

Name of Witness	Barbara Ann Gosley
Date of Birth	
Address and contact details	
Occupation	Nurse
Officer taking statement	Stephen James Platz
Date taken	23/03/2011

Barbara Ann GOSLEY states

1. I am a 64 year old female presently residing at [REDACTED] I am currently employed by [REDACTED] [REDACTED] located within the [REDACTED] hospital located at Peachy Street, Toowoomba. My unit faces east onto Peachy Street, across the Parkland and the West Creek waterway.
2. I remember Monday the 10th day of January 2011 I was working at my place of work on a normal day shift. During this day we were experiencing very heavy rain and at about 1.50pm I decided to take a look outside to see if there was any flooding. I then looked out at the intersection of James and Peachy Street and noticed that it was starting to flood as a significant volume of water was coming down the surrounding streets, but cars were still driving through this water. I then went to have a look at the parkland opposite the Hospital, facing east. At this stage there no sign of severe flooding in the West creek waterway but the two large water ponds in the park were starting to overflow onto the footpaths.
3. I thought that this was a bit strange that the creek was not flooding with the amount of rain. I also noticed that cars were still driving through the flooded intersection at Water Street but at this stage it didn't appear too dangerous.

Witness Signature. [REDACTED]
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Signature of officer [REDACTED]

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4. After about five minutes of observation of the waterway and general flooding I then looked south toward Long Street where I then saw a wall of red muddy water, containing a lot of debris, gushing downstream within the west creek area. It was unbelievable and terrifying seeing this large volume of water up rooting fences as it swept down flooding the whole park within minutes. This body of water was as wide as the distance between Water Street and Peachy Street. The depth of the water varied but was deeper on the other side towards Water Street.
5. At 2.15pm I decided to go to level six corridor, at the top of the hospital, to get a better view south towards Long Street. I could not believe what I saw, the area across Long Street was flooded and overflowing and headed straight towards the main shopping centre in Toowoomba. I could see that the detention basin between Long and South Street, that the council built about two years ago, was completely full and the water had no where to go except under the railway line and down into Town. The water appeared to have been backed up and then released. At this stage people near to me on the sixth floor were taking photographs, but unfortunately I didn't have a camera.
6. At about 3.00pm I finished work and walked to the intersection of James and Peachy Street to observe what was happening. By this time most of the shops in Peachy and Prescot Street were flooded and the roads were closed to all traffic. The bridge in James Street was submerged and the West creek was a raging torrent, taking everything in its path.
7. I then left at 3.15pm and went home. I travelled home, south along West Street to Nelson Street, into Nelson Street and along Rowbottom Street. There did not appear to be any severe flooding across these roads even though it was still raining quite heavily. There was however a lot of water running across the roads going into the storm water drains.

8. When I arrived home I turned on the television and saw a news programs showing the flooding at the main central chopping centre. The media was calling it an 'inland tsunami'. I was in shock as I had never seen anything like this before. It wasn't until a few days later that I realised what I saw may have contributed to the flash flooding without any warning. I contacted Channel 10 (WIN) to report what I had seen. I was told by them to contact the regional council to investigate.
9. On the 1st of March 2011 I decide to write a letter to the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry outlining what I had seen.

Witness views Exhibit No/....



B.GOSLEY¹

Justices Act 1886

I acknowledge by virtue of section 110A(5)(c)(ii) of the Justices Act 1886 that:

- (1) This written statement by me dated ...23/03/2011... and contained in the pages numbered 1 to ...3... is true to the best of my knowledge and belief; and
- (2) I make this statement knowing that, if it were admitted as evidence, I may be liable to prosecution for stating in it anything that I know is false.

.....Signature

Signed atToowoomba... this...28... day of...March... 2011.

B.G.

Witness Signature.

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Signature of officer

B.G.

Witness Signature..... Signature of officer.....



PH. No. [REDACTED]

1ST MARCH 2011

TO: QLD Flood Commission of Inquiry,

My name is BARBARA COSLEY, I WORK

FOR [REDACTED]

I WORK AT [REDACTED] WHICH FACES EAST ON TO PEACHY ST, AND ACROSS TO PARKLAND AND WEST CREEK WATERWAY.

