

COMMUNITY FUTURES TASK FORCE



Issue 1

Wyaralong Dam

August 2006

Queensland
Government

Community Futures Task Force Hotline: 1800 133 258

Message from Peter Arnison



This is the first edition of what will be a regular newsletter which seeks to provide a source of reliable information to assist people in the region affected by the Government's decision to build the Wyaralong Dam.

Included in this newsletter is detail of my role as the Task Force Chairman, the Task Force membership, as well as

the matters the Queensland Government has asked us to address, including the details of the Task Force terms of reference and the opportunities for the community to access a range of advisory services.

All members of the Task Force will be available to listen

to the issues, needs and inquiries of people in Boonah and the wider region affected by the decision to build the dam. Communication will be through visits, the Boonah One Stop Shop, regular newsletters, the Task Force hotline (1800 133 258) and the Task Force's website (www.communityfutures.qld.gov.au).

I visited Boonah Shire on Friday 14 July and gained a much better understanding of the complex set of issues resulting from the decision. I intend to visit again on Thursday 3 August..

I look forward to meeting you over the forthcoming months. Please do not hesitate to make me and fellow Task Force members aware of your issues and concerns.

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

Chairman's first visit to Boonah Shire, Friday 14 July

Task Force head Major General Peter Arnison met with the Boonah Shire Council, Mayor, Cr John Brent (who is a member of the Task Force), to be briefed on a range of matters relating to individuals affected by the Government's decision to construct the dam at Wyaralong.

During the visit he called on, and conducted discussions with, a number of community members, whose properties lie in the area to be inundated to gain a better understanding of their individual circumstances.

The visit concluded with a tour of the Kalfresh facility and discussions with the proprietor.

The Taskforce, at its first meeting in Brisbane the following week, discussed a range of issues arising from the visit and recommended that legal and financial advice be provided to those affected by the decision.

The recommendation was accepted and officers from the local State Development Centre and the Boonah One Stop Shop will be available to meet with businesses to

discuss and, as appropriate, make referrals to business legal and financial advisors.

Contact numbers include the Boonah One Stop Shop, 5463 2000 and the business assistance hotline, 1300 363 711.

The Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPI&F) is working with local primary producers who will be affected by the dam.

The Department is identifying and seeking to resolve issues facing affected primary producers. It provides a free service to help primary producers address financial issues.

Primary producers requiring any assistance should call the DPI&F Business Centre on 132 523.

The Department will also undertake face-to-face meetings with individuals as required.

This *Community Futures Task Force Newsletter* is produced by the Community Futures Task Force to keep residents informed about the Wyaralong Dam project. Please pass it on to your family and friends. If you would like anything included in future editions, please contact us at: communityfutures@qld.gov.au

Task Force terms of reference

1. Address the immediate effects of the decision to build the dams on the affected communities and develop strategies and approaches in relation to:
 - The impact on health and wider social issues;
 - Property resumptions;
 - The impact on business and industry continuity;
 - The prospects for regional industry adjustment.
2. Develop strategies to maximise the medium to longer term opportunities presented by the proposed dam developments to enable the communities to position themselves for a better future by:
 - identifying the social, economic and land use impacts of the development on individuals, businesses, community social infrastructure and the broader communities; and
 - developing short-term and long-term action plans to assess and manage social, economic and land use implications of the developments on individuals, businesses, community social infrastructure and the broader communities.
3. Engage the community in the Community Futures Task Force work program and provide regular community information by way of the One Stop Shop, visits, the newsletter, the web site and the 1800 number.
4. Provide linkages between individuals, communities, businesses, local governments, the Federal Government, and the State Government to address issues and impacts as appropriate.

Members of the Task Force

The new Task Force will be led by General Arnison and include the Coordinator General and Director-General of the Department of Premier and Cabinet as well as the Director-Generals of State Development, Trade and Innovation; Employment and Training; Natural Resources, Mines and Water; Main Roads; Primary Industries & Fisheries; Public Works; Communities; and Local Government, Planning, Sport and Recreation.

At a local level the Task Force includes the Mayor of Boonah, Mr John Brent.

Contact the Task Force

Phone: 1800 133 258
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One Stop Shop

The Queensland Government has established a one-stop shop at 13 Church St Boonah to provide:

- Information about the dam and land acquisition to community members who are in the proposed dam area site;
- General information to Boonah community about the dam proposal;
- Referral assistance for individuals to access other government services including legal advice, small business advice and details of other relevant government programs and services.

Community members can access these services by contacting the centre – either in person or over the phone on 5463 2000. The one stop shop is open from 10:00 am to 4.00pm.

The range and type of services will be regularly reviewed to ensure they meet the needs of the community. Regular updates will be available through the one-stop shop.

To further assist community members, details of services available in the local area are listed below.

Essential numbers

One Stop Shop – 5463 2000

Dam information – 1800 243 585

State Development Centre Ipswich (Business Assistance) – 3280 1943

Centrelink – 13 1021

Ipswich Community Youth Service – 3812 1050

Local Government Information (Boonah Shire Council) - 5463 3000

Counselling Services

Lifeline (24 Hours) – 13 11 14

Lifeline Ipswich & West Moreton 3281 8688

Langmont Advantage – 1300 667 791

Kids Helpline – 1800 55 1800

Department of Communities – 1800 440 074

Fassifern Community Centre 54632966

DPI&F Call Centre - 132523

Employment & Training Enquiries – 1300 369 925

Moreton Rural Financial Counselling Service – 5480 4431

DPI&F Farm Financial Counselling Service (Toowoomba) 46881259

Dept. of Housing (Ipswich) – 3280 1418

Land Acquisition Fund – 1800 243 585

Health Services Boonah Hospital 5463 3300