

# LETTER

## Another dam should be built

WHEN the Wivenhoe Dam was built, it was part water supply and part flood mitigation.

Brisbane's growth now needs

both halves, plus a minor pipeline to Toowoomba occasionally.

The solution, as I see it, is to build a replica about where the bridge crosses the Brisbane River on the Esk-Kilcoy road.

The capacity would be about 2 million megalitres and the auth-

orities should keep it empty for very rainy days.

Runoff below this point should then be well within the capacity of Wivenhoe.

What other alternative is there? - Colin Clift, Toowoomba.

[queenslandcountrylife.com](http://queenslandcountrylife.com)





**YOUR LETTERS** Tell us what you think about the news

# Heartless ripping off flood fund

IT makes me so sad and disappointed to see some members of this community cashing in on this \$1000 flood bonus money when they are not entitled to it.

It is a disgusting tactic that some people have pulled. How do you sleep at night? Some families have lost everything, including their loved ones, and need all the money they can get to try to rebuild their lives, and here some are lying to obtain this money.

How about you all donate it back to the flood victims.

This is another stuff-up by the Labor Government. You all have to live with yourselves. Haven't you got hearts?

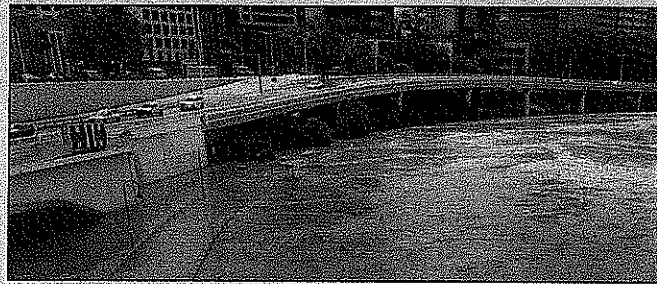
**D. STATHAM,**  
Toowoomba

## Labor has horse before the cart

WE have a lot of talk about how we should pay for the rebuilding of Queensland rather than seeing practical solutions to immediate problems put in place.

Look at the Range crossing debacle. James Street was turned into a truck stop for almost 18 days. Individual residents were prevented from accessing their homes, and businesses along James Street had access problems. We saw long queues and delays along Herries and Margaret streets.

What we didn't see was an orderly assembly of truck stops outside of the city equipped with portable toilets and basic food outlets to service the trucks drivers. We didn't see any communication from the ministers of transport, main roads or police by way of the local radio stations, television or the press until an advertisement



Another dam is needed to help deal with the potential flood problem in Brisbane.

### LETTER OF THE DAY

## Wivenhoe needs backup

WHEN the Wivenhoe Dam was built it was part water supply and part flood mitigation. Brisbane's growth now needs both halves, plus a minor pipeline to Toowoomba occasionally.

The solution, as I see it, is to build a replica about where the bridge crosses the Brisbane River on the Esk-Kilcoy Road, with a capacity of about two million ml, and keep it empty for very rainy days.

Run-off below this point should then be well within the capacity of Wivenhoe.

What other alternative is there?

**COLIN CLIFT,**  
Toowoomba

on January 26.

We didn't see the use of portable traffic control lights so that people near Murphys Creek Road and those near Flagstone Creek Road gained orderly access to their homes. We didn't see the use of traffic control people to direct local traffic around the inner city bottle-necked areas. In short we didn't see a disaster plan in place. All we saw was Labor's mismanagement of a crisis.

**JOHN FRIEND,**  
Toowoomba

## System of government

WHAT a shame that our

Australian of the Year (Simon McKeon) does not understand our system of government.

The United Kingdom has no authority whatever over our government. The Queen is really not much more than a figurehead, even in the UK government.

Our governor-general takes on her role in our system. It is appropriate to remember that our government chooses the governor-general. The Queen has the honour of approving their choice.

The alternative to this system would be to have a very expensive presidential election. Thanks. I would rather do without the expense and hype that goes with a US

presidential election and have a figurehead who is not trying to curry favour with electors.

**FELICITY BARNES,**  
Toowoomba

## Shoppers revel in internet revolution

IT was the season of giving, but the spirit was not shared by some major industries, or perhaps they were celebrating it in reverse.

The retailers have launched a spurious campaign to force customers who choose to shop online when they can get a better deal - which is often - to pay GST on purchases worth less than \$1000.

Major retailers have a job in front of them explaining how they can be so uncompetitive that individual shoppers can land a few hundred dollars or less of jeans, books or sunglasses cheaper than retailers can get it shipped here in bulk.

The game is up. The internet, at its best here, is democratising shopping and delivering better value for ordinary "working families" where governments, consumer laws and watchdogs have failed.

The Gillard Government would be crazy to interfere with this welcome development. It is difficult for any government to change its habits. But if the Gillard Government is to retrieve anything from this shambles of a year so far, it must learn to say no to vested interests that distort policy.

Dancing to their tune only reinforces the image of a government that has lost its way.

**RICHARD J. WOOD,**  
Darling Heights

THIS MAY BE OF INTEREST

Colin Clift Toowoomba