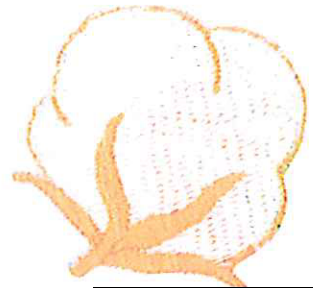


# R.G. J.M. B.H. & R.L. ANDERSON

ABN: 81 596 263 351



Telephone: [REDACTED]

Fax: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Emerald, QLD 4720

[REDACTED]  
Qld. Flood Commission,

GPO Box 1738,

Brisbane, Q 4001

24<sup>th</sup> May, 2011

RECEIVED

30 MAY 2011

IN DRM

Dear Sir,

Please allow me time to make a submission on the recent floods.

My property which is [REDACTED] Parish of Selma county of Dennison along with four neighbouring properties suffered a lot of damage and inundation. The cause of which is almost totally due to man made structures which are part of the development on [REDACTED] (I think it is the same description as mine i.e. parish of Selma county of Dennison owned by [REDACTED] and family) and on a neighbouring farm to the north of those property own by [REDACTED] and family. (Map 1)

[REDACTED] properties have had a large dam 8 metres high and several kilometers of levee banks constructed across the flood plain and along the side of two creeks. ( Retreat and Ford Creek also known as 12 mile creek) In the development a number of smaller streams have been removed and completely diverted so that the flood plain is now high and dry (except in large floods like we have just had) and most water is diverted into neighbouring properties so they have become the flood plain. (Map3)

(2)

The amount of cultivation gained by [REDACTED] on the old flood plain appears to be similar to the amount of cultivation that has suffered loss in the new flood plain but [REDACTED] gain is as a result of our loss.

A drain outside of the levee bank and to the west of the development acts as a diversion for all of the smaller streams. A minimum rise in water level in Retreat Creek will also spill and flow down this drain into Ford Creek (12Mile) and spill out onto the affected properties. ( **Map 2**)

This drain was constructed so that a larger volume of water flowed to their pumps allowing them to fill their dams more often.

Approximately 17 people live to the north of Retreat Creek and were regularly flooded in by Retreat Creek prior to the development. They pooled their resources and built a bridge across Retreat Creek. They have found that this bridge is now largely redundant as the flood waters have a much more severe effect on Ford Creek (12 Mile). It floods with minimum rainfall and stays up for much longer periods due to the diversion of waters. One person has lost her job because she was unable to get to work, others have difficulty requiring a boat and 2 cars (one either side)

The old flood plain is guessed by me to be 4-5 kilometres wide. Development has narrowed this to two places of about 200 metre in one and 150 metres in the other. The 200 metre opening is immediately above my property and with the action of levee banks cause severe eddying which have taken a lot of subsoil and crops from portion 157. This water has also eroded the size of the banks of Ford Creek so that Ford Creek flows more easily onto portion 157. (with minimal falls)

(3)

DERM and the Nogoia River Flood Plain Board have been approached for help in this situation.

DERM are well aware of the development- they can't or won't produce any records of these development approvals and can't or won't say if they have been built to what I expect would have been a design before Elsdon may have got approval.

Because the flood plain boundaries cross the development DERM has wiped their hands of it saying it is OUTSIDE OUR JURISTRICTION. **(Map4)**

Likewise the Nogoia River Flood Plain Board is slow in reacting to our claims. The 5 affected farmers have written to the board requesting a change of boundary and some action to fix the situation. No action has been seen yet. Originally when the flood plain boundary was set we were told that it is only a line on a map and if something happens within that line that affects outside the line then they had the power to fix it. Likewise if the reverse happened the same could be done. It appears that this possibility has gone down the river with the flood water.

When the Emerald Irrigation area was developed portion [REDACTED] and the other property to the north were designed out. The affected properties were largely designed in with a limited infringement on to the flood plain. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] seem to know more than the Designers of the Emerald Irrigation Area.

(4)

When [REDACTED] bought [REDACTED] about 12 years ago (previously owned by [REDACTED] [REDACTED] there was some preliminary planning done with a small development in mind. On purchase the engineer designing the project was sacked and replaced by a new engineer who produced the grandiose scheme we now have. Neither engineer or owner approached neighbours for any approval of development.

