Mark and Jenny Moore

Harlin 4306

24<sup>th</sup> of January 2011

To Whom It May Concern

Mark and I purchased our home and property in November 2009, at time of purchase it was registered 12.5 acres. In recent advents concerning January 2011 floods of South East QLD the Brisbane Valley River claimed somewhere in the vicinity of between 4 to 5 acres of our property, which equates to 30 or 40% of our property.

In 2010 we had started a business together, which was an extension of my own ABN, after relocating and building our reputation within the local area as reputable horse trainers and competitors in conjunction with buying and selling cattle we had hoped to build a successful business for 2011. We have been severally disabled in our progress due to the flood disasters and loss of our land.

The acreage we have lost reduces our stock carrying capacity, as it was our cattle and winter feed, it sustained my stock through the cold dry winter months. It also reduces my property valuation and I am now paying a mortgage on land that no longer exists. In a manner of speaking I am repaying the banks for something that now belongs to the river, DERM and the Crown.

As for my customer potential, for the next 12 months the general public will be more concerned with rebuilding their homes and replacing belongings than having a horse trained, private instructions, buying saddles or horses. I am forced to make a decision on selling my cattle or pay cost for agistment or paying the cost of hand feeding.

In the Harlin area I am not alone in my losses; other property owners have lost vast amounts of land. These land holders have lived in this district for many generations and have witnessed the damaging effect in the Brisbane Valley River and have documentation predicting this damage due to infrastructure within the river which was passed by Government bodies. We are having difficulty raising a response from these departments. They are not responding to our messages left with secretaries or answering machines.

The Government Grants are for Business', rural landholders and home owners who have lost homes furniture, vehicles, stock, equipment etc, but the help lines are a little bewildered by our calls of help when we respond that we have lost our private land. When I notified my Bank that I no longer own 12.5 acres, they told me to wait for the water to recede and it would still be there. I am having difficulties in explaining and having people understanding that part of my land no longer exists. It is such a rare case that it is an event that our Government has not even considered or know how to deal with our losses. I was told by a help line worker "Greg" that I am not applicable for the Rural and Small Business Grants as I only take part income from my property, even though I have lost land, \$3000 of fencing and income.

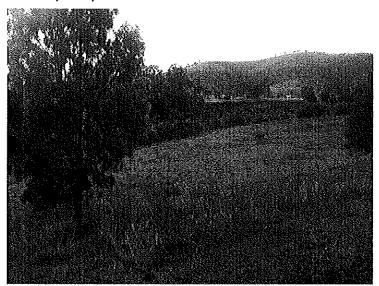
I spoke to of the Somerset Council who is their valuator and surveyor and his response was he would not survey my land and only would estimate my remaining land and valuation for 2011. He would only survey my land if DERM forced him. I have had 2 Somerset Councillors come and inspect my damages and to table it last week at a meeting held to discuss flood damages to the Somerset Region.

Shayne Neumann (Federal Member for Blair) took the time to meet with myself and other land holders here on the 21<sup>st</sup> of January 2011 to witness the damage personally and to attempt to help us with Grants and to try and raise a response from DERM. He took the time to listen to us and both sides of the argument that the damage caused in our area was escalated by infrastructure in the Brisbane Valley River and the management of the Wivenhoe Dam over the period of devastating flooding.

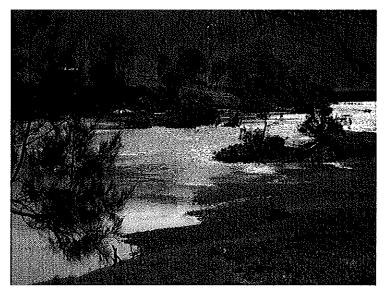
This area of the Brisbane Valley River is now left unstable and vulnerable to more damage if the current weather climate continues. The silting effect can also be distributed to the Wivenhoe Dam making the bottom of the dam shallow and carrying capacity lessen. I have pockets of quick sand which will take time to heal and the river is now up against my house bank and I am very unsure of its stability.

I believe we are second to the devastation of Grantham and Lockyer Valley and feel very lucky in comparative to these areas, however I am left to deal with my own losses, and we are left with something that cannot be replaced by no amount of help or money. If I had lost my furniture, car or house these things we could replace over time but nothing can replace my land. Mark and I have ongoing costs such as our mortgage on land that no longer exists, clean up, new fencing and fodder costs.

## Sincerely Jenny Moore



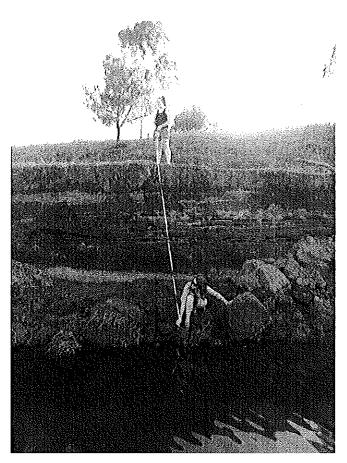
Before 2011 Floods



After 2011 Floods

## Unstable Banks





3.9 metres of soil taken



my daughter standing where my paddock Use to be 3.9 mtrs above the current Water level

