

**Stephen Muir**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 30 January 2012 12:00 PM  
**To:** Info Flood Commission  
**Subject:** Fwd: Lots of water and a small river

Could you submit at a submission to the Inquiry?

Thanks,  
Susan

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** John Pyke [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Sat, Jan 28, 2012 at 11:56 AM  
**Subject:** Lots of water and a small river  
**To:** [REDACTED]

Hi Susan - this email still work? I see you're connected with the floods inquiry (and you've printed out a lot of emails under a "Susan Hedge" letterhead and posted them on the web!). Are they using your mathematical skills to assess the value of hydraulic/hydrological catchment and flood-plain models, or even to develop a better one, or are you just being a lawyer?

Anyway, the immediate point of this, having read about the W1, W2, W3, and W4 release regimes, is to ask - has it occurred to any of the witnesses, or the Commissioners themselves, that if the government built higher-level bridges at Colledge's Crossing, Savage's Crossing and the other couple of places they wouldn't *need* a W1 or W2 strategy, but could manage the dam sensibly by releasing as much water as the river could cope (which I think is W3) with when a big inflow was about to occur? Seems obvious, but then it also seems obvious to me that only a lunatic would buy a house on the flood plain so maybe I need to point out the obvious? (We moved here in 1983 and bought a flood map within the first week, before we even started looking for a house. Doesn't *everyone* buy a flood map before they buy a house? Don't answer that!)

As to how much the river can cope with, ever since we moved here, when I've thought of Wivenhoe I've asked "what if it rains enough to fill the dam, and then rains some (or a lot) more?" It also seems obvious to me that having built a dam in an area where you *know* the rainfall will occasionally be high enough to overflow it, a sensible government would also do whatever is possible to maximise the take-away capacity of the river. Hard when it snakes across a plain barely above sea-level and when two other rivers join it below the dam, I know, but anything that *can* be done should be done.

Consider this as a late submission and present it to the Commissioners if you think it would do any good.

John Pyke, physicist and lawyer