A smaller dam was built on [REDACTED] prior to this development. Approval from DERM was subject to permission from the immediate neighbour which is me- I have never been approached.

This small dam forms the other side of the 200 metre opening in the flood plain. I think it is also 8 metres high and helps create the eddying of the flood water.

I have a smaller dam downstream of restriction (with approval) for recycling of irrigation water. This may be creating a small part of the problem: and may need to be included in a total restructure of the flood plain. The affect that this has by itself is very minimal.

DERM recognised about 6 years ago that Ford Creek needed cleaning and maintaining by Sunwater- When approached by DERM Sunwater refused to clean it as [REDACTED] had signed and submitted a letter saying they did not want the creek cleaned. [REDACTED] have since changed their mind but it is too late now the " bull has got out". Any effect now will be minimal because of the development.

Approaches to Vaughan Johnson only resulted in an echo of DERM based inertia.

(5)

The problem caused was easily recognised by Ray Hopper (the shadow minister for Agriculture) and promised to approach DERM and their appropriate minister and ask that the problem be fixed. He subsequently lost his job and I don't know if anything happened.

As you can see action needs to be taken to rectify the situation.

I am currently applying for taxpayers money to repair my damage. I have no doubt that [REDACTED] have done likewise. This is something that will happen again and again and will be a thorn in the side of the taxpayer forever if the situation is not rectified.

Please find enclosed 4 maps and 5 sets of photographs with brief explanation stapled to them.

