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From: Albert Devivo [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 11 February 2011 10:14 AM
To: Info Flood Commission
Subject: To: the Flood Inquiry

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Dear Flood Inquiry Members,

As my first emails may not have reached you, I am rewriting the important parts below.

Wivenhoe has very large floodgates capable of massive outflows that can flood Brisbane in a few hours when added to high rainfall as we witnessed.
Because Wivenhoe is an earth dam the danger of overtopping is far more important than saving water, it should be the number 1 priority. I held this view before the flood, I have worked on water infrastructure models.

Surely the policy should have been to protect the dam from the beginning of the wet summer period and not when it's too late, the water must never ever approach overtopping because panic massive outflows can flood Brisbane as they did.

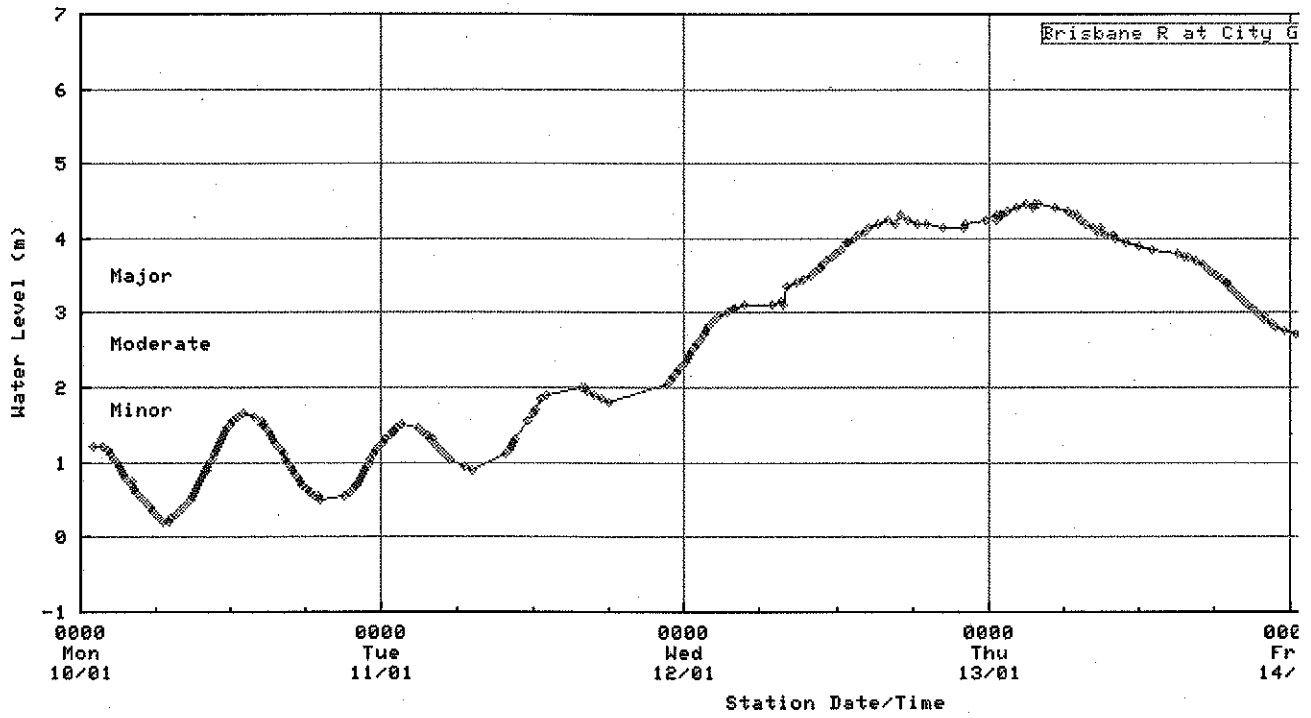
Hydrology is a science and when the gates were opened fully on Tuesday night, the dam operators had to know that a massive flow equivalent to a breach in the dam wall had to reach us in about 2 hours and cause a very rapid rise in river height. Why weren't we warned of this "bomb" headed our way in 2 hours. Jindalee to Wivenhoe distance 2 hrs @ 25 knots.

We had warning of 1974 flooding and 2-3 metres at the city gauge, this means nothing to people who weren't here in 1974.

We did not have the most important warning of all, that is a bomb headed our way in 2 hours at night that will cause very rapid flooding as the graph shows. Many people with no warning woke in the darkness in a flooded house.

The graph below shows how massive flows from Wivenhoe at night caused a jump in river height and turned a minor flood into a major flood.

Sincerely,
Albert Devivo



Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology

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