

The Courier Mail

Edition 6 - Late City WED 07 JUL 2004, Page 017

Flooding reports go on display

FLOOD reports which were once confidential have been put on display in Brisbane City Council's Central Library, fulfilling an election promise made by Lord Mayor **Campbell Newman**.

"This is a very important day in terms of my commitment to the people of Brisbane for a more open and accountable administration," Cr Newman said yesterday releasing the 17 reports.

Among them was a 1999 Brisbane River **flood** report which resulted in former Lord Mayor Tim Quinn being accused of a cover-up.

After the report was leaked to The Courier-Mail last year, Cr Quinn ordered a review which eventually found existing **flood** levels were appropriate.

The new Lord Mayor yesterday pledged to release all publicly-funded reports, except those concerning commercial in-confidence.

The **flood** studies are available for viewing and copying, but not borrowing, in Central Library in Ann St, with people also able to request copies through suburban libraries.

Library Heading: FLOODS QLD, LIBRARIES, PRIVACY RIGHTS, BRISBANE CITY COUNCIL

Section: NEWS

26. Council introduces flood alert system (*Brisbane MXX*, 19 October 2010)

Lord Mayor Campbell Newman said registered residents would receive an alert via SMS, email or a voice recorded message when rain and creek levels indicated their property was at risk from flooding. He said the new creek flood alert was in addition to the Early Warning Alert system announced in December 2009 and would complement the free Floodwise property reports and flood flag maps available online.

27. Early flood warnings for Brisbane (*North-West News*, 20 October 2010)

In the wake of flooding across Brisbane Lord Mayor Campbell Newman has announced a new creek flood alert service ...

"Last week's flooding events had a huge impact on many residents across the city and the Weather Bureau is warning us to prepare for more storms and possible flooding."

28. Newman resolute over flood warning (www.brisbanetimes.com.au, 7 December 2010)

Brisbane City Council will continue providing flood data to residents but will leave announcements about dam releases to state authorities, Lord Mayor Campbell Newman said this morning ...

"I am going to err on the side always of telling people what is going on, what the experts are saying and I will let people make a decision with the information in hand."

29. Fear of floods haunts mayor (*The Courier Mail*, 16 December 2010)

Brisbane residents are being warned to take out flood insurance and move precious possessions out of homes in known flood zones, with predictions the holiday season will be marred by disaster.

Lord Mayor Campbell Newman says he is more concerned than ever that this holiday period could bring flood devastation similar to the infamous 1974 floods.

30. Tides to reach new highs in Brisbane suburbs (www.news.domain.com.au, 17 December 2010)

Lord Mayor Campbell Newman again warned new residents yesterday of the flooding risks in the city.

"My concern is that over the last 15 years we have had a very dry period and we are now seeing a return to the conditions that prevailed during the 60s and 70s," he told 4BC Radio.

"Since then we have had a lot of people [move to Brisbane] and they have chosen to live near this beautiful, idyllic little creek in suburbia. I'm afraid they don't know that it could turn into a ranging torrent and it could actually threaten their property."

The Courier Mail

Edition 1 - First with the news TUE 09 NOV 2004, Page 007

LORD MAYOR CONSIDERS BUYOUT OF AT-RISK HOMES

By Renee Viellaris

BRISBANE City Council will consider buying properties from homeowners severely affected by Sunday's flash flooding.

As thousands of southeast Queenslanders yesterday resumed mopping up, residents of Rocklea, in Brisbane's south, were demanding answers. It's the third time in 10 years that some residents in Corella St have had to tediously clean up their homes and yards.

Lord Mayor **Campbell Newman** was quick to visit Rocklea to extend emergency assistance on Sunday, but offers of long-term solutions were expected to take time.

Cr Newman said some residents had asked if the council would buy their homes. He wouldn't rule out buying some properties but said he couldn't offer any promises.

Cr Newman said he had commissioned an investigation into whether engineering works could alleviate future flooding.

A spokesman for Cr Newman told The Courier-Mail earlier in the day that the council could learn from this week's **flood**, saying it could do a better job of clearing weeds and debris from some catchment areas.

But Cr Newman disagreed, and said the problems were caused by trapped water.

Library Heading: BRISBANE CITY COUNCIL, REAL ESTATE, HOMES AND CASTLES, FLOODS QLD, WEATHER QLD RAINFALL

Section: NEWS

Task force to tackle Brisbane flood woes

Posted Sun Dec 19, 2004 10:04am AEDT

Brisbane Lord Mayor Campbell Newman is hoping to find a way to make the city more flood-proof.

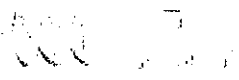
Mr Newman is setting up a task force to look at the situation and report back to him next year with some recommendations.

