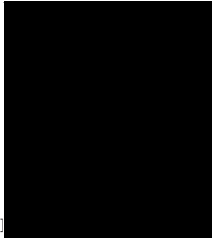


Dr D. LLOYD RICHWHITE
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20th January 2011

To The Commissioners:

FLOOD PREVENTION

In addition to my profound sympathy for all Australians for the tragedy you have experienced over the past several weeks, I offer a suggestion which would PREVENT such an event EVER happening again.

Although what I have to say would be expensive, it is well short of the billions of dollars this flood has cost, quite apart from the massive human cost which cannot be expressed in dollar terms.

THE PROBLEM

Existing rivers and streams provide Primary Conduits which remove normal rainfall and include a reserve capacity to handle sudden excessive amounts of water within limits so that built up areas are not flooded.

Secondary Conduits are required to quickly remove unusual volumes of water, exacerbated by huge rainfall in remote catchment areas which quickly saturate the soil resulting in all subsequent rain causing extensive flooding.

A SOLUTION

To create Secondary Conduits, a network of canals would be dug, mostly open, with occasional parts of the canal piped underground. Small ponding areas are spaced where practicable in the line of the canals to hold excesses of water.

These Secondary Conduit networks would be situated well away from the Primary Conduits, in open country, but additionally drain the Primary Conduits to keep their capacity within "no flood" limits.

The Secondary Conduits would vary from stream size to riverbed size. Costing less than a simple road – no foundation, kerb/channel, sealing - they would provide much needed widespread jobs for semiskilled workers for years.

In the event of all Conduits being unable to drain the rainfall adequately, any flooding would be in the remote countryside, not in the towns.

As Australia's terrain cannot be changed, nor can its weather be controlled, unless something of this sort is done, Australia is condemned to repeated massive flooding over much of the country in the future.

Yours sincerely

Dr D.Lloyd Richwhite