

## **Submission Re Somerset and Wivenhoe Dams**

**Circumstances leading to the January floods of 2011 have been widely circulated and can be easily verified.**

- Rain throughout 2010 and both dams were near capacity.
- December 2010, 506 mm of rain was recorded at 'Wundaburra' on part of the Stanley River catchment, with more rain recorded up stream.
- Water was pushed up the Stanley River from the overfull Dam and over farming land.
- Gates on the Somerset Dam were open for a short time, then closed again.
- Both dams were over full, more heavy rain was forecast but nothing was done.
- Wivenhoe Dam was constructed as a flood mitigation measure after the 1974 floods.
- It was not used as it had been intended.
- January 2011, more heavy rain, nothing was done and no communication whatever from SEQWater to the communities up stream.
- Water was released from Wivenhoe – too little, too late – causing more problems down stream,
- Water was pushed upstream from the overfull Somerset Dam. Communities upstream were not flooded from the Stanley River – much of the water was still water being backed up.
- Roads still out – as of 08.03.11. Due to prolonged inundation, roads will continue to fail.
- Power boxes destroyed – insurance denied.
- Machinery inundated.
- Fences destroyed and damaged.
- Lucerne crop destroyed.
- Millet crop destroyed.
- Cow pea crop destroyed.
- Pastures destroyed.
- Livestock missing.
- No communication whatever from SEQWater.
- Inundation caused by Somerset Dam.
- No notice to landholders of deliberate inundation by SEQWater.
- Prolonged power outages – no notice. Foodstuffs destroyed.
- Now March 2011 – dams are over capacity – heavy rain is forecast – what is being done? Nothing. What has been learnt from the January floods?
- Somerset Dam is now overfull and we are worried about a repeat inundation for the third time this season.

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**Photos of flood and damage are available if required.**