He says he hopes the council will help him find a way to allocate the necessary money.

"People in Brisbane have a right to expect that their houses won't be flooded out every two or three years and in some of the suburbs of Brisbane, that is happening on that sort of basis," he said.

"That's unacceptable. We need to clearly identify what we can do to fix these problems and then we need to have a plan to actually fix them and fund them."

Tags: [emergency-planning](#), [floods](#), [local-government](#), [brisbane-4000](#)



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Mayor sets up taskforce to tackle flood problems

By Daniel Knowles

HOUSE buy-backs, tougher planning laws and emergency radio warnings are among ideas to be investigated by a new Brisbane City Council **flood** taskforce.

Announcing the taskforce yesterday, Lord Mayor **Campbell Newman** said flooding had reached critical and unacceptable levels for residents in suburban areas and it was time to do something about it.

Cr Newman said the taskforce had six months to work out the best way to tackle **flood** problems and report back to the council.

He committed the council to fixing the problems, even if it cost "tens of millions of dollars", as he expected.

"We expect it will be very expensive. It's time to get on and do something.

"It's not acceptable to have people flooded out three times in 10 years," he said.

"We will be after money from the State Government and the Federal Government but the council is going to have to dig deep. We might have to buy some properties that are constantly flooding."

The taskforce would be made up of council members, developers, green groups and affected residents, Cr Newman said.

The report would be made public in June.

The decision follows months of wrangling over **flood** studies and their results last year during the long-drawn-out council election campaign.

Using estimates of water flow, Brisbane City Council established a safe line for development beside the river in 1984.

But the 1984 level is significantly lower than that set by an engineers' report to council in June 1999, which remained undisclosed until leaked last year.

Under fire, the then-lord mayor Tim Quinn released a table of major **flood** estimates based on water flow for the Brisbane River for the period 1984-2002.

There was much variation between the estimates, most of which had not been disclosed to the public before.

Deputy Mayor David Hinchliffe said the Labor Administration supported the taskforce but warned house buy-backs could open an expensive can of worms. "The civic cabinet fully supports a taskforce but we need to be realistic about our expectations," Cr Hinchliffe said.

"Brisbane is a river city with dozens of creeks in its delta.

"If we can reduce flooding realistically we should make every effort to do so.

"The option of buying back can only be explored with Federal and State Government funding.

"Some people don't want to sell.

"Those who do are going to want \$200,000 to \$300,000 for a house and \$500,000 on the river."

Eight Mile Plains resident Peter Dance's house has flooded three times since 2001. Mr Dance said he would be interested in selling to the council if it meant getting out of his home, which floods to more than chest-deep and cannot be insured.

"It's just too scary living there," he said.

Mr Dance said the taskforce was a step in the right direction, something he had been fighting for over the past decade.

He blamed poorly planned development creating flooding downstream for the growing problem.

"Up until the mid-'90s we never had a problem in the area," Mr Dance said.

"It has been getting progressively worse."

Caption: WILL DO: Lord Mayor Campbell Newman (left); and the flooded home of Peter Dance in 2001

Illus: Photo

Library Heading: FLOODS QLD

Section: NEWS

Flood-prone houses may be resumed

By Jennifer Dudley

HUNDREDS of Brisbane houses could be bought back from homeowners by the City Council and State Government after a report on the city's most flood-prone areas is released today.

The council's **flood** taskforce report will reveal that up to 500 homes are at risk of flooding in any two-year period, and will suggest several solutions with a multimillion-dollar price tag. The **flood** taskforce was led by Emeritus Professor Colin Apelt, who helped The Courier-Mail reveal the council had covered up a 1999 engineer's report that showed homes had been built below safe development levels since 1984.

Lord Mayor **Campbell Newman** said he would table the report in Civic Cabinet today to begin debate on **flood** mitigation developments that could take years to complete.

"There are 400 to 500 houses in Brisbane where some part of the land experiences flooding in a one-in-two-year rain event and will have a very high probability of being adversely affected," he said.

"That's always been one of Brisbane's dirty little secrets."

The report's **flood** mitigation recommendations included installing new drain pipes, building retention basins, raising houses and "voluntary buy-back schemes to get hold of houses that are at risk".

Cr Newman said he would seek a partnership with the State Government as part of a buy-back scheme, which he warned would take a significant investment from both levels of government.

"We're talking about millions and millions of dollars and an extended period of time to make this happen," he said.

Continued Page 2

Leahy's view, Page 10

Flood-prone lots may be resumed

From Page 1

"They've come up with a priority ranking and we'll have to start with the worst flooding house in Brisbane and go through them."

Premier Peter Beattie yesterday said he would consider investing in the buy-back scheme when approached with a firm proposal.

