



Is there another BIG “State Secret” for Noosa?

FIRST it was the Traveston Dam, then it was council amalgamations and now it's a desalination plant – potentially the world's biggest.

Anonymous Queensland Government whistleblowers have revealed that Marcoola and Peregrine Beach are both identified in a report into five proposed locations for South East Queensland's second desalination plant.

However, it's a big State Government secret so it won't be “officially” released until after the Federal Election regardless of the fact that the Queensland government's silence on the proposed sites was very worrying for local residents.

State Member for Noosa, Glen Elmes today backed Queensland Liberal Leader Bruce Flegg's call for the release of multiple reports that identify possible sites for the region's second desalination plant.

“The residents of the little village of Peregrine need to be told now that this massive project won't be built and destroy this unique community.

“I am also anxious to find out what plans the government has to power this desalination plant. Will they follow the lead of States like Western Australia and use renewable energy in the project rather than contribute massively to greenhouse gas emissions from traditional energy supply?” Mr Elmes said.

“It just seems all too sneaky that the Bligh Government is not officially releasing the reports into the site locations for the second desalination plant until after the Federal election,” he said.

“I don't trust this Labor Government at all. It's been sitting on all these reports for too long. It's starting to smell like the forced council amalgamations and Traveston Dam all over again.”

“The hallmark of the Beattie-Bligh Government is making a unilateral decision and then putting up smoke and mirror public consultation charades.”

Despite receiving a secret report that proposed a massive desalination plant be built north of Brisbane, Premier Anna Bligh has remained painfully quiet for seven months.

Mr Elmes said a further consultant report had identified five potential locations for South East Queensland's second desalination plant, which could produce up to 550 million litres of water each day.

Queensland Government reports, obtained through a Freedom of Information application, have recommended a mega-desalination plant is critical to regional water supply security.

This is in addition to the controversial Traveston Dam and other drought projects.

“Mr Lucas promised Sunshine Coast residents he would release the reports that identified the proposed sites for the mega desalination plant last month.” Mr Elmes said.

“Unfortunately, it appears that the Deputy Premier has temporarily lost his voice although I would expect Mr Lucas would make a full recovery after the Federal Election. “

“Kevin Rudd and Wayne Swan played a major role in stopping the Wolfedene Dam 20 years ago, which would have prevented the current water supply crisis. They are responsible for this mess,” Mr Elmes said.

“The Sunshine Coast – and the rest of South East Queensland – is still paying heavily for what Mr Rudd and Mr Swan did as the most senior members of the Goss Labor Government.”

“This is not the sort of track record, leadership, or vision Queenslanders need in Federal Government,” he said.

Mr Elmes said some residents also wanted to know why the Goss Government did not proceed with its plans for a dam on the Sunshine Coast – and how things have changed so significantly.

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