

Submission
Queensland Floods 2010 / 2011

To the Queensland Flood Commission of Inquiry.

From

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Preparation and planning

We Require a federal authority with power to enforce recommendations. Why is rebuilding in flood and fire zones continually repeated without significant action taken. This is common sense , but once analysed, there is repeat of incidence.

No matter how much we try to cyclone and fire proof, nature will throw something stronger at us. We need to look to nature for guidance.

That part of Queensland the cyclones plough through continually have to look at relocating, even if a little. To a more protected area.

Those on the river flood plains should not rely on levy banks. The cost overall and the levy bank maintenance, and personal costs could equal something like . Dig a dam big dam on the flood plain, and put the soil in a dam big platue. Not below the dam of course. Yes it is good agricultural land, but the pattern of droughts and floods make it non sustaining.

Don't allow building in the fire alleys of hillsides, if do shift the highly flammable vegetation. We have a big country. These towns should have **big permanent fire breaks** around them. And no big trees to blow down in proximity of structure.

Social Infrastructure:

How could a major hospital like Cairns be closed down to the extent a lady had a baby in a shelter. This is not a third world country. It was long before the cyclones predicted fall this service was unavailable.

Displaced persons in Townville are still wandering the streets. The houses they lived in gone, they don't know where to go. They are traumatised and aren't accessing help.

Insurance

Many people don't seem to realize insurance companies are a business. To be viable they cannot afford to pay all claims.

A little anecdote; I specifically took out insurance for flood and run off. Every year when my policy came 'run off' was not listed as included, so I rang and put it back on. The year earthquake insurance became compulsory I rang, and was told my runoff clause would cost me \$ 300 dollars more on my existing costs to reinclude.

People may well have initially been covered, but unless you check every year clauses are removed without consultation. And the premiums just keep rising.

To me this is a type of fraud, and misrepresentation. It should be made illegal.

Insurance is now becoming unaffordable, and most persons will not renew.

Or underinsure.

Response to floods

Blanket effect was effective, but very expensive and disruptive. People lost their jobs due to evacuations as well as damage.

The action taken made sense, but closing of major infrastructure should not have been required if positioned and planned appropriately.

Protection of life may have seemed adequate, unless these shelters had been denuded, then a large amount of persons in a small area would have been endangered.

The positions of these shelters was questionable.

To much political agendering was included.

Measures to manage the supply of essential services.

Once rail was the saviour in flood, especially in central Queensland. When the roads closed the rail forged through. **What happened ?** The diesel chugger went through. This is an infrastructure that should always be maintained and viable. Its not about the cost , of course providing a reliable infrastructure costs, we do pay tax for this sort of provision.

Relying on so much voluntary assistance may be cost saving, but inefficient in quality and safety of service. And inequitable.

Adequacy of forecasts and early warning systems.

The information was there but,

Sadly *complacency* was more of an issue. The full impact of what may have occurred did not influence until late. People don't adjust to change of routine well, lets hope war never happens.

Townsville : One wife with two children whose husband was out of town was not going to evacuate strand house until strongly recommended by local

Boats at Hinchinbrook for cyclone season ?? Pile of

To many people still sightseeing and hindering safety of all

Implementation of systems operating plans for dams

Building of dams above or towns below dam drainage area is irresponsible.

Whether water was released intentionally, the water rerouted or dam incompetence this is an accident waiting to happen.

Do not build below dam catchments. , or build dams above already existing strata. As seen in south east Queensland. People also left houses in Townville due to dam being full, and there houses being in path if breached.

It's a big country, look further

Land Use Planning

Further encourage the moving of some small riverside towns, Charleville has been offered now 3 times. Sometimes the human cost should outweigh the material interests of a good view.

Land Use Planning

False Economics by city councils with invisaged Saving from infrastructure spending by tightening construction density, and Increased income due to rate intake

This build on the sand policy has caused costs to the citizens that should have been foreseen and acknowledged. This is negligence.

Recommend

Zone not to build Building in low lying areas, recommend time from any flooding in area be extended to **no build zones** from measurements of this flooding. Previously in there had been a

limit of 20 years, so as these time limits resolved you saw the areas slowly being built in.

Size of house allotments should not be reduced any more. Overall the propensity to allow fire spread, and flood littering is increased.

Limit on the amount of larger vegetation's planted within residential areas, especially the eucalypts and pines. These fall, break and burn increasing damage. Consider maintaining size of allotments with % of lawn areas.