Flood-prone locations identified in the report include the areas around Cannery Creek at Northgate, Stable Swamp Creek at Rocklea, and Zillman Water Holes at Zillmere and Virginia. Brisbane City Council environment committee chairwoman Helen Abrahamis yesterday declined to comment ahead of the report's release.

But, for some Brisbane residents, the report has not come soon enough.

Carol Houghton's family at Northgate prays it will not rain, as any significant rainfall causes nearby Cannery Creek to break its banks and **flood** the block, with almost 1m of water in her garage.

"One year it happened eight or nine times," she said.

Ms Houghton said she had no idea the Parker Ave house was prone to flooding when she bought it in 1982, as Brisbane City Council searches turned up no warnings, although officials had since told her the house was built on an "overland **flood** path". The council allocated \$1.5 million this year to preventing the flooding but Ms Houghton said this should have been completed earlier.

Caption: On page 2 below, her backyard after flooding in June 1987.

Illus: Photo

Library Heading: FLOOD PREVENTION BRISBANE, FLOODS QLD, BRISBANE CITY COUNCIL

Section: NEWS

The Courier-Mail

Edition 1 - First with the news MON 12 SEP 2005, Page 003

Flood-prone homes face buy-back

By Jennifer Dudley

HUNDREDS of Brisbane houses could be bought back from homeowners by the City Council and State Government after a report on the city's most flood-prone areas is released today. The council's **flood** taskforce report will reveal that up to 500 homes are at risk of flooding in any two-year period, and will suggest a raft of solutions with a multimillion-dollar price tag. The **flood** taskforce was led by Emeritus Professor Colin Apelt, who helped The Courier-Mail reveal the council had covered up a 1999 engineer's report that showed homes had been built below safe development levels since 1984.

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"There are 400 to 500 houses in Brisbane where some part of the land experiences flooding in a one-in-two-year rain event and will have a very high probability of being adversely affected," he said.

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Leahy's view, Page 10

Caption: WAITING . . . Carol Houghton at her Northgate home that is regularly flooded when Cannery Creek overflows.

Illus: Photo

Library Heading: FLOOD PREVENTION BRISBANE, FLOODS QLD, BRISBANE CITY COUNCIL

Section: NEWS

Flooding 'fix-it' to cost \$123m

By Jennifer Dudley

MORE than 11,000 Brisbane homes are at risk of flooding, the city needs \$123.6 million spent on it in the next year to protect it from damage, some houses need to be raised and residents should be warned by SMS message when a **flood** looms.

The findings were revealed yesterday in the Brisbane City Council's Suburban Flooding Taskforce report, which also recommended about 400 flood-prone homes be resumed at a cost of \$120 million.

The report also called for council to add a flooding code to its City Plan and a total overhaul of the warning system for at-risk residents.

The study was triggered by reports in The Courier-Mail that revealed former lord mayor Tim Quinn's Labor administration hid the findings of a damning 1999 report on flooding.

But the council may struggle to implement some of the report's most important findings after Premier Peter Beattie yesterday ruled out committing funds to solve a council "stuff-up".

The **flood** report contained 22 recommendations, including 10 "key actions" to be acted on by September 2006.

They included the voluntary buy-back of about 400 "low **flood** immunity residences" at a cost of up to \$120 million, the creation of a flooding code and a consultative **flood** reference group, free **flood** reports for homeowners, and a forecasting and warning system to alert homeowners by SMS message or e-mail.

The report also recommended council introduce infrastructure to problem areas including new drainage pipes, open drains, **flood** mitigation schemes and catchments, and the introduction of minimum floor levels, which could force some homes to be raised.

Anything that would lessen the effects of heavy rain would be positive for Rocklea residents Darren and Annelise Johnston-Bates.

They say that at least five times in the past two years they have had floodwaters come into the ground floor of their home. Despite this, they don't want to sell their home.

Mr Bates said the council failed to keep Stableswamp Creek clean of debris and when it did clean the creek banks and its surrounds "they don't do it properly".

Lord Mayor **Campbell Newman** said Brisbane's current flooding risk was a "scandal" that had been allowed to escalate over successive administrations.

Continued Page 4

Editorial, Page 14

Flooding 'fix-it' scheme to cost \$123m in year

From Page 1

"This situation we face today is a result of 50 to 60 years of bad town planning decisions," Cr Newman said.

He said the council alone could not afford to fund all the report's recommendations.

"The sort of dollars I'm after are for the voluntary buy-back scheme and big-ticket **flood** mitigation schemes," Cr Newman said.

"We don't have the superior financial resources that we need at times like this when there is extraordinary expenses."

But Mr Beattie yesterday rejected Cr Newman's call for a massive taxpayer-funded contribution from the State Government.

