

Susan Hedge

From: Jeffrey Karykowski [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 9 May 2011 10:59 AM
To: Info Flood Commission
Subject: Public Submission to Qld Floods Commission of Inquiry Enquiry

Attention: QLD Floods Commission of Inquiry

Dear Commissioner

I am writing a submission to the Qld Floods Commission of Inquiry.

I refer to a Courier-Mail article dated 8/3/2011 (attached below) whereby you state that industry and housing across Queensland must be located in flood free areas where employees and residents can access their work and homes during flood conditions. I support this and your endeavour on creating a more flood proof community.

In light of the above I concur with Matthew Stafford a Brisbane urban design consultant and architectural historian (refer to attached article below) that the only long-term solution in Brisbane is **not to** build in floodplains and the areas that flood should be revegetated. Higher density housing could be sensitively built around the edges of these revegetated areas (forests, parks) to provide for the displaced. This would require higher density rezoning of flood-free inner-city land to provide for the displaced. As an example my house in Highgate Hill is on 1100 sq m of flood-free inner city land currently accommodating just one person this is unsustainable. If the Brisbane City Council re-zoned this land for higher density it could accommodate many more displaced from around the Montague Road high density flood prone area in West End. The Brisbane City Council should never have approved this area for high density living as it is in the flood prone area. This change in policy would flood proof Brisbane and make sure this disaster doesn't occur again.

To save our city from further devastation the above strategy needs to be implemented and recommended by the enquiry.

Kind regards

Jeffrey Karykowski.

31/05/2011

Riverside forest the envy of all

Matthew Stafford ^{C-M}
27/1/11

THE Brisbane River's 7020sq km catchment can fill Wivenhoe Dam in a day. Wivenhoe Dam and/or more dams in the catchment cannot stop the volume of water from intense monsoonal rain.

The many ponds, basins, swamps, trees and biomass of the original rainforest that once covered the southeast corner of Queensland would have helped to soak up or slow the path of pre-development floodwaters.

There is a synthesis of issues that should be discussed.

Climate change, induced by humans or not, is irrelevant.

Wivenhoe's granular dam wall cannot be saturated for years as a water storage, therefore the flood compartment is just that. To double its size and strength would probably cost all of \$10 billion and save us for only one more day. The cost of dams is too high and there are insufficient sites for anywhere near enough dams to stop recent floods.

We have suffered through five floods in Brisbane in the past 120 years and many smaller ones. Q100 should be Q20. If we have three more floods in the next few years, are we seriously going to spend tens of billions each time to re-build?

The only long-term solution is not to build in floodplains and the areas that flood should be revegetated. The flooded area in maps published in *The Courier-Mail* should be designated the Brisbane Riverine Forest.

All buildings and infrastructure other than river crossings should be moved to higher ground.

The Brisbane fruit and vegetable markets must be moved as a priority. The markets are too important to go under again. Likewise the backbone of electrical, highway and telecommunications infrastructure.

The Brisbane Riverine Forest would be the envy of the world. Imagine a park bigger than Central Park in New York, the river surrounded by an immense forest. Over time we could recreate the "convolulus of vines, orchids, butterflies, lilies, majestic trees, and bountiful numbers of fish and animals of all description" that Oxley saw when he first sailed the river.

A future with the Brisbane Riverine Forest would mean limited disruption and damage and limit insurance losses.

Higher density housing could be sensitively built around the edges of the forest to provide for the displaced. They would have an excellent view, maybe not of water, but of nature all the same. Those who do not want an apartment could be reimbursed the average price of a house and try their luck on the market.

Rich riverside dwellers will object to these plans and demand higher compensation. This must be resisted as they have made poor decisions and ignored expert advice.

When I was a senior development assessor with the Brisbane City Council, I warned applicants not to build in the floodplains, or to significantly raise their dwellings.

Many protested aggressively making our jobs very difficult.

I remain deeply impressed by my fellow citizens' demonstrated ability to pitch in and help. I hope the same spirit can now save our city from further devastation and show the world how it should be done.

Matthew Stafford is a Brisbane urban design consultant and architectural historian.

Thursday, January 27, 2011 The Courier-Mail 35

Floodproof highways a priority of rebuild

Michael Madigan

THE man tasked with rebuilding Queensland has the flood-prone Bruce Highway in his sights, saying it's unacceptable a major transport artery can be severed for weeks on end.

In Rockhampton yesterday for a board meeting of the Reconstruction Authority, Major General Mick Slater made his strongest comments yet on the need for a total reshape of industry and transport links across the state.

Maj-Gen Slater, who was last month given sweeping powers to lead the reconstruction effort, said he was looking ahead at least a decade towards a more floodproof state.

He said industry across Queensland must be located in areas where it could still function in flood conditions.

"(It needs to be) flood free and accessible by employees who need to work in those industries," he said.

Developers of industrial precincts also had to be mindful about links to transport to ensure supply lines remained open.

Maj-Gen Slater said he did not want a repeat of the 2011 flood where, at Rockhampton, "the Bruce Highway was cut for two weeks and the airport cut for three weeks".

He also made it clear the authority would not be Brisbane-centric but would maintain a strong regional focus.

"I have spent more time out of Brisbane in recent months than in Brisbane," he said.

Rockhampton Mayor Brad Carter has estimated his region's damage bill at beyond \$60 million, with road damage accounting for the bulk.

The council is still working on a detailed claim for federal funding but already has begun work on creating a more flood-proof community.

Work has started on reinforced concrete box culverts on a road near Mt Morgan, to the city's south, to reduce road inundation.

Head of council's Infrastructure Committee, Cr Stephen Schwarten, said the project was just one designed to improve and increase flood immunity.

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