I WAS AT WORK ON JANUARY 10th 2011 WHEN TOOWOOMBA WAS DELUGED BY HEAVY RAIN, CAUSING SEVERE FLOODING AND LOSS OF LIVES. IT WAS 1.50PM I DECIDED TO SEE IF THERE WAS ANY FLOODING AT THE INTERSECTION OF JAMES AND PEACHY ST. IT WAS STARTING TO FLOOD AS THERE WAS HUGE VOLUME OF WATER COMING DOWN OFF THE STREETS, BUT CARS WERE STILL GOING THROUGH OK. I THEN LEFT AND WENT TO LOOK ACROSS THE PARKLAND (FACING EAST) OPPOSITE THE HOSPITAL, THERE WAS NO SIGN OF ^{SEVERE} FLOODING IN THE WEST CREEK WATERWAY, BUT THE TWO WATER PONDS IN THE PARK WERE STARTING TO OVERFLOW ON TO THE FOOTPATHS. "I THOUGHT IT A BIT STRANGE THE CREEK WAS NOT FLOODING WITH THE AMOUNT OF RAIN," ALSO ACROSS FROM THE PARK I COULD SEE CARS STILL DRIVING ALONG WATER STREET, BUT NOTHING TOO BAD. AFTER OBSERVING FOR ABOUT 5 MINUTES I LOOKED FURTHER TO THE SOUTH OF THE PARK TOWARD LONG STREET, WHERE I SAW A HUGE VOLUME OF RED MUDDY WATER GUSHING DOWNSTREAM, UPROOTING FENCES AND THERE SEEMED TO BE A LOT OF DEBRIS COMING DOWNSTREAM ALSO. IT WAS UNBELIEVABLE AND TERRIFYING, I COULDN'T BELIEVE WHAT WAS HAPPENING, I WATCHED IT AS IT SWEEPED DOWN WEST CREEK

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LIKE A RAGING TORRENT FLOODING THE WHOLE PARK WITHIN MINUTES.

IT WAS 2.15pm I THEN DECIDED TO GO UP TO LEVEL 6 CORRIDOR AT THE TOP OF THE HOSPITAL FOR A BETTER VIEW, (AS IT FACES SOUTH TO LONG ST.) I COULD NOT BELIEVE WHAT I SAW, THE AREA ACROSS LONG ST. WAS FLOODED AND OVERFLOWING AND WATER WAS RAGING DOWN TOWARDS THE MAIN SHOPPING CENTRE IN TOOWOOMBA. AS THE DETENTION BASIN THAT THE COUNCIL BUILT ABOUT 2 YRS AGO WAS COMPLETELY FULL, IT SEEMED TO ME THE WATER HAD NO WHERE TO GO EXCEPT UNDER THE RAILWAY LINE AND DOWN INTO THE TOWN AREA. THERE WAS A HUGE VOLUME OF WATER BACKED UP THERE! THERE WERE PEOPLE ON THE 6th FLOOR TAKING PHOTOS, BUT UNFORTUNATELY I NEVER HAD A CAMERA, BUT AT THE TIME I WISH I HAD.

AT 3pm WHEN I FINISHED WORK I WALKED DOWN TO THE INTERSECTION OF JAMES AND PEACHY ST. TO OBSERVE WHAT WAS HAPPENING, BY THEN MOST OF THE SHOPS IN PEACHY AND PRESLOT ST WERE FLOODED AND THE ROADS WERE CLOSED TO ALL TRAFFIC, THE BRIDGE IN JAMES ST WAS SUBMERGED AND THE WEST CREEK WAS A RAGING TORRENT TAKING ANYTHING IN ITS PATH.

I THEN LEFT AT 3.15pm TO RETURN HOME AS I LIVE IN RANGEVILLE, I TRAVELLED SOUTH ALONG WEST STREET TO NELSON STREET AND ALONG ROWBOTTOM ST, THERE DIDN'T APPEAR TO BE ANY SEVERE FLOODING ACROSS THE ROADS AS IT WAS STILL RAINING HEAVY AND THERE WAS HUGE AMOUNT OF WATER FLOWING DOWN THE STREETS INTO THE WATER DRAINS.

PAGE 3.

