

Statement of Witness

Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry

Name of Witness	Neville David CAYLEY
Date of Birth	[REDACTED]
Address and contact details	[REDACTED] Goodwood Road, Alloway, Bundaberg [REDACTED]
Occupation	Primary Producer
Officer taking statement	Det Insp Mark Ainsworth
Date taken	31/8/11

Neville David CAYLEY states;

1. I am a married man, [REDACTED] years of age and I reside at [REDACTED] Goodwood Road, Alloway with my wife. I am a primary producer by occupation and own and operate of 6 farming properties in Alloway. My family and I have been farming in this area for the past [REDACTED] years, with my primary crop being sugar cane, however over the years I have grown other crops such as potatoes. I have a very good local knowledge of this area, drainage systems, weather patterns and growing conditions for crops.

2. The properties I own are as follows:

- [REDACTED] 9.555HA Parish of Bundaberg (31 years)
- [REDACTED] 16.2 HA Parish of Kalkie (50 years)
- [REDACTED] 20.333 HA Parish of Kalkie (24 years)
- [REDACTED] 33.19 HA Parish of Kalkie (26 years)
- [REDACTED] - 6.00 HA Parish of Kalkie (65 years)

All of these properties are located within the Bundaberg Regional Council and prior to amalgamation of Councils we were in the Burnett Shire Council area. The farms are all zoned rural and are used for primary production of crops. There are houses and farm buildings constructed on each of the farm properties I own, all with Council approval.

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Exhibit Number:

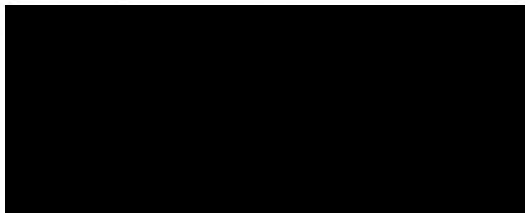
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3. I recall the flood events of December, 2010 and January, 2011. Several of my farming properties were affected by flooding and were difficult to access due to water across roads. Primarily, diversion of water by roads in the area including Goodwood Road, the construction of levy banks by neighbouring farmers upon Council land has contributed significantly to flooding in the area. Inadequate drainage has also contributed to flooding in the area.
4. On purchasing the farms I was not aware that this area would be subject to flooding. I don't believe that there would have been information available at time of purchase. My purchases of these properties were done with the assistance of a solicitor and I was never made aware of any flood issues.
5. It is my belief that a number of factors have contributed to the flooding including land clearing, property development, road and drainage construction that has occurred over the past 15 years in this particular area. This belief is based on the fact I have been a long term resident and farmer in this area and have a good local knowledge of the area and the growth over the past 50 years.
6. My farming properties are bounded by the following roads; Goodwood Road running north/south, New Farm Road running from Goodwood Road in an easterly direction, Rex Road to the south east. Rex Road runs into Barazza Road.

7. During the flood events of 2010/2011, flooding occurred to New Farm Road, which was cut off in several places. The flooding occurred as a result of inadequate drains and water running over the road from the direction of one particular farm that had built a levy bank around his farm.

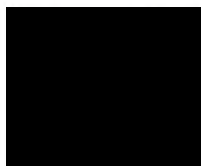
8. An adjoining farmer [REDACTED] has constructed a dirt levy bank around his cane farm. In places the levy bank would be approximately one metre in height. This levy bank is actually built on Council land and prevents water from nearby drains entering his property and damaging his crop. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] As a result, this levy bank disperses the water onto New Farm Road and also onto my adjoining cane farm. The drains are grassed drains that run beside both roads between the road and our farm properties.

I now produce photographs of this levy bank and the effects on my property and New Farm Road. (Annexure A)

9. In approximately 1988 Goodwood Road was raised in certain sections. Near the intersection with New farm Road, Goodwood Road saw the placement of 3 x 400mm culvert type drains under the road to allow water to disperse under the road. Once the water runs under the road it becomes stagnate as there is no suitable drain for the water to run into. In the 2010/11 floods this situation led to flooding of New Farm Road.

SEE ANNEXURE A1.



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10. On travelling down New Farm Road approximately 700 metres from the intersection with Goodwood Road, Council put a culvert under New Farm Road allowing water to flow under the road into the grassed drains. This particular drain was ineffective during the recent floods and is now totally silted up and cannot operate in any capacity. Investigators took photos of this drain recently.