He said it was inappropriate for taxpayers around Queensland to pay for problems caused by poor planning decisions at one council.

"It is an outrageous suggestion," he said. "The reality is that we had no role in the approval of these blocks."

The council has yet to formally debate the report, but environment committee chairwoman Helen Abrahams, who also sat on the taskforce, said Labor would support its recommendations.

The report found Brisbane's worst creek flooding hotspots were at Brighton, Deagon, Boondall, Northgate, Nundah, Toombul, Windsor, Red Hill, East Brisbane, Morningside, Carina, Wynnum, Hemmant, Tingalpa, Gumdale, Oxley, Archerfield, Macgregor, Sunnybank Hills and Sunnybank.

Caption: PLEA... the Johnston-Bates family.

Illus: Photo

Library Heading: BRISBANE CITY COUNCIL, FLOOD PREVENTION BRISBANE, TOWN PLANNING BRISBANE

Section: NEWS

The Courier Mail

Edition 1 - First with the news TUE 13 SEP 2005, Page 014

Council needs to act on flood report

Tuesday, September 13, 2005

INSULATING towns and cities from extreme weather events is a tricky task. Planning for the natural disaster that may never come is not an attractive prospect for governments at all levels, particularly with the constant pressure to contain spending. But getting planning decisions wrong tends to create massive costs in following years. And trying to keep the true picture about **flood** risks from residents will never work -- just ask former lord mayor Tim Quinn. For a city that has its fair share of major floods, many of which have more than qualified as natural disasters, Brisbane has a lot of work to do in ensuring it is properly equipped to deal with the next inundation. Lord Mayor **Campbell Newman** revealed yesterday that the likely bill for buying up hundreds of homes which would be deluged in a **flood** -- but approved for development by previous city councils anyway -- would be up to \$120 million. A report from his taskforce on suburban flooding recommends splitting this cost between the council and the state and federal governments. There are not many takers in George Street for that idea. Premier Peter Beattie wondered yesterday why taxpayers needed to pick up the bill "every time a local government stuffs up".

Just as he has staked his political future on properly funding his planned network of cross-city traffic tunnels, finding the money to pay for a buyback of flood-prone properties has the potential to be a defining issue for Cr Newman's leadership. But there is one leadership test he has passed, simply by releasing the taskforce report. In his campaign for election last year, Cr Newman invested a lot of energy in painting the administration headed by his predecessor as "semi-stalinist" in its attitude to openness. He could do no less than ensure that information the council held about **flood** risks in the city was released. But making the taskforce report public should only be the first step in this endeavour. As the document says, the council should make the **flood** risk and **flood** warning data it holds available to the public. Not only would this make for a better informed property market in the city, it would also help residents minimise damage from events such as flash flooding.

The report should be a wake-up call to the council, the private sector and residents that all of them need to do more to minimise Brisbane's vulnerability to a major **flood**. But the impetus for such change should come from the council and there would be no better place to start than ensuring the city's administration is guided by openness regarding Brisbane's **flood** risk. Cr Newman should make it his business to eradicate the culture that allowed a previous study into Brisbane's **flood** risk to be covered up for years simply because the council did not want to alarm people. His taskforce report states that the council has certain legal obligations regarding the information it collects on **flood** risk. It also has a moral obligation to manage that risk.

Responsibility for election comment is taken by David Fagan, 41 Campbell St, Bowen Hills, Qld 4006. Printed and published by Queensland Newspapers Pty. Ltd. (ACN 009 661 778) A full list of our editors, with contact details, is available at thecouriermail.com.au/editors.

Library Heading: BRISBANE CITY COUNCIL, FLOOD PREVENTION BRISBANE

Column: Leader

Section: FEATURES

Type: Leader

The Courier Mail

Edition 1 - First with the news TUE 14 FEB 2006, Page 012

Council 'alone' in flooding buyback

By Jennifer Dudley

BRISBANE City Council will take more than 20 years to buy back 400 flood-prone homes that "never should have been built", it emerged yesterday.

Only five of the 400 homes, which flood every two years, will be bought from owners this financial year as part of a voluntary buyback scheme recommended in the council's suburban flooding report.

And just another eight homes will be bought back in the following financial year, as the council struggles to fund the buyback while the State Government continues to reject pleas for assistance.

The Lord Mayor's Taskforce on Suburban Flooding report, led by Professor Colin Apelt, recommended that about 400 flood-prone Brisbane homes be bought back from owners with "state and federal government financial support". The report estimated the scheme would cost up to \$120 million if all landowners participated.

But Lord Mayor **Campbell Newman** said state and federal governments were still refusing to play their part.

"This thing has to happen over 10 years and it has to be a plan," he said.

