

19 February, 2011

Dear Commissioners,

In reviewing the factors that led up to the flood crisis may I propose you pay considerable attention to whether the town planning decisions that were made took sufficient account of elevation and flood susceptibility of land.

It appears from the media coverage that large numbers of houses have been built in recent years on flood prone areas and that in many cases these have been very inappropriate low-set houses on concrete slabs.

For example this picture of Ipswich from the Sydney Daily Telegraph of Jan 13:



This house flooding occurred even though flood heights did not reach the peaks of 1974.

In addition, was the flash flood through Toowoomba significantly exacerbated by recent building above the town?

The picture below shows the water flowing down just one of the many newer residential streets above Toowoomba which now largely prevent rainfall soaking into the ground through roofs, paving and roads which all pick up the rain and do little to decelerate its flow:



Photo from the blog of Jiaren Lau - <http://www.blog.jiarenlau.com/2011/01/10/flash-flood-hits-toowoomba-cbd-photos-of-aftermath/>

Your sincerely,

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