WHEN I ARRIVED HOME AND SAW WHAT HAD HAPPENED ON T.V. TO THE MAIN CENTRAL SHOPPING AREA. "THE MEDIA WAS CALLING IT AN INLAND TSUNAMI." I WAS IN SHOCK AS I HAD NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT. IT WASN'T UNTIL A FEW DAYS LATER I REALIZED WHAT I SAW MAY HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE FLASH FLOODING WITHOUT ANY WARNING, SO I PHONED CHANNEL 10 (OR WIN) TO REPORT WHAT I HAD SEEN. THEY TOLD ME THEY WOULD CONTACT REGIONAL COUNCIL TO INVESTIGATE. I CAN ONLY GIVE THE COMMISSION AN EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT OF WHAT I OBSERVED THAT DAY. I HOPE THIS INFORMATION MAY HELP WITH YOUR INVESTIGATION.

Yours Sincerely



Gosley.

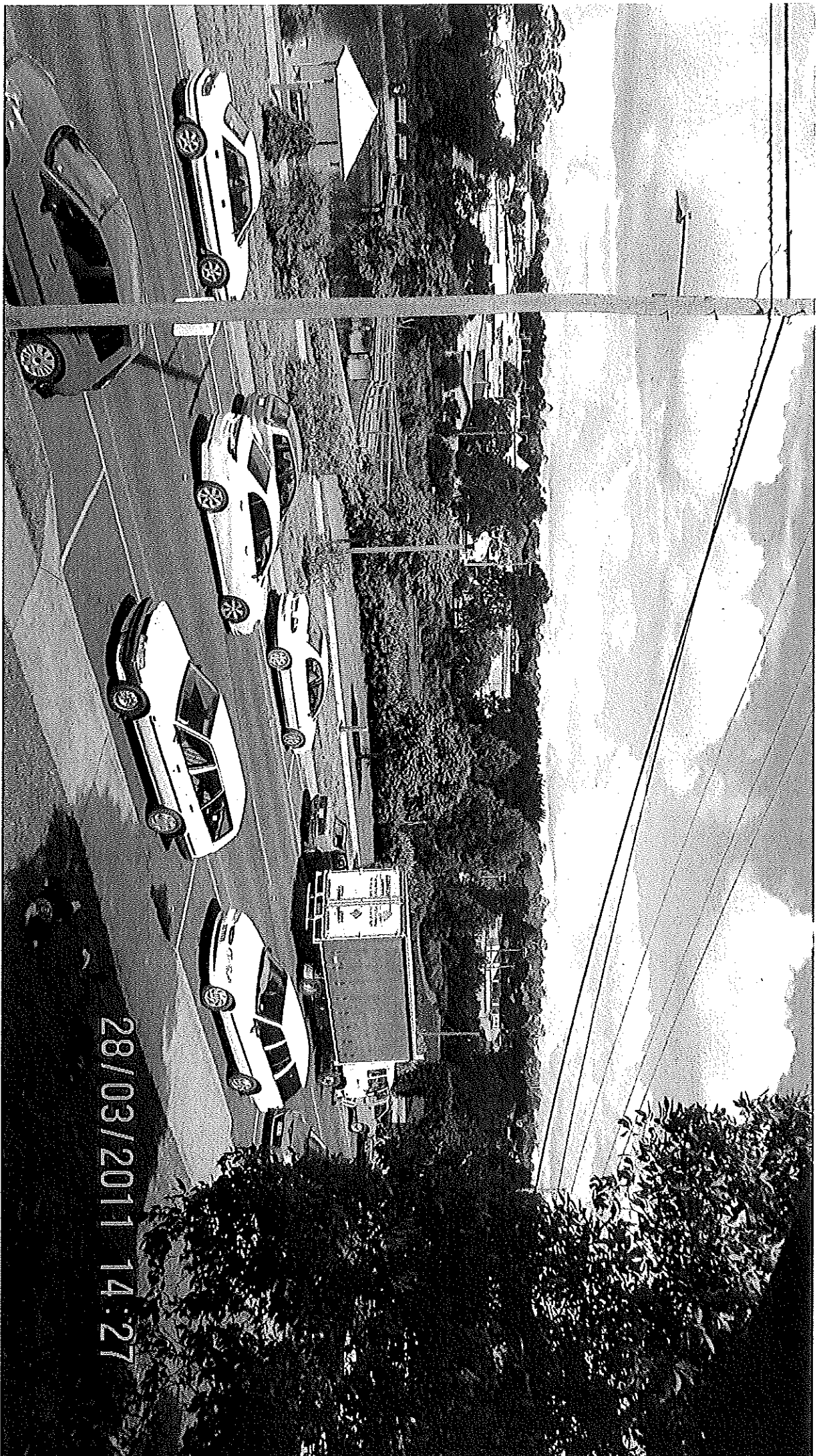
INITIAL VIEW FROM HOSPITAL WINDOW
BY GOSLEY

28/03/2011 14:25





VIEW FROM T. BASE HOSPITAL TOWARDS
WEST-CREEK.



WEST CREEK VIEW

28/03/2011 14:27



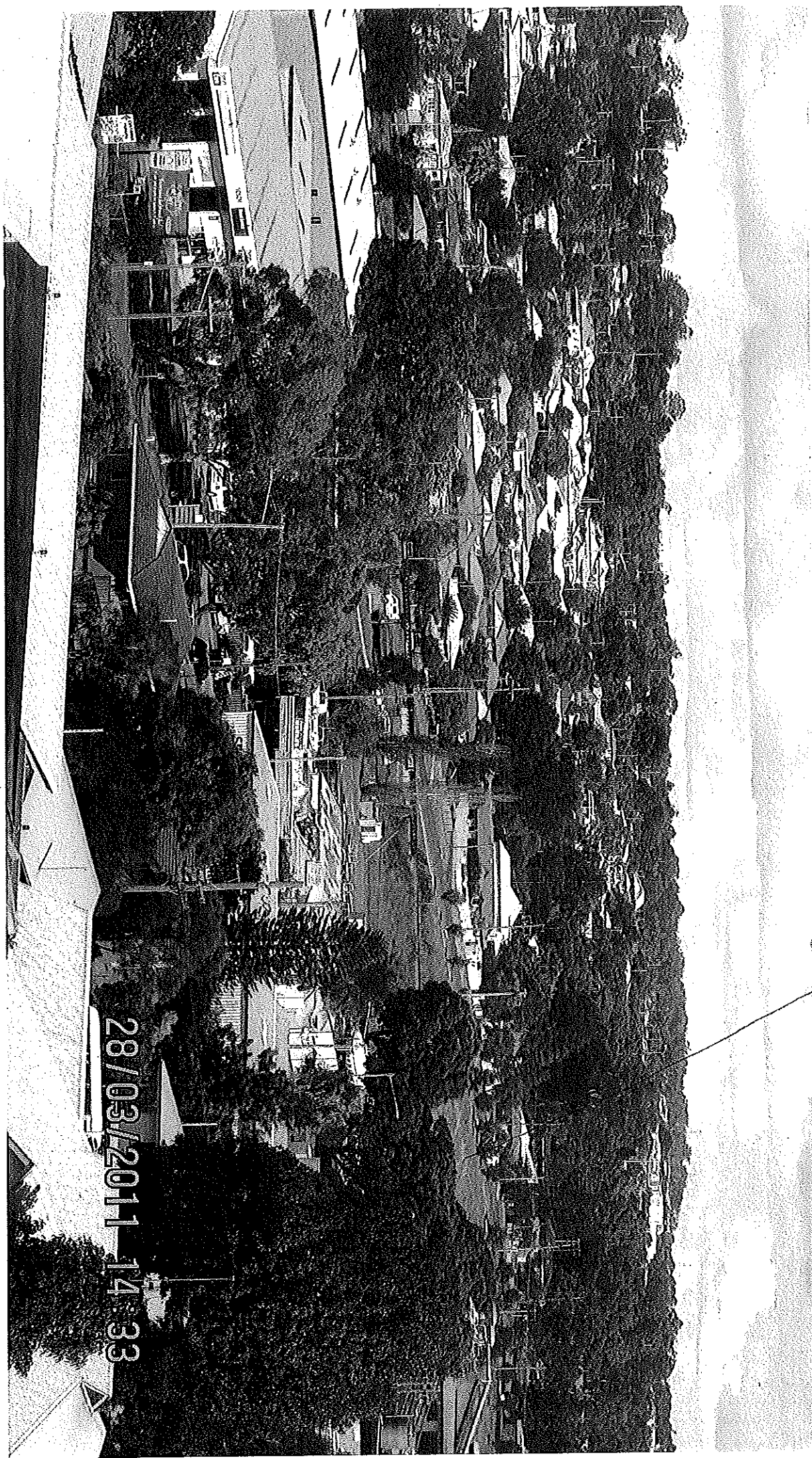
WEST CREEK.

