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10 March 2011

The Honourable Justice Holmes
Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry

Your Honour,

Submission regarding

- 1. Implementation of systems operations for dams*
- 2. Brisbane City Council issuing approval for development of The Village Retirement & Nursing Home, Yeronga*

1. We have read the submission by Mr David P Stark of 32 William Parade, Fairfield to the Floods Commission of Inquiry.

We have also read the reports in The Australian Newspaper regarding the operation of Wivenhoe Dam by SEQwater.

From the record, it seems clear that the management of Wivenhoe Dam during the crucial days prior to the flood event breached the Operating Manual. The result of these actions was the water levels in our home at [REDACTED] Park Road were substantially higher than they should have been if the dam had been properly managed. The predicated levels would have been below the floorboards. In fact, the levels were equal to, or higher than, the 1974 levels.

2. We firmly believe that Brisbane City Council approval of the The Village Retirement Complex at Cansdale Street Yeronga, contributed to the extremely high water level in the Park/Fairfield Roads area. The area of this development shows, on the 1974 flood maps, to have experienced flood levels of between 15 and 20 feet. The 1974 maps also clearly show that this area was a floodplain allowing natural drainage to the Brisbane River.

We believe that, by allowing this development, the Brisbane City Council created a situation whereby the floodwaters in the Park/Fairfield Roads area were dammed by these buildings. This created a backup of water which rose much higher than it should have, causing unnecessary damage to affected homes.

Yours sincerely,

Garth & Judith Ann Townson