

Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry

GPO 1738

Brisbane QLD 4001

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Dear Members of the Inquiry.

Some years ago I benefitted from listening at a council meeting to a delegation from a South American Brazilian town who had very sensible ideas on how to deal with flooding and where to build human habitations. In the particular town discussed, no building was allowed on flood plains or near river ways. The land was used as recreational parkland for all to enjoy in fine weather and was allowed to flood naturally when the elements so determined to give massive downpours or have tidal swamping.

Unlike in Brisbane and Queensland in general, where developers are able to put pressure on local councils (or bribe) to give building permits near rivers and flood plains and coastal areas, no authority was given.

Basically, it seems, in Brisbane and elsewhere in Australia, economic greed has determined chaotic building in dangerous and undesirable areas. This has to stop for the safety of all Australians and to allow in advance for more severe flooding and climatic conditions.

While providing safety for home dwellers it will at the same time give ready access to waterways for recreational users and provide a better quality of life for the majority.

So the need is to:

- 1 Stop building in flood plains, near water ways and close to the sea.
- 2 Remove housing in unsafe locations.
- 3 Build stilt houses and similar architectural structures which would allow minor flooding to run harmlessly underneath dwellings on marginal land away from water ways or flood plains.
- 4 Enact legislation preventing developers, pushing for developments in areas determined by a safety board, in taking any legal action against the board. It should be considered in the same light as emergency powers for though the emergency may not be happening right at this time it surely will in future and has to be carefully planned for.

Kind regards and the best of luck in taking the hard but necessary steps required now.

Grant N Platt.

