

SUBMISSION TO QUEENSLAND FLOOD COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

We are restricting this submission to our own experience.

PREPARATION AND PLANNING

When we purchased our property there was no indication that the building could be flooded. The Brisbane City Council "FloodWise Property Report" indicated that the habitable floor level of the unit was 0.3m above the one in a hundred year flood level. On 12th January, 2011 flood water reached a height of 1.12m above the living area floor. The initial flooding came from ponding in Munroe St where the storm water drain could not cope with the flow.

At least the "FloodWise Property Reports" should be updated and reflect the true flood levels for individual properties.

ADEQUACY OF FORECASTS AND EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS

At no stage on Tuesday, 11th January was St Lucia mentioned as being in danger of flooding. No preparations were made for the inundation that followed. Emergency evacuation at 2 am Wednesday, 12th January meant that very few possessions were saved.

A better early warning system should be devised. The media gave wide coverage to the event and I have no doubt would have reported all areas they were informed of.

IMPLEMENTATION OF SYSTEMS OPERATION PLANS FOR DAMS

Wivenhoe Dam should be managed to fulfil its original purpose of FLOOD MITIGATION
Flood mitigation - St Lucia area.

The need for

- 1) a low river bank levee to prevent riverine flooding and
- 2) drainage with flood gates together with pumping stations to remove rain water ponding behind the levee to the river.

This would protect a densely populated area from riverine flooding.

This system has been implemented successfully in many towns in Northern NSW e.g Grafton and Maclean on the Clarence River.

LAND USE PLANNING

Any future planning should take into consideration both

- 1) the effect that building on the flood plain has on the landscape and the flow of water, whether through drainage, streams or rivers and
- 2) the effect the water flow has on buildings.

Lack of planning has contributed greatly to the current situation. If high density settlement is going to be encouraged in the St Lucia area serious consideration should be given to how the area is to be protected. It would be highly irresponsible for planners, at any level of government, to omit including flood protection in future planning.

Wishing you wise and successful deliberations,
Ray and Maureen Pateman
2nd April, 2011