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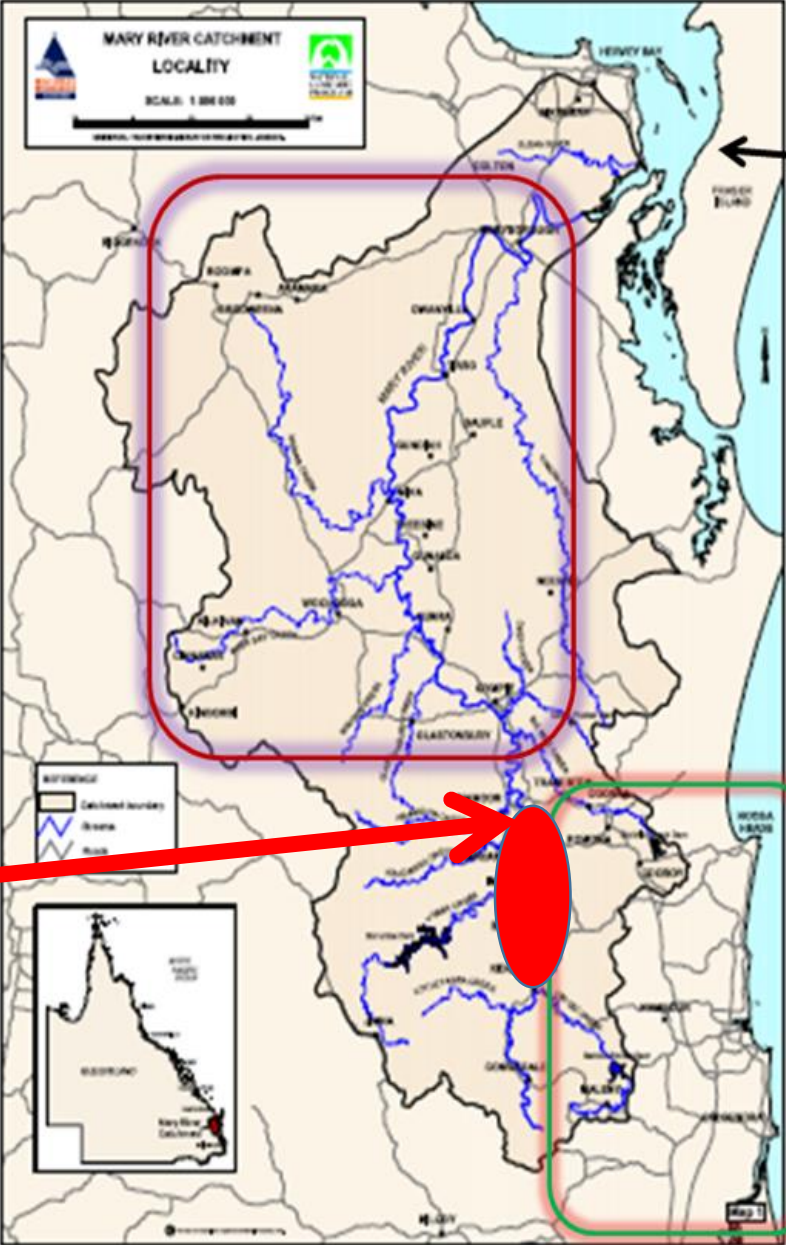


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10 Years After The Traveston Crossing Dam Decision: Review/reflections





Dry end

Comes out here

Traveston Crossing

Water from here

Wet end

Traveston Crossing Dam Summary

Anzac Day 2006 to Remembrance Day 2009



Link: <https://youtu.be/-LtrN-3y9s>

22nd International
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Community Renewal Planning

- Within a week of the No-Dam decision, the local community started a well-structured Mary Valley Renewal process
- This process produced and updated a Community and Economic Action plan which was used in an attempt to guide local, state and federal recovery actions
- This plan was largely ignored in Local and State Government economic processes
- A number of aspects of the plan were implemented by the local community

Links: maryriverfestival.org.au

sites.google.com/site/maryvalleyrenewal/

sites.google.com/site/maryvalleyrenewal/local-documents/MVCommunityandEconomicActionPlan01062010optimised.pdf

sites.google.com/site/maryvalleyrenewal/local-documents/Food%20Production%20in%20the%20Mary%20Valley_October%202011.pdf

