



Dedicated to a better Brisbane.

15 June 2009

[REDACTED]

435,707
letters

Dear [REDACTED]

IMPORTANT UPDATE ON FLOOD PREPAREDNESS

Recent storms and flash flooding across Brisbane have been a **timely reminder of the fact that much of our city has been built on what is essentially a flood plain.**

After years of drought it is easy to forget that **Brisbane historically experiences periods of intense rainfall, which puts some homes at risk of flooding.**

As an Engineer, I was concerned Council did not do enough to educate and prepare Brisbane residents for floods. That's why, when becoming Lord Mayor, I made it a priority - even during the drought - **to make sure all Brisbane residents have access to free and reliable flood reports.** It's also why, back in 2005, we put together the Lord Mayor's Taskforce on Suburban Flooding.

The Taskforce, which accessed the best available advice and expertise, has made specific recommendations to help reduce flood impacts. We've been getting on with the job of implementing these, along with funding a **massive \$292 million commitment over six years.**

As part of the recommendations, **Council was advised to properly map and analyse the likely extent of creek and overland flow flooding.** Overland flow is water that runs across land after rain - either before it enters a creek or stream; after a creek or stream breaks its banks; or after rising to the surface naturally from underground

Even though it might not occur regularly, **overland flow flooding is something that might affect the property.** What's more, it's something that might be worsened by driveways, fences, pools, sheds and other structures that have been built on the property or on the neighbour's property

While Council has generally maintained detailed river and creek flood modelling, it has only had limited information on overland flow paths. Therefore, to ensure all residents have a **better understanding of possible overland flow flooding risks and what can be done to prepare and reduce the risk of property damage,** Council is developing computer-generated mapping of overland flow paths.

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Council is also finalising fact sheets on overland flow, river flooding and storm tide flooding to complement existing "Be FloodWise" fact sheets.

As Lord Mayor, I take the issue of flooding very seriously. While Council is working to reduce risks through better town planning, installing advanced warning technology and spending money on engineering solutions, it is also focused on making sure residents have access to the best available information and support.

Importantly, this new mapping is aimed at ensuring you are more aware of overland flow issues and can be appropriately prepared for any potential damage it might cause. It will also give you an opportunity to explore better insurance options, ahead of the next wet season.

In the meantime, if you would like a free FloodWise Property Report, fact sheets, or more information on flooding, visit the Council website at www.brisbane.qld.gov.au or phone 3403 8888.

Thank you for your patience as we continue working to reduce flooding risks in Brisbane.

Yours sincerely

Campbell Newman
LORD MAYOR



30 October 2009

Dedicated to a better Brisbane



68,448
letters

Dear [redacted]

BEING PREPARED FOR THE SUMMER STORM SEASON – OVERLAND FLOW

Earlier this year I wrote to all Brisbane residents about flood preparedness. As we head into the summer storm season, I want to take this opportunity to provide some reminders on how to reduce flood impacts.

Despite a recent drought, our city has historically experienced periods of intense rain, which puts some homes at risk of flooding. That's why as an Engineer, I was concerned that Council didn't provide residents with enough information to protect against flooding.

By establishing a Taskforce on Suburban Flooding, Council has been able to access the best advice and expertise to help protect Brisbane homes. We've also provided free and reliable flood reports for all residents. As part of its findings, the Taskforce recommended that residents receive free maps to show the likely extent of creek flooding and overland flow (water that runs across land after rain - either before it enters a creek or stream, after a creek or stream breaks its banks, or after rising to the surface naturally from underground).

Independent experts have recently verified computer generated mapping, which looks at the shape of the land to forecast areas that may be affected. These maps are available to residents on Council's website free of charge.

The mapping has indicated your property, as referenced at the end of this letter, may be at risk of overland flow. This may happen very rarely, but it is important you should know of the possibility.

Flooding of this nature is difficult to forecast in any more detail and depends on a number of contributing factors, such as the intensity of rainfall, the soil conditions, as well as adjacent buildings and fences. Overland flow tends to be extremely localised and is unlikely to affect the whole city at the same time.

This information will assist you with any proposed development and planning of your property but doesn't change Council's existing application processes. If you are considering building or renovating, you can seek advice on requirements from a Building Certifier. A list of Building Certifiers is available from the yellow pages and/or Queensland Building Authority at www.bsa.qld.gov.au.

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www.brisbane.qld.gov.au

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Brisbane City Council is one of the first councils in Australia to complete this mapping and make this kind of information freely available. It is a significant enhancement to the information already available from Council and allows you to be better prepared for the upcoming summer storm season. You may wish to take the opportunity to review your insurance options, as it is important to have the right information about your area and prepare adequately.

If you would like to find out more you can visit Council's website at www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/floodmap and access:

- a free Flood Flag Map
- a free Flood Flag Map User Guide
- a free fact sheet on flooding in Brisbane
- a free FloodWise Property Report.

There is free internet access available at Council's libraries.

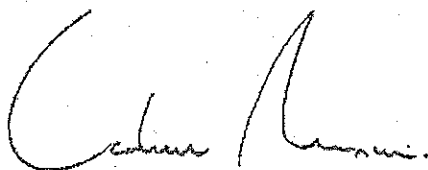
Council is also organising a series of community information sessions. If you have further questions you can attend an information session and talk to the experts (see enclosed flyer for details).

Alternatively, all of this information is available through the Contact Centre by emailing floodmap@brisbane.qld.gov.au or telephoning (07) 3403 8888.

I continue my commitment to provide residents with as much information as possible so that we can all make informed decisions and reduce the risk of flooding in our city.

Thank you for your support and patience as we continue to reduce flooding risks in Brisbane.

Yours sincerely



Campbell Newman
LORD MAYOR

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