I now produce photographs of the culvert under New Farm Road. (Annexure B)

11. Travelling further along New farm Road about another 50 metres from the first culvert is another culvert going under New farm Road. This culvert again allows water to run underneath the road and enter the grassed drains. Again this culvert was ineffective during the floods and is now totally silted up making it inoperable. Investigators took photos of this drain recently.

I now produce photographs of the culvert under New Farm Road. (Annexure C)

12. Barazza Road, Alloway also received flooding in the 2010/11 floods. This road is a dirt road and has a number of farms located on either side. The drains in this area are virtually non-existent and in the recent floods the road was cut and water entered the yard of the residence at 7 Barazza Road. Again another levy bank built on the western side of Barazzo Street pushed water away from crops and into a grass drain carrying excessive water to the residence at number 7.

13. About three weeks ago, someone has dug a dirt drain along Barazza Road without Council approval. I have advised the Council of this drain and they are currently investigating the same. *SEE ANNEXURE C1.*

14. The up grade of New farm Road around 1993 has made the flooding situation worse in our area. Basically the road was upgraded however the drains were left as they were. With the growth in the area the drains cannot manage the water flow and flood with ease in times of heavy rain. Consideration needs to be made with regards to a drainage plan for this area. With the next wet season looming I am concerned again for the possible loss of income due to flood waters affecting the growth of cane on my farms.

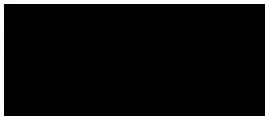
15. Since the recent floods, I contacted the Division 3 Councillor of the Bundaberg Regional Council, Wayne Honor making him aware of the poor drainage system in this area. I have since (8/3/11) received advice from Mr Peter Jensen, the Group Manager for Drains and Roads advising that Council is aware of the drainage issues in the Alloway area however there is no drainage systems strategy or planning to address this issue in this area.

I now produce a copy of the letter from Peter Jensen with respect to drainage issues in the Alloway area. (Annexure D)

RECOMMENDATIONS:

15.I have a number of recommendations I believe necessary to enhance flood mitigation in our area in preparation for the next wet season. These include:

- a. Review of the whole drainage system and water diversion issues in the area.
- b. More aerial photos of the area recording water movement would assist in enhanced planning and drainage systems.
- c. Council inspections of levy banks constructed around certain farms on Council land, taking into consideration of the surrounds in times of heavy rain/flooding. Consideration of the removal of these levy banks.



N.D.CAYLEY

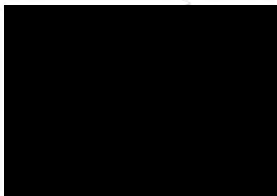
Justices Act 1886

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

- (1) This written statement by me dated 31-8-11 and contained in the pages numbered 1 to 6 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