"It could be done more quickly, and the pain and the suffering and misery of the people will be alleviated more quickly if the (other levels of government) would start working with me to get a result."

A Brisbane City Council spokeswoman said council officers were developing a list of homes in which "habitable floors", or living areas, flooded once every two years.

The homes would then be ranked in the order they should be bought back.

The spokeswoman refused to name the homes or streets under consideration, for legal reasons, but said the officers would look at houses in "hot spots" including Rocklea, Sunnybank, Northgate, Nundah, Boondall, Zillmere and Virginia.

"We're anticipating we'll really hit our straps in March and start looking at the properties we're interested in," she said. "We're probably only looking at five properties in this financial year and eight in the next financial year. Even if we have a 50 per cent take-up, that's 200 properties over at least 20 years."

Cr Newman said the buy-back would be offered only in areas where flooding could not be eased by "infrastructure work" and "never should have been built".

He said he would "significantly increase" funding for the scheme and other flood mitigation work in the coming 2006-07 Budget.

But a spokesman for Local Government and Planning Minister Desley Boyle said the State Government would not contribute to the voluntary buyback scheme.

"The viewpoint of the Government hasn't changed and that is that it's the council's responsibility. It was the council as an entity that approved those homes being built where they are," the spokesman said.

"We've sent them letters offering the support of a 40 per cent subsidy . . . for flood mitigation work."

Cr Newman said the council had already acted on other flood mitigation recommendations, including cleaning sediment around creek choke points, waiving fees for flood reports, developing an education program and amendments to Brisbane's City Plan, and trying out a flood warning system at Rocklea.

Library Heading: BRISBANE CITY COUNCIL, LAND, FLOODS QLD

Section: NEWS

CITY BUDGET

Flood of money

IN the biggest irony in yesterday's budget, millions of dollars will be spent on reducing the impact of floods while Brisbane is gripped by its worst drought in a century. The first stage of a \$20 million voluntary buyback of flood-prone properties will be rolled out this financial year, with \$5 million a year set aside for the scheme. Almost \$11 million would be spent on improving drains and \$1 million on clearing vegetation in creeks to prevent silt build-up. A \$50,000 early-warning system will be set up in hot spots such as Rocklea and \$256,000 will go to amending the City Plan to make it harder for developers to build in low-lying areas.

In deep on pools

DESPITE the cost of three swimming pools blowing out enormously, Brisbane City Council is determined to deliver on its election promise. Yesterday's budget shows proposed expenditure on pools at Holland Park, Morningside and Runcorn has risen from \$2.24 million to \$4 million in the 2006-07 budget with costs in 2007-08 tipped to increase from \$3 million to \$11 million. Cr Tim Nichols blamed higher construction costs for the increase.

Feral shortfall

THE employment of one feral animal officer in the Brisbane City Council budget would not come close to fixing the rapidly growing problem, Cr Margaret de Wit (Pullenvale) said yesterday. Cr de Wit said the council could employ three officers and they wouldn't be able to keep up with the numbers of feral animals, particularly dogs and deer in Brisbane's west. She said wild dogs were ripping pets apart and deer were destroying trees and were likely to cause car accidents or spook horses.

Mayor gets more

RATEPAYERS will have to foot a 4 per cent increase in the costs of running Liberal Lord Mayor **Campbell Newman**'s office, which will next year consume \$15 million. But funding for Labor Deputy Mayor David Hinchliffe's office was frozen at \$745,000. Cr Hinchliffe said he did not mind the different treatment. He was much more concerned Cr Newman had tried to stop Labor councillors getting details of the budget. Ratepayers will also part with \$89,000 to fund a by-election in Liberal finance spokesman Tim Nicholls's ward. He is stepping down at the next state election to run against Labor's Liddy Clark.

Column: In Brief

Section: FEATURES

Flood warning 'waste in drought'

By ANOOSKA TUCKER-EVANS

BRISBANE City Council has been accused of wasting thousands of dollars of ratepayers' money by warning people to be flood-wise in the middle of a drought.

The council has been running a \$500,000 campaign to improve the community's understanding of flooding, despite the Bureau of Meteorology declaring a **flood** was very unlikely.

Local government analyst Doug Tucker labelled the advertisements "strange" and a waste of money.

"It's inappropriate to be spending valuable resources on that sort of a campaign in these circumstances," he said.

The campaign is a product of the Lord Mayor's Taskforce on Suburban Flooding.

It was established by **Campbell Newman** as an election promise to be more upfront about flooding after an alleged Labor cover-up of **flood** reports and information by mayoral predecessors Jim Soorley and Tim Quinn.

Brisbane City Council defended its campaign, claiming that floods could occur at any time.

