

28 February 2011

To whom it may concern...

I am writing to highlight the concerns of not only my family, but also those held by the people of Murray St in Wilston. They highlight several issues that continue to plague our street and properties during heavy downpours and times of flood threat.

The Storm Water Infrastructure

- Murray Street receives significant water runoff during heavy downpours from Murray Street itself and the adjoining streets of Edmonstone St and Clifton St.
- the street scape has changed with at least one property being spilt into two and a large house being built on this new block- ie a very large roof area of water now enters the street that was not there before
- the **diameter** of the stormwater pipe to Enoggera Creek is completely insufficient to clear the rain water during heavy down pour
- the drains at the bottom of Murray St are often clogged with leaf debris and rubbish.
- even when the stormwater drains are clear, backup of water prevails

This was evidenced in May 2009 when several properties were inundated through rain water alone.

This issue of 'backup' has occurred at least four times since this May 2009 date (not to the same levels) and people are living in continual 'fear and worry' every time we have a decent down pour.

Photos following show the extent of flood that occurred in a 2 ½ hour period on the afternoon of May 20th, 2009 at our property, [REDACTED] Murray St and neighboring properties. In excess of \$10000 damage plus the loss of our friends vehicle were incurred to us alone.





- Far be it for me to suggest exactly what needs to occur to remedy the issue- it may need more drains, pipes, larger pipes or a change of location of the existing drains?

However... I do not imagine that the fact that this is currently having an affect on peoples mental state is at all acceptable to the BCC and Member for Fisher.

The Storm Water during times of flood

After the 1974 flood, (we have been informed by neighbours who were here at the time), a flood levy bank was put in place to prevent water inundation from Enoggara creek - should it break its banks again.

A great initiative one would think for sure. The problem seems to be though, that when in flood - as in recent times -the water still 'backs up' from the creek into the street via the Storm Water system.

In the recent 2011 floods Murray Street seemed destined to suffer significant flooding again as water began filling the lower end of the street 24 hours prior to the river peaking. We were saved by sandbagging the drains and blocking the flow of water. If not for smart thinking and a lot of neighborhood volunteers looking to assist anyone in need, our houses would have been

severely inundated through water flowing through stormwater drains, despite Enoggera Creek being 2-3m below its banks.

This seems to be a flaw in the system. Where I grew up - Innisfail- Far North Qld, it seemed that we had a system that utilised flood gates to stop this water from backing up through the Storm Water system when the river was swollen. Perhaps this is a useful idea... perhaps not. I am sure there is a solution somewhere though.

Building Regulations limiting ability to protect ourselves from flood

We have welcomed discussions regarding the altering of Building Regulations for homes in low lying areas, allowing them to protect themselves from future flood events.

In Murray Street, we are limited by what we can do by Character Listing Regulations. We have wanted to renovate our home in [REDACTED] Murray Street for 6 years now, and have had plans designed and drawn in the same character as our current home.

However, the cost of renovating is at least twice the price of building from scratch, and the regulations prevent us from removing our home from the block and building new, despite the fact that our design is in the same character and style of the existing residence. A relaxation of this regulation would allow us to build a new home, out of flood waters.

We are hoping that Murray Street and other streets in Brisbane with the same issue will also be considered favourable for a relaxation in building codes and Preservation regulations.

Regards

Glen Fisher
[REDACTED]

Additional photographic evidence flooding issues follow.