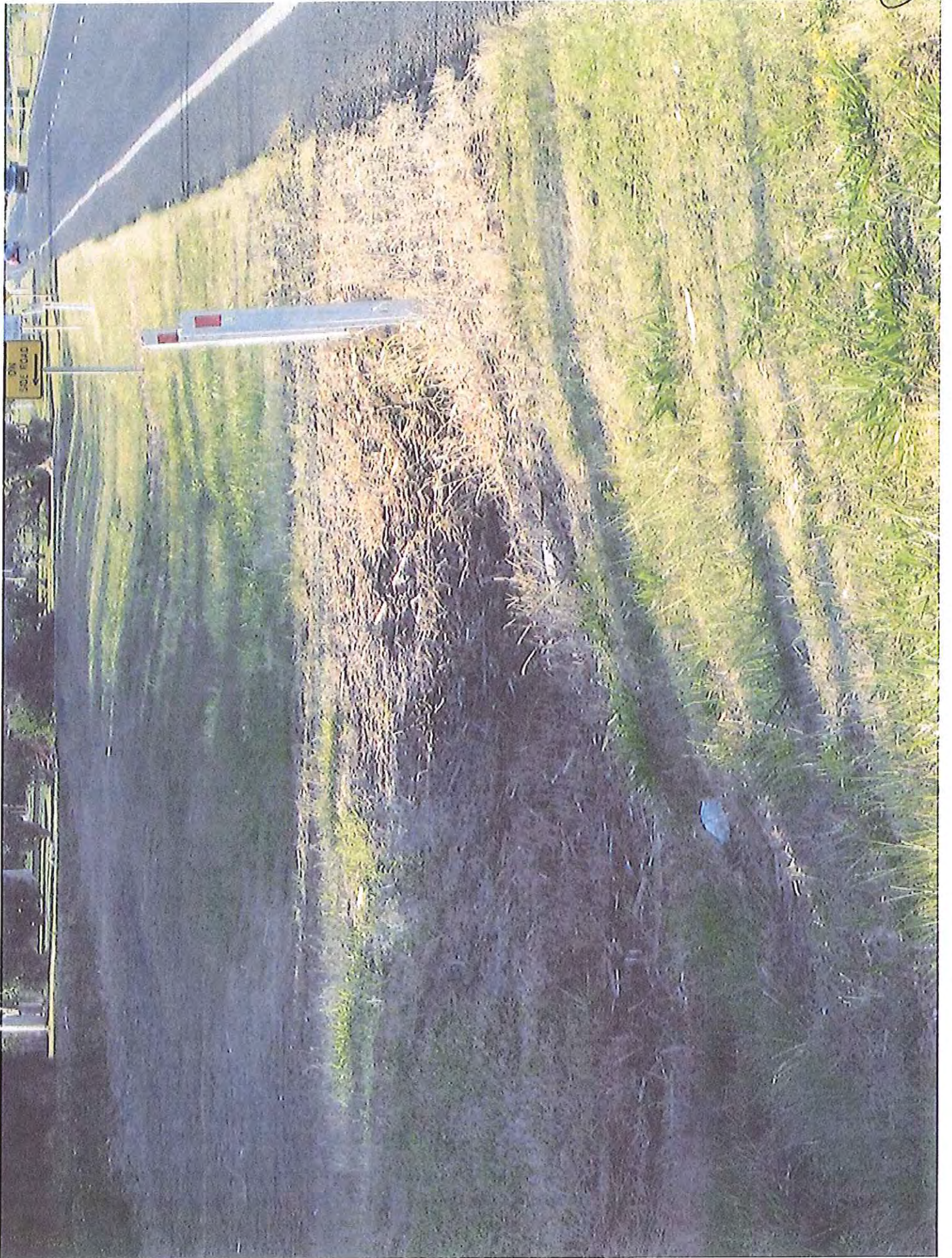
Signed at Bundaberg this 31 day of September 2011



(A1)



(A1)



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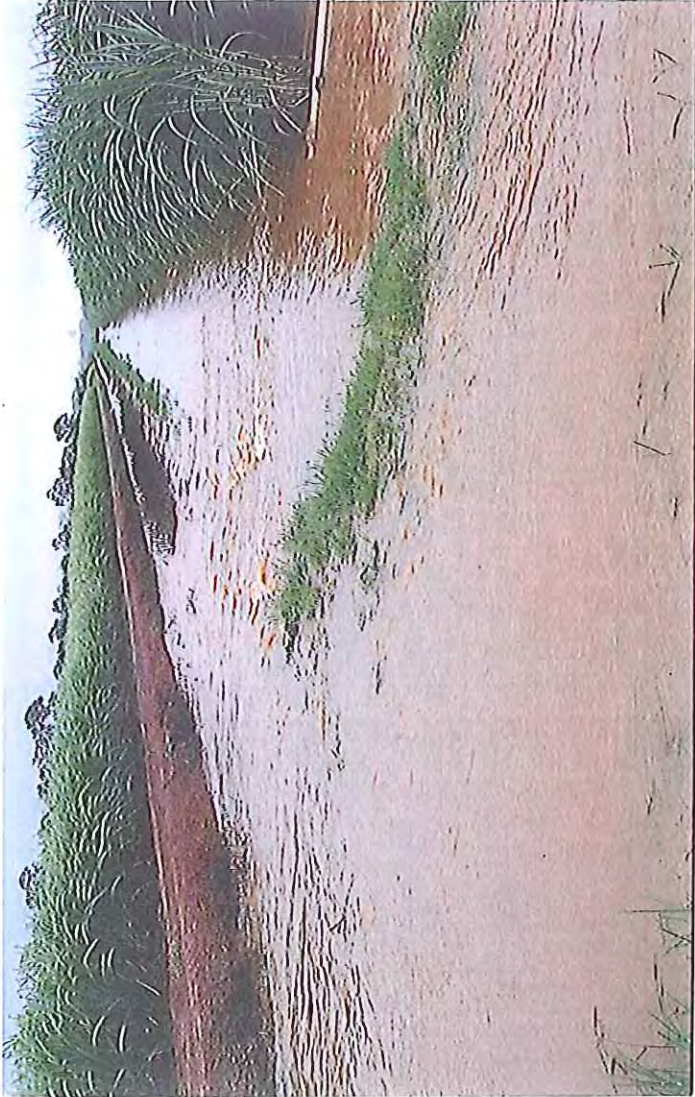