Section: NEWS

The Courier Mail

Edition 6 - Late City THU 17 APR 2008, Page 013

Flooding fears cloud future of North Bank

By John McCarthy

A PLANNED \$1.7 billion revamp of Brisbane's North Bank has been thrown in doubt, as the State Government last night acknowledged growing public concern with the project.

Joining a long list of critics, Lord Mayor **Campbell Newman** yesterday warned the proposal would have major impacts on **flood** levels, encroached too far into the river and would impact on heritage buildings.

Cr Newman, pictured, said he was not opposed to developing North Bank, but the current scheme was "not acceptable".

Deputy Premier and Planning Minister Paul Lucas said last night that changes to the current North Bank plan might be possible.

"These are things that have to pass the test of public scrutiny," he said.

Mr Lucas said the Government was working with Multiplex to resolve any legitimate concerns.

Engineers, town planners and businessmen have all rallied against the scheme which would include a 70m platform over the river near the Victoria Bridge.

The platform will be the base for commercial and residential high-rise buildings, but will also include public amenities such as a swimming pool.

The first of three stages is expected to be completed in 2011 with the rest of the project wrapped up by 2020.

Hydraulic engineer Emeritus Professor Colin Apelt and academic Peter Skinner have been high profile critics of the scheme which they claim will have severe impacts, mainly upstream flooding caused by the development blocking the river.

Cr Newman said he hoped to work with the Government to find a solution for the site.

"I believe that it would be great to open up that reach of the river," he said.

"Surely we should not accept a freeway-dominated environment. No one goes down there unless they are jogging along the bike track."

However, he said the idea of pushing the development 70m into the river was not the way to do it.

"I'm not anti the project but for people who say do nothing, my question is: Is what's down there satisfactory? It's not satisfactory," he said. "But is the proposal put up by Multiplex acceptable? No, I don't think so."

Caption: Campbell Newman

Illus: Photo

The Courier Mail

Edition 1 - First with the news WED 11 JUN 2008, Page 004
North Bank flood peril - Project to cost millions in damage
By Alison Sandy, John McCarthy

THE controversial \$1.7 billion North Bank development would cause serious flooding costing the community hundreds of millions of dollars, a new report has revealed.

Lord Mayor **Campbell Newman** tabled the North Bank Flooding and Tidal Impact report at yesterday's Brisbane City Council meeting, saying he had also sent a copy to Premier Anna Bligh.

The report, by the North Bank Task Force, found the Multiplex proposal would cause "significant negative impacts on flooding" and cost the community, business and government an extra \$270 million in **flood** damages.

It found that on conservative estimates increased **flood** levels would mean an extra 262 residential properties and 107 commercial properties would be flooded.

The riverbank around South Bank could also be affected, water quality would be decreased and there would be risks to ferries and CityCats.

There was also no satisfactory mitigation option and **flood** debris could become trapped underneath the development, creating a "smelly dead zone".

"Under **flood** conditions the proposed development will effectively impede flow through one-third of the channel along this reach of the river," it said.

"The review carried out by this task force demonstrates there would be substantial cost to the people of Queensland through increased **flood** damage.

"The task force recommends that the proposed North Bank development should not proceed." North Bank was supposed to create a vibrant, accessible riverfront at no cost to the State Government or the public.

Cr Newman said he still believed the development should proceed, just not the version currently on the table.

Planning and Infrastructure Minister Paul Lucas said any final project would have to solve various technical issues including potential flooding and traffic impacts, and future maintenance of the Riverside Expressway.

"That remains the case. We will not proceed with any project unless these issues are addressed," he said.

The Government has invited experts to a workshop next week to resolve the issues.

BIOG: CAMPBELL NEWMAN

Section: NEWS

Newman wants North Bank risks minimalised

Posted Tue Jun 10, 2008 7:07pm AEST

Updated Tue Jun 10, 2008 7:30pm AEST

Brisbane's Lord Mayor says he still wants the North Bank of the Brisbane River re-developed, so long as the impact is reduced in the revised proposal.

• [Map: Brisbane 4000](#)

Campbell Newman has released a report that finds the current North Bank development proposal poses serious flood risks along the Brisbane River in the CBD.

Councillor Newman says there are concerns about how far a platform extends into the river.

"They're saying that it'll create flooding upstream, they are saying that it'll do things in terms of erosion of the South Bank site of the river and mangroves along there, there'll be higher velocity of the water, it will be harder to manoeuvre boats," he said.

"They're saying there'll be lower velocity under the platform, siltation underneath there.

"Having said that I think we do need some sort of North Bank proposal."

The Queensland Government has already sent the North Bank proposal back to the drawing board and a revised plan is expected by September.