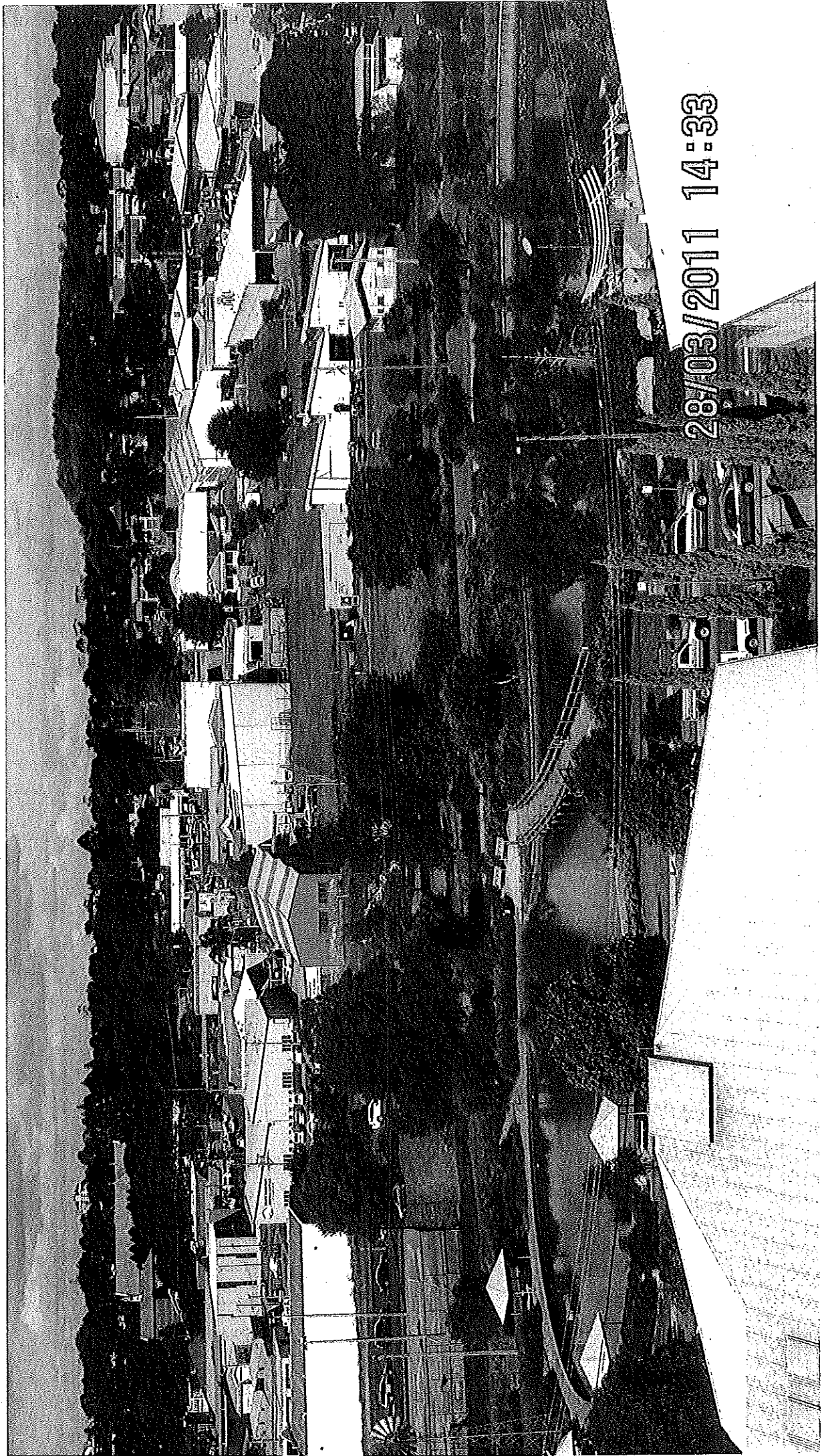
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Basin that was full of water
as viewed by Gosley.

