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700,000 BROCHURES ALL PROPOGANDA SAYS ELMES

"In the space of just twelve months, the Department headed by Deputy Premier Paul Lucas has spent close to a quarter-of-a-million dollars on brochures designed and intended to paint a rosy picture - if that were possible - of the devastation that will be caused to the entire Mary Valley if the construction of the Traveston Crossing Dam goes ahead," said Glen Elmes, Member for Noosa.

In Parliament last week, Glen Elmes asked Minister for Sustainability, Climate Change and Innovation, Andrew McNamara why he believed it appropriate that tax payers should foot the bill for what was nothing other than political propaganda.

"All I got in return was yet more Labor government spin," said Glen Elmes.

"I certainly don't have a problem keeping residents informed but in this case, all the relevant information that is required by people who actually live in the Mary Valley is available on the internet at the Queensland Water Infrastructure website www.qldwi.com.au

"What the government has done is to distribute 700,000 full colour brochures at a cost of almost \$250,000 to all residents on the Sunshine Coast and throughout the Wide Bay region. This is a disgrace and a total complete waste of taxpayers' money. As an example, Project Update Eight has photos and references to the Mary Valley Rattler and steam train rides, information about potential horse and cycle trails and the potential for bee-keeping.'

"I was in Gympie when former Premier Beattie announced the Traveston Crossing Dam and I have attended many of the protest meetings, one as recently as last week, from residents who live in the Valley and those who will be affected downstream. They don't want colourful brochures; they want an assurance now from Peter Garrett, the Federal Minister that the dam will not be built and if he won't do it the Queensland Coalition will after we form Government at the next state election.

"Deputy Premier Paul Lucas and Minister for Sustainability, Climate Change and Innovation Andrew McNamara should hang their heads in shame at having the gall to use tax payers' money in such a deceitful and underhanded way.

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