Tags: [urban-development-and-planning](#), [government-and-politics](#), [local-government](#), [brisbane-4000](#)

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No flight in flood suburbs - An estimated 11,000 Brisbane homes at risk but . . . By Alison Sandy

MOST residents living in Brisbane's worst **flood** areas are opting to stay and risk devastation should another **flood** of 1974 proportions occur.

Only 19 of 400 high-risk properties have been bought back by Brisbane City Council's Voluntary Home Purchase Scheme, despite almost 150 being approached.

They were identified in a 2006 report by the Lord Mayor's Suburban **Flood** Taskforce, which said they had a 50 per cent chance of flooding every year.

The council allocates \$3.5 million each financial year for optional resumptions.

But the Labor Opposition said the net should be cast wider because the **flood** risk extended to 11,000 homes.

"A lot of people are refusing because they either are in affordable housing or want to stay in the community they're in," Moorooka councillor Steve Griffiths said.

"If they sell, they really can't afford to buy another house of the same quality."

Cr Griffiths said people should be allocated funds to raise their homes.

In 1974, 15,000 properties were ravaged by floods, which at the time cost \$200 million. The bill now would be expected to run into billions.

Flood hot spots include Rocklea, Sunnybank, Northgate, Nundah, Boondall, Zillmere and Virginia.

Rocklea resident Ben Dodson said he bought his house for about \$300,000 and had since appealed to the council for funds to raise it.

"We can't afford to buy anywhere else," he said.

Former **flood** taskforce chairman Colin Apelt said raising homes in areas such as Rocklea wouldn't work.

"I'd be very concerned to see houses in these areas like Rocklea raised above the **flood** level of Brisbane River because you'd have to raise it about 2m to 3m and the risk of being isolated in an emergency is too great for that to happen," he said.

Mr Apelt suggested providing homeowners with more money to relocate.

City Business and Water chairman David McLachlan and Environment chairman Peter Matic did not return The Courier-Mail's phone calls yesterday. But in a statement, Lord Mayor **Campbell Newman** said \$8.6 million had been spent on the buyback scheme so far. "We are doing all that we can to help people in flood-prone areas," Cr Newman said.

Suburbs where homeowners have been approached to sell include: Murarrie, Archerfield, Coorparoo, Wynnum West, Chapel Hill, Rocklea, Aspley, Bardon, Manly West, Nundah, Carina, Windsor, Wilston, Carina, Graceville, Hemmant, Morningside, Tingalpa, Boondall, Macgregor, Deagon, McDowall, Oxley, The Gap, Woolloongabba, Brighton, Clayfield, Sunnybank Hills, Ashgrove and East Brisbane.

Caption: LOOKING for a lift . . . Ben Dodson wants council funding to raise his Rocklea home.

Illus: Photo

IllusBy: Steve Pohlner

Section: NEWS

Crews continue mop-up in SE Qld

Posted Thu May 21, 2009 8:30am AEST

Updated Thu May 21, 2009 9:16am AEST

Queensland Premier Anna Bligh will convene a disaster management meeting this morning as authorities deal with the aftermath of flash flooding in the state's south-east.

Overnight rain has eased in some areas after the region received almost a third of its annual rainfall in one day.

The damage from flash flooding stretches from Queensland's Sunshine Coast to the New South Wales border.

There were more than 1,800 calls to the State Emergency Service (SES) overnight and the 400 staff and volunteers still have to attend to more than 1,000 outstanding jobs.

Most of the focus has moved to Brisbane's south, the Ipswich area and the Gold Coast.

Gold Coast

On the Gold Coast, the SES received about 230 calls for help and more are expected today.

Acting SES controller Chad Tripp said roofs were torn off some beachfront houses.

Hundreds of Energex crews are working to restore power to about 6,000 homes in the south-east.

Energex spokesman Danny Donald says repair crews are out in the field this morning.

"The worst affected areas are in the Gold Coast and in the Gold Coast hinterland and some of the damage in the Nerang area is comparable to that seen in The Gap late last year," he said.

"We have had power poles that have been snapped in half and other parts of the network completely torn down by high winds and some of these people may be without power at least 24 hours - in some cases longer."

However Disaster Management director Mike Shapland says there have been no major issues for emergency crews overnight.

"They've been fairly routine tasks - damage to roofs, sandbagging, fallen trees, that sort of thing, so not the sort of damage we saw in The Gap, but those irritating and routine things people need assistance with," he said.

Ms Bligh says disaster relief funds will be available.

"It looks like we will pay a very high price for getting water in our dams," she said.

Ms Bligh said the drought is now officially over, with dam capacity in the region now at around 70 per cent.

- [Map: Brisbane 4000](#)
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She says there are lessons to be learnt from the flooding.

