

Wivenhoe Dam Management

Why were the dams kept at such a high capacity?

The over 100% status of the dam seems overkill when Brisbane/ Qld residents have proven that we are able to use under the target amount set during the drought.

The extra water that had to be released is what flooded my street and home.

Wivenhoe, what infrastructure – works were done when the dam was low/empty?

The state could have used this time to do earth works to extend the dams capacity and make it a super dam, especially since any new dams are not a popular choice.

We were always told that the 74 floods would never happen again?

That was why we felt safe buying our home even though we knew it was flooded in 74.

The mismanagement of the water has left us with no faith in the bureaucracy of state handle assets.

The floods have had a physical and mental toll.

Now our home is devalued as is our whole street and neighbourhood.

The setting up of evacuation centres was late when our street was already flooding on Monday morning.

Having the council warn you of possible flooding as your street is actually flooding is not much help, I learnt from a neighbour who was able to stay longer at his house that the prediction was for a 2m flood that jumped to 6m by the afternoon, so the actual timeframe to get it right for evacuation was so small and the help from authorities ridiculously inadequate for us inner Brisbane residents.

As we did not want to be caught or create any panic for our daughter who is only 2yrs old, we packed up our cars and took our 2 dogs and 1 guinea pig to higher ground on the Monday morning at approximately 10am by the afternoon it was too late to get any major items out as the flood water had risen so fast.

Due to lack of information or help for Brisbane residents we had no centers to go to no idea of how high the water would be.

We placed items up as high as we could hoping that the flood waters would be much lower than 74 as we were told it would never be that magnitude again – as we now had better infrastructure, forecasting and management.

It is interesting that Suncorp wanted to jump our insurance to \$5000 per year this year, so we switched as did our neighbour they seem to have known that the forecast for flooding better than the state government.

Regards Ingrid van Grysen