Basin





WEST CREEK.

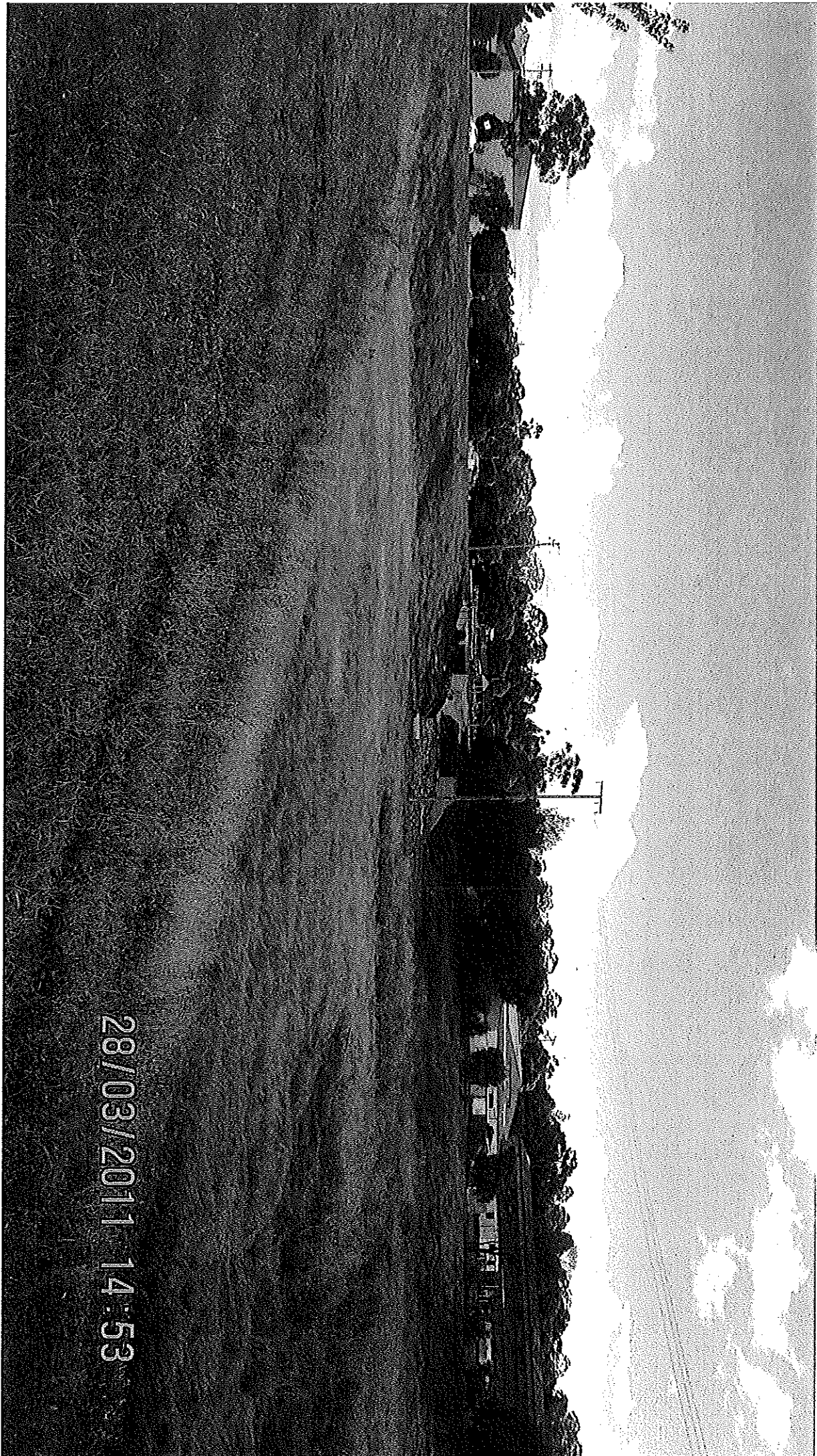


28/03/2011 14:33

WEST CREEK



WEST CREEK.



28/03/2011 14:53

BASIN