Yours faithfully,

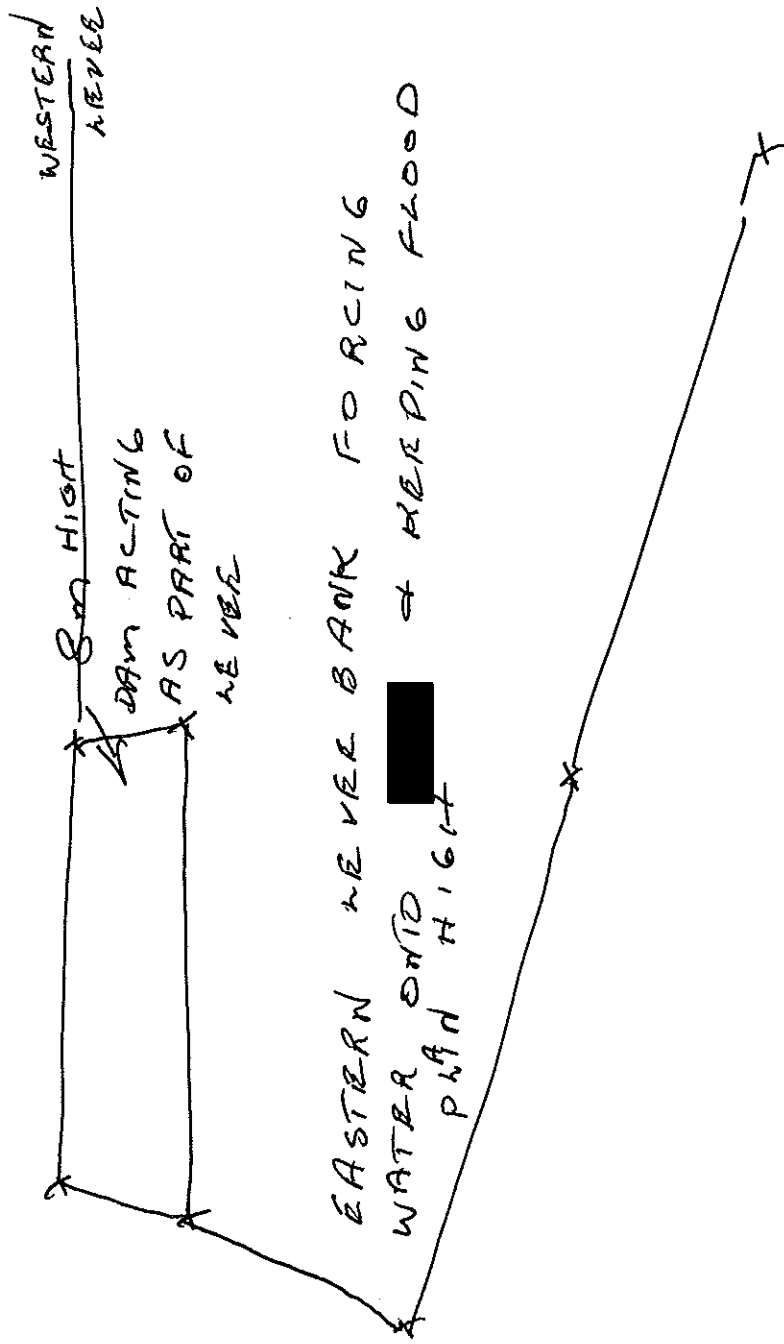
**RG JM BH & RL ANDERSON**

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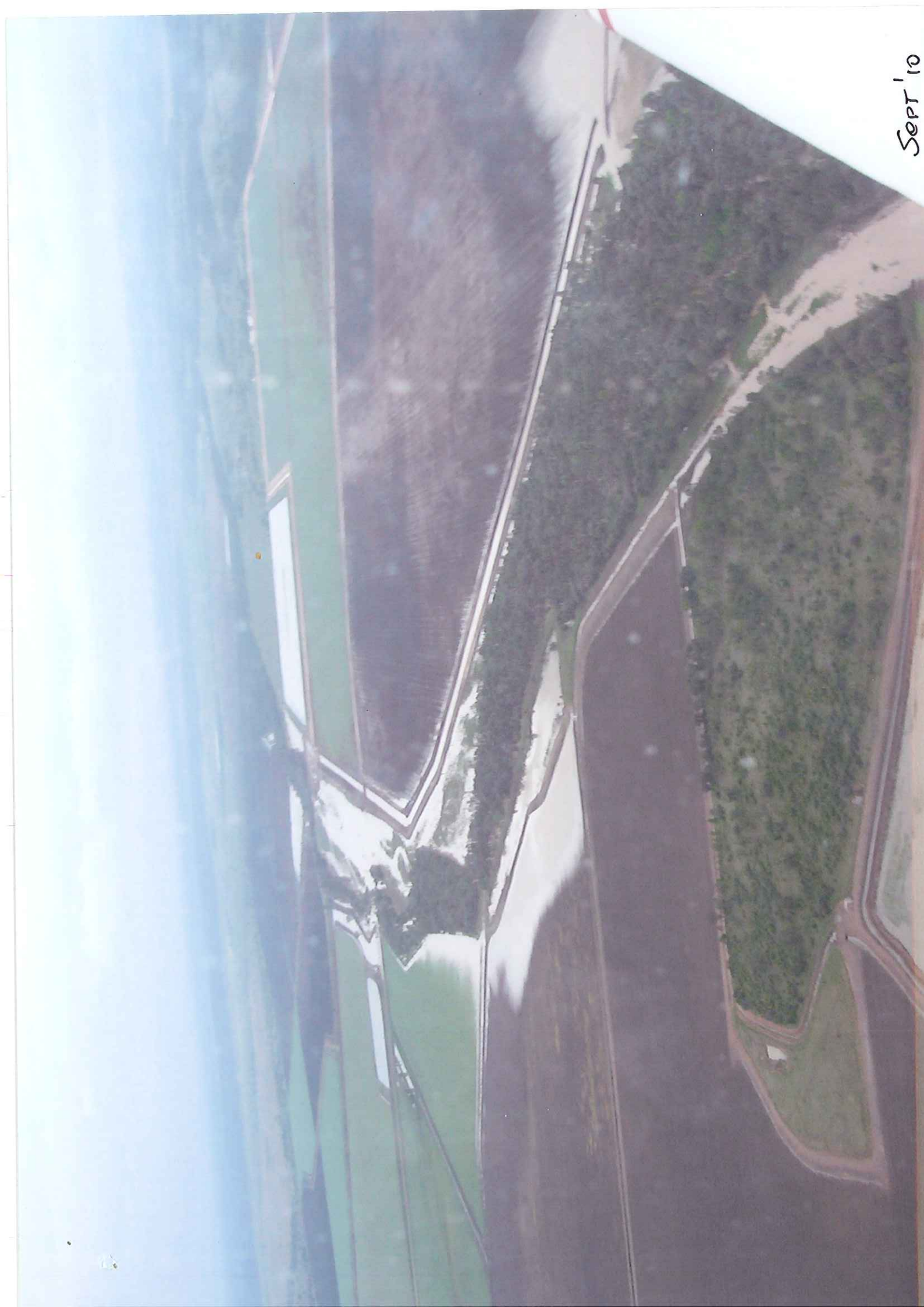
**RG ANDERSON**

