

## **Flood versus Cyclone**

I pose the question:

Which is more important – a flood or a cyclone?

The answer is obviously a cyclone, as with less than a week's warning from the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) we have had mass evacuations, emergency services on full alert, standby communications & safety warnings, just to mention a few of the measures implemented, resulting at this time with no loss of life & the damage incurred will possibly be covered by insurance, I say possibly.

On the other hand SEQ Water was warned by BOM from Sept. 2010 to Jan. 2011 of inordinate rainfall expected for SEQ & yet the Wivenhoe Dam which was built for flood control was not utilized for this purpose until the floodwaters had already risen to unmanageable levels – result – **18 dead**, thousands left homeless & a huge number of properties left without insurance cover & landlords who provide 40% of SEQ housing left with unserviceable debt & no flood relief.

As the bulk of insurance companies deemed that the flooding was not caused by the rain that fell initially, it must follow that those who experience flooding from Cyclone Yasi will be subject to the same flawed reasoning & not be covered for flood.

I am sure that the 18 poor souls who perished would have valued 5 minutes warning, let alone 5 months that SEQ Water was afforded.

Thank goodness that the BOM cyclone warning was taken seriously.

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