Annual Mary River Festival



State Economic Planning

- The State had no strategy in place to deal with the economic consequences of a no-dam outcome, initial action was damagingly slow
- A token fund (\$500k) was given to local government to aid economic recovery, very little of this was well targeted
- The Labor government eventually developed an economic plan, however the whole process was re-started by the incoming LNP government
- Land sales proceeded rapidly under the new plan, with heavy promotion of the Mary Valley

Links:

abc.net.au/news/2011-09-07/government-moves-to-sell-dumped-traveston-dam-properties/2874546

statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/resources/project/mary-valley/mv-strategy-final-18-jul.pdf

statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/resources/mary-valley/mary-valley-eds-water-guidelines-full.pdf

Mary Valley Link Road



Federal Environmental Planning

- The Federal Environment minister committed to supporting recovery actions for species considered in the no-dam decision
- The MRCCC was commissioned to produce a multi-species recovery plan
- The MRCCC applied for and received a significant 6 year Biodiversity Fund project to implement recovery actions
- The recovery plan has not yet been adopted into Federal law under the EPBC Act

Links:

[academia.edu/6241743/Lessons learned from developing the Mary River Threatened Species Recovery Plan a first under the EPBC Act](https://academia.edu/6241743/Lessons_learned_from_developing_the_Mary_River_Threatened_Species_Recovery_Plan_a_first_under_the_EPBC_Act)

[asnevents.s3.amazonaws.com/Abstrakt-FullPaper/51671/Grimish,+S.,+Smith,+T.,+Wedlock,+B.+\(2018\)+Restoring+riparian+resilience-9ASM+Full+Paper+Final+v5.pdf](https://asnevents.s3.amazonaws.com/Abstrakt-FullPaper/51671/Grimish,+S.,+Smith,+T.,+Wedlock,+B.+(2018)+Restoring+riparian+resilience-9ASM+Full+Paper+Final+v5.pdf)

Mary River Turtle recovery



State Water Planning

- The Mary Basin Water Plan straddles the SEQ planning region and the Wide Bay/Burnett region, cross-regional water security issues are not well managed
- The entire administrative structure of local government and water services in SEQ has changed since the Mary Plan was written, significant new knowledge about the river and water demand came to light during the Traveston Crossing Dam assessment
- A disputed 150 GL/yr strategic reserve was written into the plan to accommodate the Traveston Crossing Dam
- Departmental review of the Water Plan identifies significant risks and recommends a complete revision. (Revision was postponed from 2016 to 2021)

Links:

business.qld.gov.au/industries/mining-energy-water/water/catchments-planning/water-plan-areas/mary-basin

seqwater.com.au/waterforlife

[wbbroc.org.au/Portals/0/Regional Water Position Paper Executive Summary 2019.pdf](https://wbbroc.org.au/Portals/0/Regional%20Water%20Position%20Paper%20Executive%20Summary%202019.pdf)

SEQ Water Grid, Goomong Pocket offtake



Reflections

- There was very little genuine government commitment to social and community recovery, any support for community-led actions was hard-won
- Once land and water assets were disposed, State Government commitment to economic recovery largely evaporated
- Federal commitments to threatened species recovery were supported, but implementation was frustrated by political instability and poor co-operation between State and Federal parties

Links:

mrccc.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Something%20About%20Mary%20low%20res.pdf

ourwatercommons.org/sites/default/files/Australia-stopping-the-Traveston-Crossing-Dam.pdf

youtu.be/OAkzu0gK8tE

Threatened Species Habitat



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INTERNATIONAL
RiverFoundation

Next Steps

- The Mary is again at a key juncture in the recurring politico-hydro-illogical cycle
- The Mary Basin Water plan must be rewritten to reflect current knowledge and effectively implemented
- Genuine, prior and informed multi-sector consultation and consent will be essential for success in future river management
- Many options are already available for dealing with urban demand

The deep, widespread community understanding of the river and water use established during the 'dam years' must continue to evolve

Links:

draft position paper under development

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tZUR4bPOIN2PbsmxZp2CSu97QxL4nqFkwFh-O1O-aOs/edit?usp=sharing>

Launching into an uncertain future – let's not repeat past mistakes

