

February 11, 2011

The Flood Commission Inquiry,

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am submitting a request for inquiry into the flooding in St George during January. 2011.

The peak reached a height of 13.20M, 19cm below the supposed 130yr flood that we had in March 2010.

The March 2010 flood was 12mm from inundating my home, but this year it was higher and inundated my home. This is because the unregulated levee bank blocking the floodplain on the opposite side of the river to my property, breached later than it did in March 2010. Within hours of the levee breaching, the water had dropped below the floorboards, proving beyond a doubt that the levee banks are diverting water during peak flood conditions. There have never been modeling, or testing done for this. The Balonne Shire hasn't had regulations on levee banks, on floodplains for 20 years.

More levee banks have been built since the March 2010 flood, changing yet again the flood mapping that was carried out. I have brought this to the attention of Federal, State and local Government. For the last 10 months I have written letters, attended MDBA meeting, Community Cabinet Meeting in Roma where I spoke to Stephen Robertson, Desley Boyle and Tim Mulherrin. Howard Hobbs and Bruce Scott are aware of this problem but refuse to act. I brought this to a meeting with Balonne Council in June 25th last year, and was told it would go to Community Consultation over an 18mth period. I wrote to them again in November, and the reply was they had no idea what Consultations I was talking about.

My property was the original Sale Yards. There was a cattle plunge dip here. It never went under water. It has been inundated 3 times in a year. The levee banks were built after the 1996 floods, and we hadn't had a peak until March last year. DERM are very aware of the problem. It needs to be looked at. We have lost so much, financially, socially and emotionally. For example, a 20yr old Jacaranda tree is now dead from being under water for a month. I cannot replace this, or the livestock that have died. My entire life is now on hold until the levee banks are regulated. This is putting lives at risk. We were evacuated for 13 days in early January, we came home for the second peak and sat it out with water under the house, with wet and mouldy floors from January 9th.

The second peak went to 12.47M. We, 6klms downstream measured 13M. We are under water, while the natural floodplain known as Munya Lakes sits dry, surrounded by a 7m high levee bank. The Channel Irrigation was under threat of flooding this year, Council and Emergency Services allowed them to build a levee 1200mm higher to protect their crops of cotton, at the same time, causing my property to suffer greater flooding.

This needs urgent attention. I have tried for 10months. I am sick of being pushed aside for the sake of a crop of cotton. My home was here first. I have to raise my home, but we are in no position to do this, financially. My property is worthless while ever it is at risk of flooding from water diverted by levee banks.

This could have been prevented. I made you all aware of the problem here, and the urgent need to regulate the levee banks as Goondiwindi Regional Council has. There needs to be a moratorium on levee banks until this is fixed, as more are going up still as I write this. This cannot be covered up any more. The proof is the fact your 130year flood of last March was nothing more than a man made disaster, especially when my home was damaged more this year.

Kylie Kilroy