Maps have been removed here

SMALL FLOOD IN SEPT 2010



Sept '10





Dec 2010

x 200 m OPENING x



RETREAT CREEK RESTRICTION IN DEC 2010  
SHOWING OLD & NEW FLOOD PLAIN AFTER LEVEES  
BROKE THEY HAVE SINCE BEEN REBUILT HIGHER

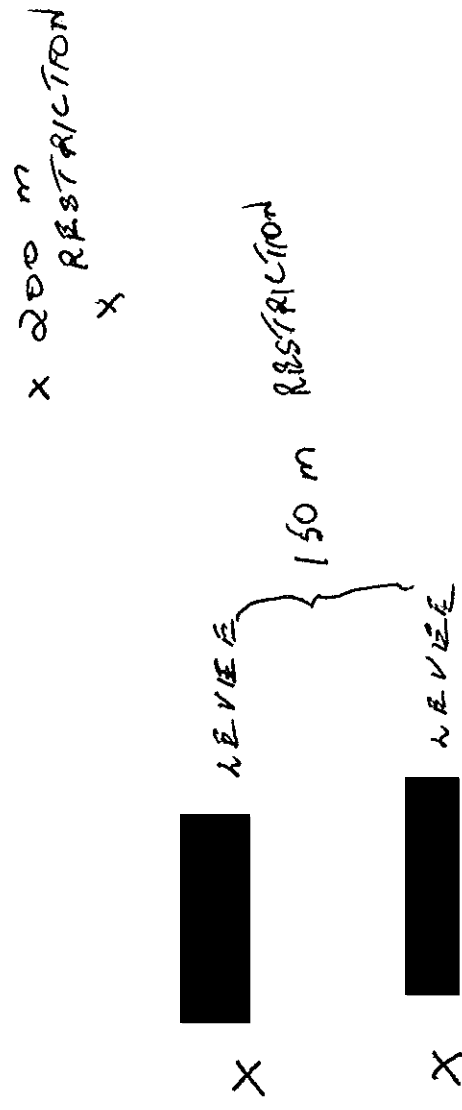






PHOTO 1

FLOOD  
AT 200 M OPENING

DAMAGE  
AREA

FROM  
WATER

SWIRLING WATER  
HAD SUBSIDED CONSIDERABLY

1

PHOTO 11

LOOKING ACROSS

FORD CREEK AT

ROAD OPENING

2 EASTERN WEEBIE BANK - ACROSS 200 METRE OPENING  
[REDACTED] IS TO THE LEFT - ROAD OPENING  
SMALL DAM ON [REDACTED] AND FILLED TO HIGHER LEVEL  
HAS SINCE BEEN CLOSED  
OF WEEBIE









PLEASE TRANSFER CODE ON TO PHOTOS

INK WAS RUBBED OFF

1ST PHOTO

LIGHT FLOOD IN SEPT 2010

2ND PHOTO - SAME AREA IN BIGGER FLOOD DEC 2010 - ALSO

SHOWING CURRENT WITH WATER ESCAPING FROM  
AREAS AT CREEK INTO DRAIN THEN FORD CREEK ~~(FLOOD)~~  
SOUTH OF THE DAM

LOW FLOOD WATERS  
OF SEPT FLOWING  
DOWN FORD CREEK  
& OPENING ONTO  
BROCK 157

NORTH  
WEST

NORTH  
WEST

X

WESTERN LEVEE X BANK & DRAIN

X

UNDEVELOPED FLOOD PLAIN SHOWING SMALLER CREEKS - STOPPING AT  
LEVEE - USED TO CONTINUE RIGHT THROUGH



Sept 20





