

From: Maryann Borg [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 13 February 2011 9:03 PM
To: Info Flood Commission
Subject: Moore Park Beach Bundaberg

Importance: High

To Whom It May Concern:-

We are 2nd Generation farmers of the Moore Park Beach Community.

With the recent flooding events our farm was flooded and streets in our community were flooded. In some areas the water was higher then the septic systems in the community. This was caused due to the unmaintained drainage system which exists in our community and the lack of drainage infrastructure in the new developments.

Moore Park is a small beach town community however this community has over 2000 residents. In the Last 15 years the area has grown significantly but no drainage infrastructure to accommodate such growth (because we are on sand the water will just disappear, they say!!!).

Our family and the community have been pleading with Bundaberg Regional Council for over 2 years to have one of Moore Parks main drains cleaned and have the flood gates which were put in at approximately 1946 upgraded. These floods gates and pipes have never been upgraded.

The Drain has not been maintained by council for at least 30 years and council has allowed people to subdivide allotments which have interfered with this drainage system. Two of the developers were council employees. We have pointed this out to council and we have photographic and video proof and local history that if this drain is cleaned and gates upgraded this community and our farms would not suffer the flooding that we have already experienced.

In the 37 years my wife and her family have lived on the same property they have never ever seen this amount of water sit for so long. They have experienced 3 cyclones in this area and have never had to deal with so much water.

We do not want to endure what some of these other communities have been through, all we are asking is if you could please investigate our problem so that in the future we do not have people loose property and farmers loose more crops. Us personally have lost in excess of \$300,000 in the last 2 years due to this drainage system. When questioned on how much we have lost in income the Mayor and the councillors laughed at me (I have witnesses to this). Council does not show any remorse or compassion of this problem and have said in meetings that Local History means nothing and were quite vocal about it. Before going to this meeting we obtained a quote from a Civil Engineer for the upgrading of the flood gates which would last for another twenty years estimated at \$10,000 and 2 days work. When this was presented to council they ignored it. In all the meetings we have had we have always asked for the Mayor to be present and has only showed up for one meeting. We have just called for another meeting and both the Mayor and the CEO declined.

We don't think we are asking for too much to save a community and farming land from devastation like what happened in South East Qld no-one should have to go through that. Council Engineers keep on maintaining that the water table is too high in Moore Park and would be easier to resume and relocate rather than clean the drains and implement drainage infrastructure to suite this land.

If council cleans the drains, the excess water lying on top will have somewhere to go and then will take pressure off the water table. This drainage system worked up until 7 years before development along this drain occurred and rain events started happening. The Engineers that work for Bundaberg Regional Council are the same Engineers that worked for the previous 2 councils. We have had the same issue with this Engineer with another drainage system which runs parallel with the drain in question which is situated 800mtrs apart. The Engineer Peter Jensen used the same excuse for that drain as he has for the drain in question that the water levels are too high and we pushed and pushed for this drain to be cleaned, the council eventually gave in and cleaned the drain and the problem was solved and this is why we know from experience that the drain in question will also work if they just clean it and update the flood gates.

7/10/2011

During the years of draught the community of Moore Park complained and complained to council about the amount of rubbish in this drainage system as they were scared of bush fires and council did nothing about it, and to date that rubbish still lies there and this is why we are in the position we are in now.

We have had our Local Member Rob Messenger involved to try and assist us in the battle to have this drainage system cleaned and he has been a great support, however we are going nowhere fast.

These council people refuse to listen to us and just laugh when you try and suggest something.

We are tired, upset, financially distressed and have had enough.

Please help us.

Thank you

Larry & Maryann Borg



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