was helping the Task Force develop and implement strategies for both short and longer term benefits for people.

“The communities want to stay together, they want to play in the local sports competitions and the Task Force will be working to ensure all those linkages are maintained and fostered.

“I continue to encourage people to come forward and raise their concerns and suggestions for the future opportunities. We want to ensure the advantages of the proposal can be maximized for the benefit of the communities and the people of the region,” he said.

Queensland Water Infrastructure (QWI)

Task Force head Major General Peter Arnison has been briefed by Graeme Newton, the Chief Executive Officer of Queensland Water Infrastructure (QWI) Pty Ltd, which is the special purpose company established to manage the planning approvals and construction of the dam.

QWI is in the process of defining the exact extent of land required for the dam project and when this data is available, each effected landowner will be sent a detailed letter with the Land Purchasing Policy, an attached plan that shows the proposed acquisition line for their property, an explanation of the options available to them and contact details for the next steps.

The gathering of this information with accurate data and complete detail is currently the highest priority for the project and given the complex nature of the information being collected is taking some time to complete and be fully verified.

At present the activities currently underway to determine the land required for the dam and the buffer zone include:

- Flood modelling
- Dam design
- Detailed mapping
- A detailed transport corridor assessment
- Land purchasing policy

Flood Modelling

Modelling is being done to assess flood heights for pre-dam and with the Dam at EL (what does EL mean?) 71m and EL 79.5m. This is a complex task which includes local catchment assessment, a review of stream bed bank characteristics and ground truthing of previous floods in the area.

Dam design

The design is being refined to improve flood and backwater impacts and to provide for the efficient constructability of the project. There is ongoing design optimization to manage flood heights upstream and flood mitigation downstream.

Detailed Mapping

The detailed review of mapping is underway to ensure an accurate representation of boundaries for properties, contours, dam volumes and flood heights. This will include low level (helicopter mounted) aerial photography to provide more accurate data for key areas such as roads and the dam site.

Roads (major and minor)

A detailed transport corridor assessment is underway to ascertain upgrades, relocations and possible closures. Landholder access to properties is also being assessed to determine any affected properties. Overall it is intended the majority of the existing main transport corridors will remain trafficable for the first stage development.

Land purchasing policy

A written policy is being prepared as a result of all the studies to define the extent of the land needed, including buffer zones for each dam stage.

New Task Force Staff

Mr Steve Mill has been appointed as the Executive Director of the Community Futures Task Force. Mr Mill was the director of Commercial Advisory Service at the Department of State development, Trade and Innovation.

Mr Mick Lord, a Director from the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Water has been appointed as Senior Liaison Director

Adam Gauld from the Office of the Coordinator General has been appointed Project Officer.

Mr Peter McCall is the Senior Communications Adviser.

M/s Lone Hill is the Task Force Office Manager.

Major General Arnison said further liaison staff from the Departments represented on the Task Force will join the Task Force office to support the activities as required.

Timeline

August 2006 - Commence environmental studies

By late 2006 - Draft Terms of Reference prepared and advertised for public comment (Advertised for 4 weeks; Submissions considered and Terms of Reference finalised)

During 2007 - Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared for Project

By early 2008 - EIS advertised for public comment (Advertised for 6 weeks - Submissions received and considered)

By mid 2008 - EIS Supplementary Report provided to referral agencies and stakeholders (State and Federal agencies for assessment)

By early 2009 - Tendering for construction to commence

By mid 2009 - Tender decided and construction to commence

End 2011 - Construction complete.

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