

[REDACTED]
KALLANGUR Q 4503

April 19th 2011

The Commissioner of the Flood inquiry

Dear Sir,

I as a resident of Qld am very concerned at the inaccuracies of reporting the news of the floods etc., that we received via various media sources during and after the floods in Qld.

I have enclosed copies of two letters I wrote to the Premier, and Channel Nine concerning such inaccuracies that I would like to bring to your attention.

Even to-day's Courier Mail news item regarding the sitting of the commission in Toowoomba made the outlandish statement on Page 5 and I quote "The inquiry which convened in a Toowoomba courtroom yesterday was shown graphic images of the brown wall of water that swept through Toowoomba and into the Lockyer Valley. In another section it said, 'the lethal nature of the inland tsunami that swept through Toowoomba and down the range last January.'

I believe such inaccuracies during the crisis would have caused more fear and concern for those affected or in the path of the flood than had there been no warning given at all.

The fact of the matter is there is no way the muddy water that flooded the streets of Toowoomba could possibly flow over the range and down to Brisbane through the Lockyer Valley as was reported so many times during the flood crisis. The only connection between these two events was that the water originated from the same storm cell, but that is where the connection ends. The water in Toowoomba's flood flowed westward, not over the steep mountain range. Were there any witnesses or video footage of the water flowing over the range?

I would recommend to you Sir, that the reporting of these events and the accuracy of such reports be of the same importance as the warnings that communities receive. Unfortunately I did not keep the news article, but it was reported in one of our papers that the release of the water from Wivanhoe dam was in some way responsible for flooding in the town of Dalby which resulted in a car been washed off a causeway in that town costing the driver his life. Surely our media people can look at a map of the geographical makeup, the layout and course of waterways and main river streams before putting such reports to paper.

Yours truly,

[REDACTED]
Merv Hurse.

T/phone [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

KALLANGUR Q 4503

February 8th 2011.

News Director

Channel Nine

Brisbane Q 4001

Dear Sir,

It has been made very obvious to me that your news reporters reporting on the floods in Toowoomba do not have any understanding of the Geographical location of Toowoomba or its environs in any shape or form. A number of times during the reporting of the Tsunami type flooding that hit Grantham back in January and again the reporting of storms hitting Toowoomba yesterday (Monday 7th February) were full of inaccuracies. Put simply **WATER DOES NOT RUN UPHILL. NEVER HAS, NEVER**

WILL. Especially hills as steep as those around Toowoomba.

The water that flooded the main CBD of Toowoomba, (i.e. Ruthven St) DID NOT FLOW from the bottom of the western incline of the range where Ruthven St Toowoomba is located, up over a couple of hills and OVER THE RANGE into Murphy's creek, Grantham etc. which are on the Eastern side of the Toowoomba Range. The only connection between the two is that it was more than likely it the same storm cell that had dumped volumes of rain into the heart of Toowoomba's CBD, crossed over the range whilst continuing to pour great volumes of water onto the Eastern slopes of the range, which caused the cascading effects of the water down the range through these localities.

99.999999999999999999999999999999% of runoff water in Toowoomba flows into Gowrie Creek which eventually flows out into the Condamine River System.

There is no possibility of the water from Toowoomba's CBD flush flood flooding Grantham and then heading down stream toward Brisbane as the 4.30 pm news reader read on the Thursday before Brisbane was flooded

Please check all relevant geographical locations of these centres before making serious statements as these.

Yours Truly,

Merv Hurse

[REDACTED]
KALLANGUR Q 4503
January 20th, 2011

The Premier
Executive Bldg
George St.
BRISBANE Q 4000

Dear Premier,

Re Commission of inquiry into Floods & Reconstruction Authority.

I hope both of these bodies do a more accurate job of assessment of the floods and the devastating consequences of same than some of the writers of your media releases and Channel Nine news did. On Thursday 13th January in 9's coverage of the flood between 5 & 6 pm. , both the presenter and yourself in one of your media releases claimed & I quote "The flood water that flooded Toowoomba City is now flooding into Brisbane." End of quote. What utter garbage.

Since when does water flow uphill? Especially the volume of water that flooded Toowoomba's CBD? You would have noticed on your recent visit to Toowoomba, that the City is built on the Western side of the range. Their CBD is well down the other side of the mountain practically at the bottom. Even to flow into Murphy's Creek which is slightly to the North-East of the City, the water would have had to flow upwards at a very sharp incline to manoeuvre over what is a fairly steep section of the range, than over the top and down into Murphey's Creek, Grantham etc. The only connection between the two inundations is they both came from the same storm cell.

For the record any flooding water that hits Toowoomba City would automatically flow Westward into River systems such as the Condamine, never ever into the Brisbane River system.

Please let it be one of the tasks of the Commission to advocate all people involved in any reporting of such floods in future HAVE A DAMN GOOD UNDERSTANDING OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL STRUCTURE OF THE REGION IN FLOOD BEFORE MAKING NEWS RELEASES. In my books inaccurate reporting like this can be the cause of a lot of unnecessary worry and heartache for people that what actually happens.

Yours truly,

Merv Hurse.