

[REDACTED]

From: Albert Devivo [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 9 March 2011 1:49 PM
To: Info Flood Commission
Subject: Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry

Albert Devivo
[REDACTED]

March 9, 2011

The Honourable Justice Holmes
Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry

Your Honour,

As you know Wivenhoe dam is an earth dam and must never be overtopped as overtopping can erode the dam wall and in an emergency the huge floodgates can release enough water to potentially flood Brisbane.

With all the BOM warnings that they had, they never really understood that they must never be in a position where overtopping may occur and making a decision to save the dam should be made before the rains came. They should never, ever have been in a position where saving the dam will flood Brisbane.

Wivenhoe is a dam with a weakness, i.e the earth wall, and they allowed this weakness to be tested instead of protecting it.

At Jindalee the "noisy" river was always flowing downstream before and after the flood at about 25 knots. I believe Tuesday's release caught Monday's release and the rapid flood at Jindalee was caused by rainfall + Monday's and Tuesday's releases arriving together.

A representative from SEQ Water agrees with me, he says Tuesday's release took 6-9 hours to reach Brisbane and it would have caught Monday's release. SEQ Water in their publication says it takes about 30 hours for water to flow from dam to bay and they do not detail times for different outflows.

If water takes the same time to reach the bay, whether it's a minuscule flow fighting tides or a panic all the gates open flow that wrecks the spillway and reshapes the river, then I need to go back to school.

When I knew what was headed my way, I was able to calculate that Jindalee would have a rapid rise in river level by up to 5 metres around midnight. Why wasn't the Government able to give us this information? If people knew when and how high and why, more property could have been saved.

Sincerely,

Albert Devivo

23/03/2011