(A1)



(A)

CAYLEY FARM



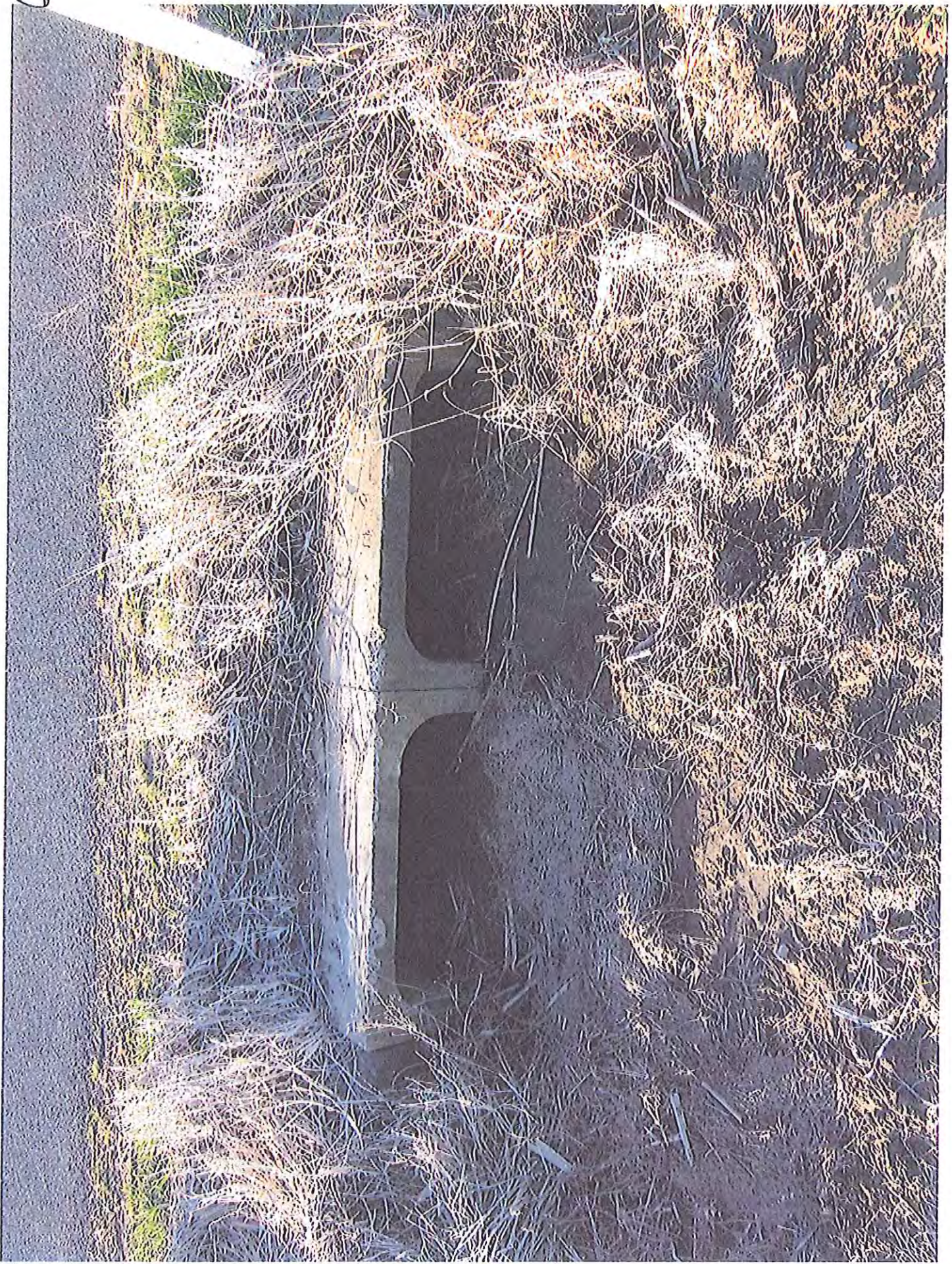
