

TO: Commissioner Justice Catherine Holmes, Deputy Commissioner Jim O'Sullivan, and Deputy Commissioner Phillip Cummins.

RECEIVED

15 MAR 2011

IN DRM

Questions and/or Statements for Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry

(Re: Grantham disaster)

1. Why have the "greenies" and the Dept. of Environment & Resource Management (DERM) been given the "power" to stop the regular clean out of creeks (of debris & overgrowth, etc), etc., and then not accountable for the consequences of such?

(If creeks had been "cleaned", possible that Grantham disaster may not have been as catastrophic.)

2. Is there an investigation into why Wagners Industries (Grantham depot) were permitted to erect levee banks on Lockyer Creek, near where Lockyer Creek "broke" its banks and became a catalyst of the Grantham disaster? If not, why not?

(Wagners levee banks possibly changed the natural course of Lockyer Creek.)

3. In the aftermath of the Grantham disaster, why have the Lockyer Valley Regional Council (LVRC) been permitted to REMOVE THE BANKS of Sandy Creek and BANK of Lockyer Creek (L.28, on edge of our property), and subsequently removed said banks without consultation with property owners in the vicinity – potentially creating further problems associated with future flooding, soil erosion, etc.

4. Given communication standards today – why was information withheld from residents directly affected by (Grantham) disaster for five days or more?

Why wasn't a Liaison Officer appointed immediately to give correct information to those residents directly affected?

Why wasn't there direct consultation with the residents affected by the disaster?

(Local residents have a wealth of knowledge to offer on many topics, including topography, land management, flooding, soil erosion, local area knowledge, etc.)

5. Why isn't there a State (or National) Disaster Management & Recovery Committee in place (e.g. as in Tasmania)?

6. Why isn't there a dam at the upper reaches of Lockyer Creek to assist with flood management in areas of the Lockyer Valley?

PTO

7. Why wasn't "compassion and commonsense" (as stated by Maj. Gen. Mick Slater) used with residents in Grantham area who were not permitted, under any circumstances, to return to their homes for nine days?

(Some distressed pets and other animals in Grantham were left unattended for days. Some Grantham homes that were still standing had fridge & freezer contents that caused unnecessary further contamination & associated damage – due to not being permitted to return (even under escort) for a short time period.)

8. Why are the business owners/property owners affected by the disaster being discriminated against by the non-availability of the emergency financial assistance from the Premier's Flood Relief funds?

(Present criteria indicates must be principal place of residence, does not include principal business premises.)

Statement:

From our experiences in the aftermath of the Grantham disaster, we believe that it is beyond the capacity and efficiency standards of our present local government (Lockyer Valley Regional Council) to attend to management & recovery measures associated with a disaster.

Hence we recommend the implementation of a State Disaster Management & Recovery Committee & Team.

Our expectation would be that this State Disaster Management & Recovery entity would use compassion and commonsense, and would consult with and work directly with residents affected by the disaster. Such direct consultation with the people affected by disaster ensures people's concerns are being heard and hopefully acted upon – it also assists in instilling hope, goals for the future, and restoring some confidence in authorities.

[Redacted]

Warren and Shana Kimlin
[Redacted] Grantham Q 4347

[Redacted]

15/03/2011