



Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry
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SUBMISSION – QUEENSLAND FLOODS – BNE Valley resident

Private Insurers and their responsibilities.

I believe the definition of inflow of water or inundation by water regardless of whether it is by tropical rain, rising storm water, flash flooding, creek or gully (by any means whatsoever) then the word flood should mean 'flood'.

All insurers should adopt a standard definition of flood.

All aspects of the response...

From experience we found our Community Centre at Fernvale lacking the ability to relay up to date current information on the crisis like:-

- (A) Information about power – when it would be reconnected also our town water was cut and they knew nothing.
- (B) Where we could obtain ice, fuel, bread, torch batteries.
- (C) Where we could withdraw cash ATM.
- (D) What roads were open in our local area.
- (E) Where we could obtain access to a small generator.

Comment Adequacy of forecasts.

No warning system. No early warning for example text message from BOM.

Power and mobile telephone.

It is one thing to have no power but it is another entirely to have no communications, we found it most frustrating for ourselves, family and friends. Energex need to install infrastructure (across the Brisbane River) that is not affected by floods like at Fernvale where we would have no power whatsoever (even today) only for Energex generators.

Operation of Wivenhoe Dam.

Pipelines have been laid at taxpayers cost to deliver recycled water to the dam in drought conditions and this infrastructure is lying idle the rest of the time.

Why not investigate the possibility of modifying this infrastructure by utilizing these lines to pump water out in times of need to say the 'Logan' and 'Albert' rivers with the view to easing the release level upon the 'Brisbane' river.

Wivenhoe Dam should be considered operationally full when the level reaches 80% as Somerset Dam water must have somewhere to flow to when it reaches 100% capacity.

2/-

Tide charts are published long in advance and Dam Managers should not be releasing excess water when it will coincide with high tides around the Brisbane mouth. That's when an alternative like the recycled pipeline could be used (alternative way to mitigate). Electricity consumed to drive these pumps could be generated by the dam hydro. Perhaps also an investigation into providing new infrastructure could be conducted into harnessing the massive energy force (now entirely wasted) generated by the release water. Perhaps an alternate if it was available by running it through hydro turbines first (prior release) to generate even more green power. (Also prevent the fish from escaping.)

Somerset Dam

Possibly the biggest headache for the Wivenhoe Dam operation is Somerset Dam. I believe the Somerset Dam should be operated at least 10% less - maximum capacity (around 70%) lower water levels than the Wivenhoe Dam.

This will grant greater margins (time spans) for the release of water and again if a Hydro Scheme was built on the release line and with some engineering design flexibility the turbines could say when required discharge into Wivenhoe or switched to the recycled water pump lines (down to the 'Albert' or 'Logan' rivers) or even direct into the Brisbane river. Operational flexibility would be available via monitoring etc.

If nothing is done to find a better solution places like Kilcoy, Fernvale, Lockyer Valley and Ipswich will continue to be threatened by future flooding.

Mandatory Visitation

The commission should visit the following key areas:

- (A) Recycled Water infrastructure at Lowood.
- (B) Fernvale/Lowood Road.
- (C) Wivenhoe Pocket Road.
- (D) Lockyer Valley Creek Region.
- (E) Esk flood areas.
- (F) Kilcoy
- (G) Savages Crossing.
- (H) Colleges Crossing.

Land Use

Possibly now is a good time to consider developing a better utilization plan of land subject to flooding whether its Rocklea, Indooroopilly, St Lucia or Chelmer. It is bad economics to continue to rebuild residential and commercial buildings affected by flooding, flood after flood.

Councils and Land Courts should not have the authority to approve any such developments. Governments at all levels should be planning current and future developments with fast (high Speed) transport infrastructure services to attract people to suburbs like (like Forest Lake and Springfield type developments etc).

A scheme to 'buy back' such affected properties should be investigated and developed.

Major Roads and Rail Infrastructure

Key N S E & W roads as well as rail should be unaffected by floods. Domestic rail could not run beyond Darra on the Ipswich line during the 2011 floods.

It is unacceptable in 2011 that we do not have major highways and rail that is flood free.

3.

Measures to manage essential supplies

The Army and SES in conjunction with Police and Fire/Rescue Authorities should continue to become front-line involved and swing into action locally overriding all other powers. The system seems to destroy the autonomy by having too many bureaucratic Chiefs and not enough Indians frustrating the very folk who want to provide assistance at the coal-face.

Thank you for the opportunity to lodge our concerns and suggestions be it at the risk of being labeled arm-chair experts or public cranks.

Yours Faithfully

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Fred Williams