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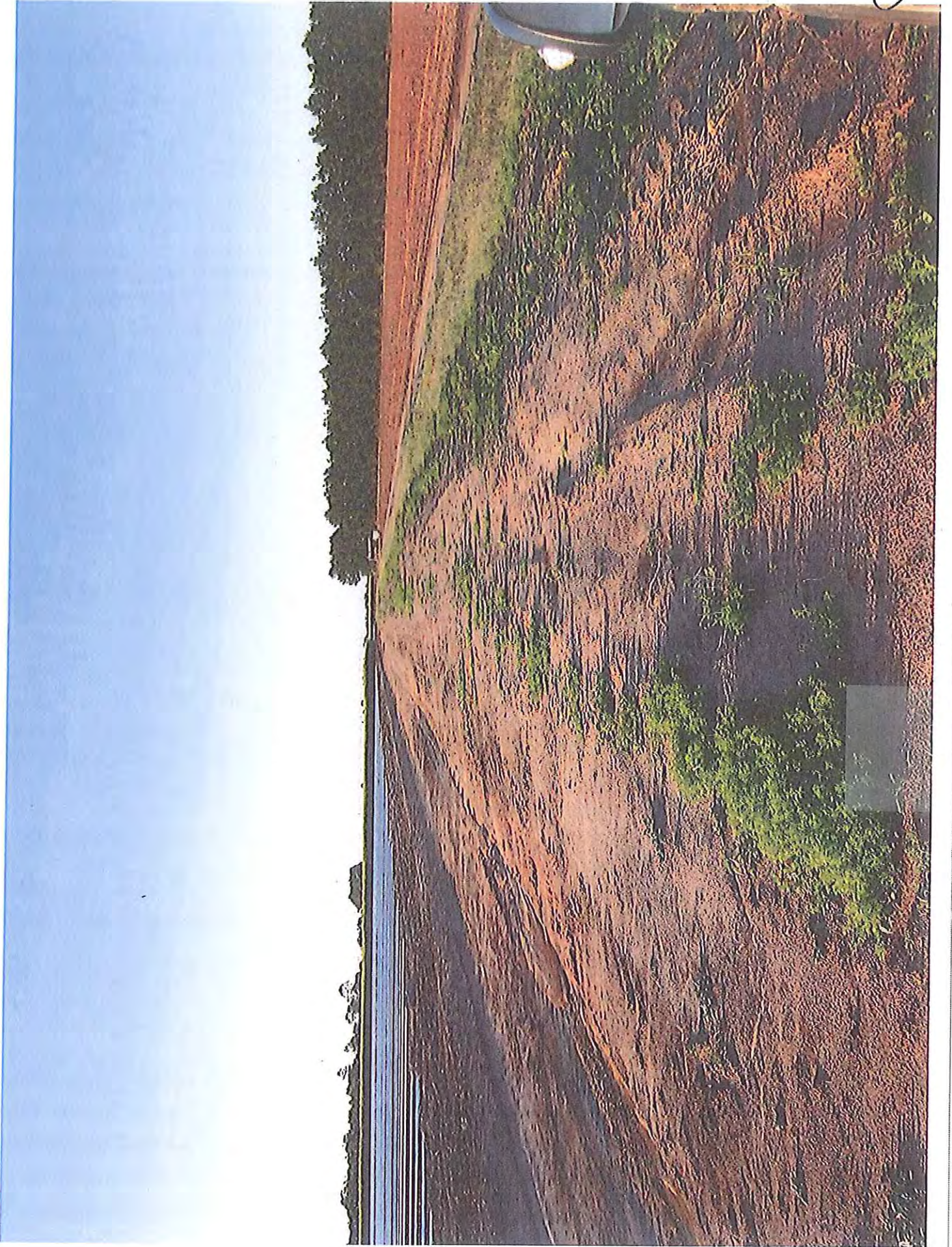




