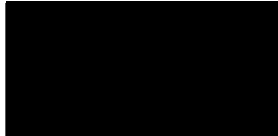
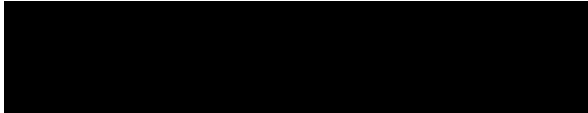




**A.C.M.Laing and Associates**  
**Consultant Geologists**  
ABN 91 609 391 189



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Queensland Floods Commission of Enquiry  
GPO Box 1738  
Brisbane Qld 4001

In 1957 when we bought our first house in Brisbane I was advised that people had been subdividing land subject to flooding for some years. In those days people were still building houses on high stumps but since then I have seen houses built on concrete slabs in areas along Kangaroo Gully Road, Anstead that were clearly on a flood plain and flooded. The estate agents, the subdividers and the Brisbane City Council are clearly responsible for allowing this.

The decision of the Brisbane City Council to prevent dredging of the Brisbane River has raised the level of the bottom of the river starting to create a situation analogous to the Mississippi river in USA where the bottom of the river is higher than the surrounding flood plain.

The charts of the Meteorological Bureau for the last 120 years show approximately 11 year cycles of wet and dry years probably coinciding with the sunspot cycle relating to the eleven year cycle of reversing magnetic polarity of the sun. So it was possible to predict a series of wetter than normal years coming after the long (11 year) drought. Accordingly Wivenhoe Dam should have been kept only 60% full knowing there were safeguards in the desalination plant, the recycling plant, and the pipeline linking the SE Qld water storages.

The Toowoomba/ Lockyer Valley flood was an unusual event of very high rainfall either breaking a dam or causing a temporary dam of flood debris to fill and break. I have only heard of two other cases, one through Georgetown and onto the Einsaleigh River in the Gulf Country in 1953. I saw the results of that flood driving cross country east from Vanrook station in 1954. You could see flood debris 35 feet up in the trees. Mr Lawrence of Wrotham Park Station told me their family had a homestead 40 feet above the Lynd River in the 1920's and they were all swept away by the sudden flood. He ended up clinging to a floating tree. Some amelioration of this type of flood might be to have a series of drainage basins to temporarily hold back some of the water.

The effect of the Brisbane flood was considerable even for those on higher ground not flooded. In the Bellbowrie Moggill Karana Downs area the Bellbowrie Shopping Centre was flooded, the suburb was cut off because the Moggill Ferry was closed, Colleges Crossing was closed, and the newly completed Moggill Road had been built too low was closed by flooding in two places also.

  
A.C.M.Laing