

Ian Rickus MP survey form

Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry

Do we need an early warning system for floods?

We did not need a warning system for previous floods. This flood was different because of speed. Most knew it was wet and building to a flood, but not ready for the intensity and the height. If this can be quantified then a system would be useful. If we already know it is raining, then a general alert would be ignored.

Have you ever been involved in a local meeting about early warning system?

No

Would an early warning system work?

We knew it was wet for two weeks before it flooded. We need an emergency warning system- for all emergencies. The flood was not the emergency in this situation; it was the wave of water.

Had you been advised by Council, or State Government, the highest flood levels in your area?

We knew of 1974 levels only from our own experience, but this was not the highest since settlement. And 2011 was higher than 1974. The flood was higher by 1m where there were too many trees in the creek, and 200mm higher where there are few trees.

Had you ever received evacuation information for flood/landslides/fires?

No

Have you ever been advised of a flood management plan?

No

Have you ever been asked to be on or involved with a flood plain Advisory Committee?

No. The Lockyer Water Users Forum should be involved.

What do you feel could have been done to make your area safer?

Before the flood?

Creek Management. The creek needs to be managed during floods in a way appropriate to each creek, and each reach of that creek. In Buaraba Creek too many trees limit grass growth on banks leaving banks unprotected. Weeds grow over trees where grazing is unable to get to weeds, and these catch debris and pull down trees in flood. Silt/sand has been allowed to build up and become covered in grass instream, which forces flood flow to the weaker banks and causes erosion. Silt/sand needs to be removed down to original stream bed. Erosion occurred where there were too many trees in the creek.

Weirs need to be kept clean of silt/sand.

Erosion control to limit soil movement off site from slopes. Particularly evident on new residential areas, due to slope and exposed poor grade soil from digging foundations. Turf installation, done properly (see recommendations from Turf Qld. regarding establishment), needs to be higher priority and part of building final inspection and approval.

Waterway design needs to be reassessed around new houses, and new estates, and old estates, and more rigorously implemented.

During the flood?

A more established communication system for emergencies, based on UHF radio. During emergencies power and telecommunication may not be working. UHF can be hand held and battery powered, and linked to Bush Fire Brigades, but with a public available channel. (Bush fire Brigade currently on private UHF channel, but 2-ways can be scanning other channels)

Other Questions or statements?

Name

GREG BANFF

Signature.