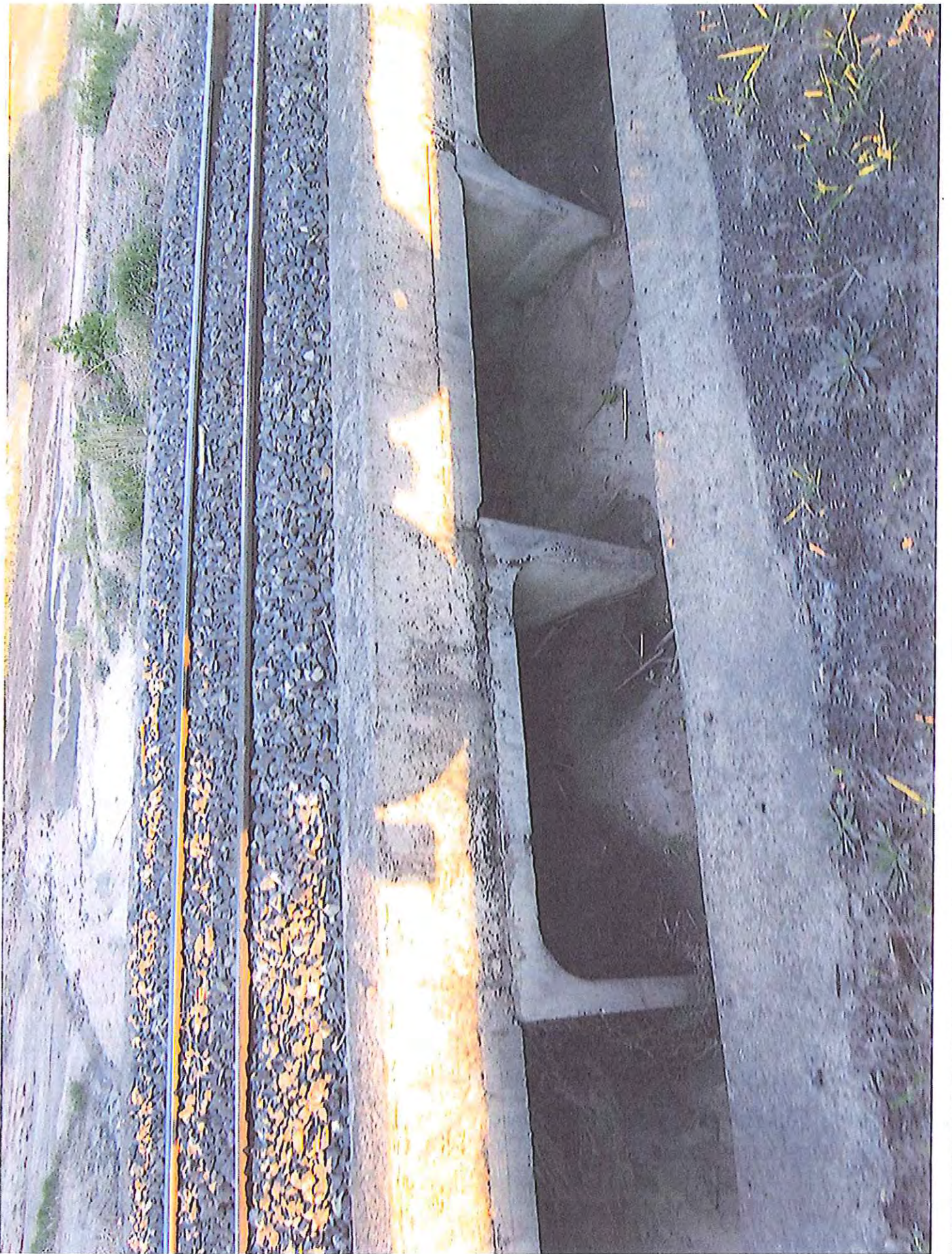


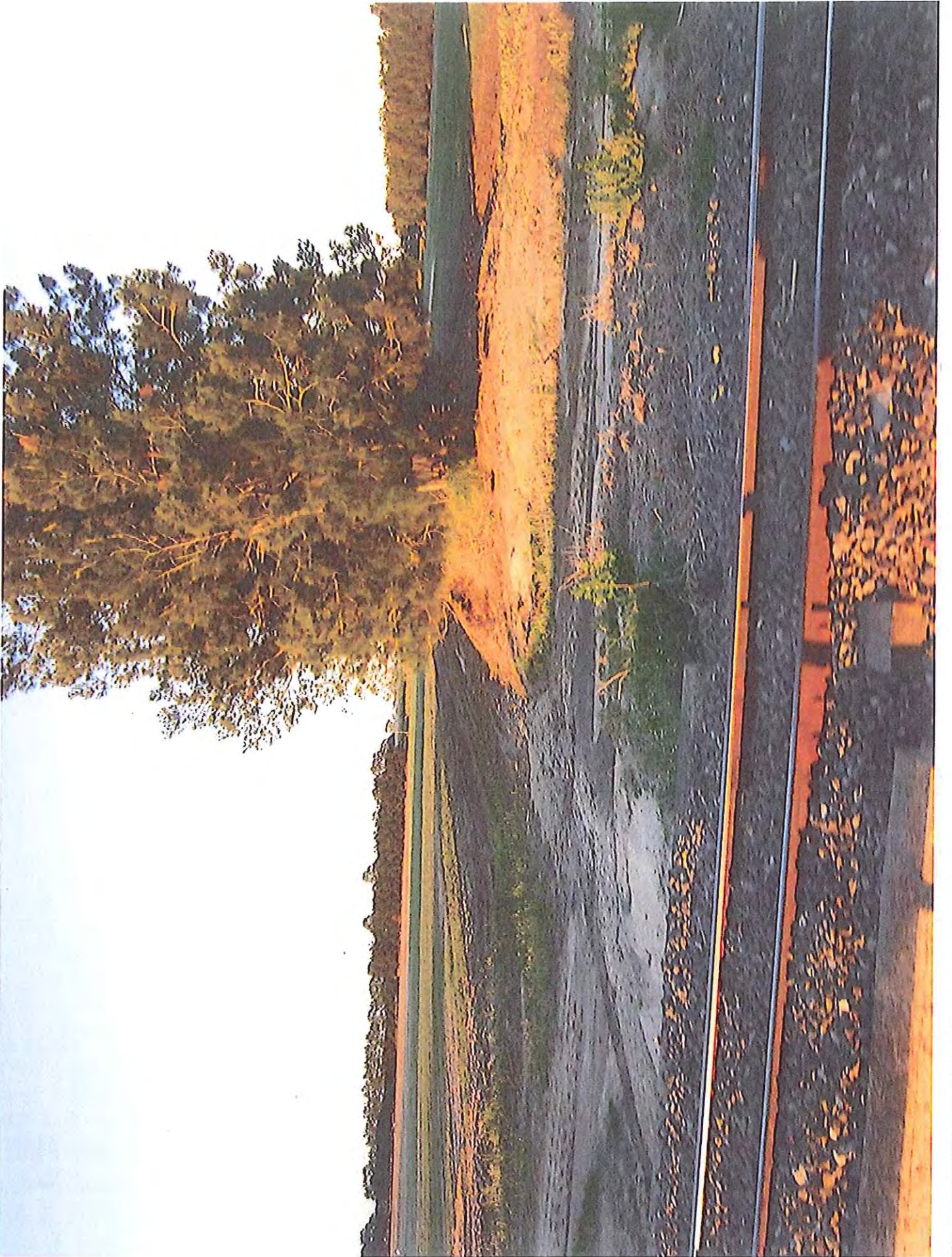


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8 March 2011

Mr N D Cayley
4511 Goodwood Road
ALLOWAY QLD 4670

Dear Nev

Re: Drainage Issues – Alloway

I write regarding drainage issues in the vicinity of your property and generally in the Alloway area and recent discussions with Council officers.

Council is aware of several drainage issues in the area which has been exacerbated due to the current wet weather pattern. There is currently no drainage systems strategy or planning to address this area. Council is working to resolve the drainage problem of the Alloway area as a whole and will conduct further investigation into the stormwater drainage issues.

Once a solution has been developed, upgrading of stormwater in this area will have to be prioritised and listed for Council's consideration and inclusion in future budgets. Following Council's budget adoption each year, specific projects approved for the ensuing year are published.

In the interim, Council will continue to carry out maintenance issues as reported. Please contact Council's Customer Services Officers on 1300 883 699 if you have a specific hazard to report.

Should you have any queries in relation to this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Council's Operations Manager Roads and Drainage, [REDACTED] on 1300 883 699.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

Peter Jensen
Group Manager Roads & Drainage

