

## Qld Food Commission - Submission

3/3/2011

Greg Wallace

### “We all know Queensland is a place of drought and flooding rain!”.

.....Premier Bligh on TV during the Flood

**Were sufficient preparations made?**

**Did we prepare for drought?**

**Did we prepare for flood?**

**Are the two linked?**

**Were water releases from Wivenhoe Dam sufficient and timely to mitigate the flood?**

**Were the water release decisions influenced by the previous drought?**

**Don't blame the dam operators.**

This submission addresses the following issues:

- \* preparation and planning by federal, state and local governments, emergency services and the community
- \* measures to manage the supply of essential services
- \* implementation of systems operation plans for dams
- \* land use planning

Drought and Flood are related. **Preparation** for drought is closely related to **preparation** for flood.

It is well known but little remembered that the Nationals Wolfdene Dam was scrapped as part of Labour successful election campaign in 1989.  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Albert\\_River\\_\(Queensland\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Albert_River_(Queensland)) The Greens Party opposes Dams and makes them a political issue. This Dam was planned to provide water for a growing population and the planners identified 2005 as the critical year when existing dams would be insufficient. So the point is that the lack of planning for drinking water by the Labor party became a critical issue from about 2005.

The Wolfdene Dam land assets were sold. This was a **lack of land use planning**. This was on the Albert River and would not **directly** affect flows into the Brisbane River.

Lockyer Creek does not flow into the Wivenhoe Dam. The opposite was stated on TV during the flood. There is no dam on the Lockyer Creek or in the Brisbane River below it. There has been **no plan** to do something about flows from the Lockyer Creek and the Bremer River entering the Brisbane River and causing flood.

Wivenhoe Dam is claimed to hold 230% at its maximum capacity. This is confusing but it must mean that when it is 100% full it is at the optimum level. The optimum is therefore  $100/230 * 100$  which equals 43.5% of the maximum capacity. Before the flood, it was allowed to go above this level. The claim is that this was to preserve water. This was influenced by the previous drought and the fact that there was insufficient drinking water.

Had Woldene and possibly more dams been built they would have favourably affected the decisions to release water from Wivenhoe. These **measures to manage the supply of essential services** have not been taken.

So this submission looks at the bigger picture. It would be unjust to blame the Dam operators. It is the result of a political issue.

**ACTION suggested in the aftermath of the Floods:**

Water engineers/experts should be despatched to look at all Queensland flood areas, talk to locals and make suggestions as to what can be done to improve each situation.

1) More dams

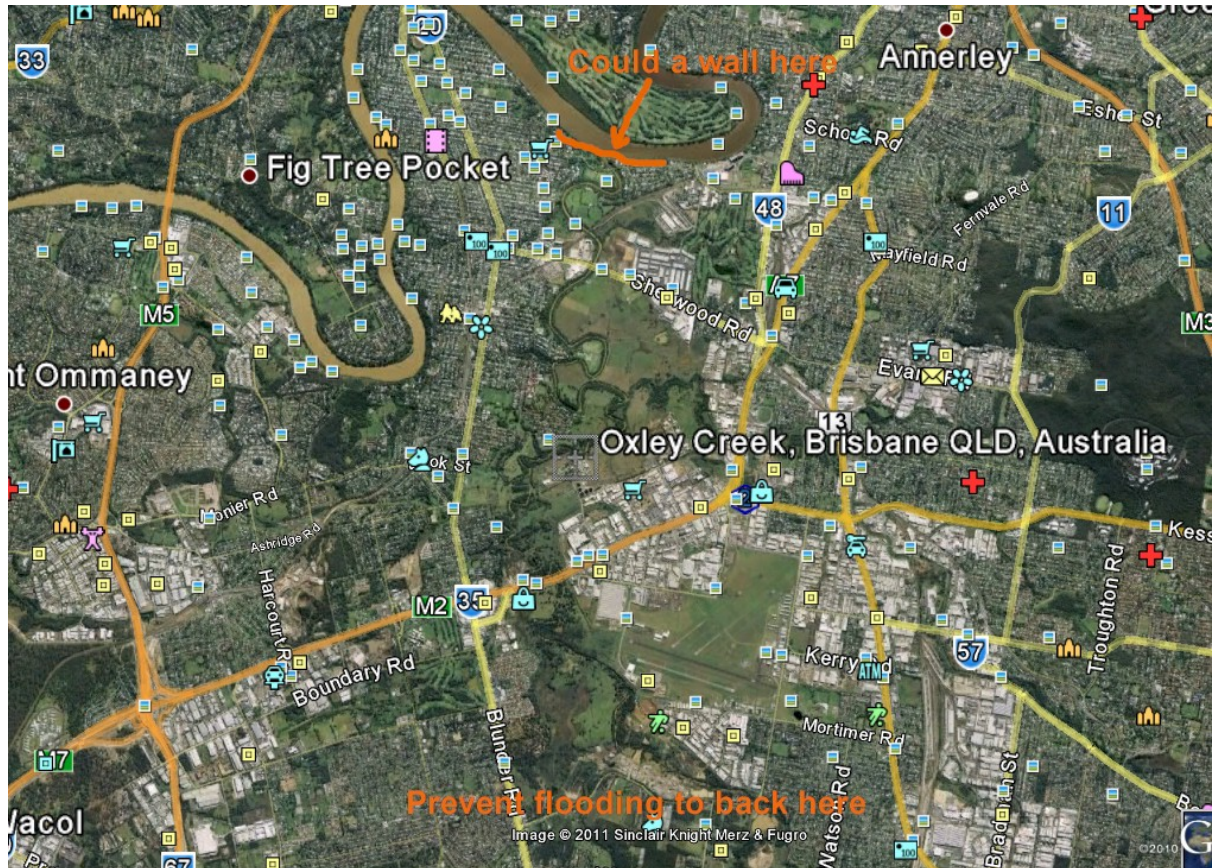
2) Look at protecting towns and areas by levies. Look at building higher roads to allow trucks to get through with supplies.

3) The **Great Artesian Basin** is a massive underground water storage system and the largest of its kind in the world. The theory is that most water enters on the west side of the Great Dividing Range and filters thru sandstone and then reaches outback Qld and beyond. Is there a way to build dams that may even be shallow and not necessarily for drinking water that HOLD the water for longer and give it time to seep thru to the Artesian Basin?

## Flood mitigation wall on Oxley Creek

Question: Could a flood mitigation wall be built on Oxley Creek to prevent backwater travelling upstream for kilometres? The wall is closed when a flood is pending. See below.

For example, could a wall be built somewhere to prevent back-flooding in Oxley Creek. Google Earth reveals the levels above sea level and indicates the orange wall area may work. This is what causes flooding at the Rocklea Markets and many business and residential areas.



This is only one suggestion. Water engineers or qualified persons should be despatched to look into more ideas.

End of submission – by Greg Wallace