

Submission to the Flood Inquiry

This submission relates only to the terms of reference – (g) – town planning issues.

Background

Our residence is adjacent to areas subject to flooding in the Auchenflower/Milton area. At the height of the flood, water was on three sides of our street (Ridley St Auchenflower) - Brisbane River, Grimes St and McIlwraith St.

Ridley St through the Auchenflower Railway Station was the only access to the Wesley Hospital and residences between the railway line and the river. This meant that all emergency vehicles, hospital service vehicles and residents only had access by Ridley St.

Every available parking space (off street parking, front yards, back yards and double parking space) was taken up by emergency vehicles, hospital staff and patients vehicles, and vehicles of residents from adjacent areas. It became difficult for emergency vehicles to be able to navigate through these 'traffic jams'. Residents became stranded as their cars were flooded in, no trains, so residents of Ridley St provided transport for food supplies.

Planning Issues

Brisbane City Council Development plans for the Auchenflower/Toowong area propose to greatly increase the living density of these areas that are close to the flood prone areas. This will mean even great traffic congestion and less available space for emergency and evacuation requirements - Greater pressure on infrastructure in those areas adjacent to flood prone areas.

Brisbane City Council Development Planning proposals, if approved, would allow residential developments up to 15 stories on the river side of the railway line, commercial development of 15 stories over Auchenflower railway station and increase residential development from four to up to 8 stories on the Milton Road side of the railway line.

In the event of a future flood with similar inundation to the 2011 flood, there would be several hundred more residents cars looking for parking, more staff requiring access with new commercial developments, greater number of residents 'stranded' so that even greater pressure would be put on neighbourhood infrastructure.

Recommendations

1. That the Brisbane City Council review their urban redevelopment plans which greatly increase the living pressure in areas close to flood prone areas.
2. Consideration be given to maintaining or establishing neighbourhood marshalling/evacuation areas (open areas) close to flood prone areas
3. These recommendations should be considered for all urban local government areas in Queensland that are flood prone.

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