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Submission to the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry

Brisbane floods only

My starting point is this statement: while the only channel for the flow of floodwaters upstream from Brisbane is the Brisbane River watercourse -- with all its twists and turns -- Brisbane will continue to be subject to floods.

My aim is to eliminate the possibility of floods in Brisbane for ever.

My proposal is to construct an alternative channel for the flow of floodwaters accumulating in the Brisbane River catchment area; it would also carry the normal flow of the river.

The channel might start somewhere near Ipswich and go in a straight line to Moreton Bay. There may be several options for its location, one being via a point between the Central Business District and the Gabba, then under the Gateway Bridge, and thence to Moreton Bay.

Its capacity would be calculated to handle a volume of floodwater somewhat greater than that of the 2011 Brisbane floods; also taking into account the gradient of the channel and the ease of the flow due to its straightness.

Several features might be included:

- establish expressways along its banks
- cover it in places to provide parking such as is needed at the Gabba
- develop hydro-electricity from the normal flow and also at flood times
- adjust the Moreton Bay end to accommodate shipping to the port of Brisbane
- create an attraction for locals, tourists and experts

The reaches of the Brisbane River would remain as scenic water features, with all the current uses of the river, including the Citycats, continuing. The stable level of the water would give certainty in planning developments on or near the river banks. The water might be flushed out from time to time to prevent stagnation.

The cost, not yet calculated, would include those of construction and reclamation of land. Against that figure, set the cost of the 2011 flood in all its ramifications and the cost of measures that might otherwise be taken should the sole channel for floods remain.