"I think the biggest learning for me in the last 24 hours and something we'll certainly give a bit more thought to, is just how quickly some of those roads can be cut off and the very major implications of major road closures - not only chaos for parents trying to get to children to collect them from school, but major transport routes and just how quickly they block up," she said.

Brisbane

There is some relief for rain-soaked residents in Brisbane this morning with a break in the torrential rain.

Brisbane Lord Mayor Campbell Newman says sandbags and tarpaulins are now available to residents and can be collected from Brisbane City Council depots at Morningside and Zillmere.

Councillor Newman says yesterday's deluge caught many people unprepared.

"Brisbane is a flood-prone city," he said.

"There are many houses that are built in locations with today what we know about our climate we would not have built there.

"So when we get a return to sort of normality - and that's what we've seen - we will get that sort of flooding and unfortunately impacts on people in their homes."

He says council workers will be mobilised to assist residents who need help.

"Our number one priority is always to serve the people of this city," he said.

"That's what we're paid to do so we will throw everything we can at dealing with these situations as they arise over the coming days."

Sunshine Coast

On the Sunshine Coast, 20 homes were flooded when 250 millimetres of rain fell across the region.

SES spokeswoman Janet Scott S says there were 65 calls for help and the residents of a Golden Beach retirement village were moved to higher ground.

She says the Caloundra Hospital has a leaking roof and many roads were closed.

"A lot of the areas have been very badly flooded," she said.

"A lot of the roads were closed for a while I think or flooded quite well.

"We had a few ones with leaking roofs but mostly it's just been all flooding."

Rescues

Two people were rescued in separate incidents from cars caught in flood waters at Acacia Ridge and at Oxley this morning.

SES spokeswoman Chantelle Rule says motorists must be more careful.

"It's not safe to drive through flood waters - there's debris in the water, it's fast-flowing water and it's a lot deeper than a lot of people expect," she said.

Schools

All state schools in the region will be open as normal today.

Two Catholic schools - St Benedicts at Mango Hill and St Peter Claver at Ipswich - will be closed.

St Brigid's at Rosewood and St Augustine's at Springfield will be operating on reduced staffing and authorities say parents may wish to keep students at home.

Education Queensland is advising students from independent schools to contact their school for information about whether they are open.

Around 480 children stranded at five schools in the region were billeted or returned home late last night.

Tags: [disasters-and-accidents](#), [floods](#), [weather](#), [rainfall](#), [australia](#), [nsw](#), [fingal-head-2487](#), [lismore-2480](#), [qld](#), [brisbane-4000](#), [maroochydore-4558](#), [southport-4215](#), [toowoomba-4350](#)

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"I don't have the desire to kick people out of their homes."

Lord Mayor **Campbell Newman**

BRISBANE'S water, roads, housing and energy systems all cracked under the test presented by extreme weather this week, and experts are calling for a rethink of how the city is designed. While most experts claim moving people out of housing in flood-prone areas like Windsor is a step too far, there was consensus that the more ferocious storms hitting the southeast mean we have to rethink where and how we live.

There were also suggestions that a debate is needed about whether parts of the city should no longer be allowed to have detached housing.

And new **flood** modelling will soon be released by Brisbane City Council which may have a significant impact on residential housing, as well as give residents a better gauge of **flood** risk. But the experts add it isn't just floods Brisbane has to worry about. The storm that flattened The Gap, the Black Saturday bushfires in Melbourne, Canberra's devastating bushfires in 2003, the Mackay **flood** and the flattening of Innisfail by Cyclone Larry show that cities are becoming more prone to the devastation of major weather events.

"We have storms that are behaving like cyclones," Brisbane Development Association president Mark Doonar said.

He said while Brisbane wasn't badly planned, it was time for a debate about the city's future and how its residents lived and the city could be disaster-proofed before there was a major loss of life.

Brisbane City Council is also spending \$20 million a year buying flood-prone housing, but some people refuse to move or ignore the threat.

In one street of inner-city Wilston, the flood-safe floor level is 6.2m above ground, and some residents in and around Northey St, Windsor, have been flooded several times, some as recently as November and refuse to move.

Lord Mayor **Campbell Newman** said development in the 1960s around Rocklea and Acacia Ridge also had a significant impact on flooding in the Oxley Creek. And a 2006 report by the Lord Mayor's Suburban **Flood** Taskforce identified 400 high-risk properties which it said had a 50 per cent chance of flooding every year. Even with that evidence, many refused to sell to the council.

As this week's floods showed, large sections of the inner city, some of it valuable real estate, is a potential **flood** disaster. But Cr Newman said it would be a tough call to force people out, even with the prospect of climate change.

"I would have to be presented with engineering and technical information that there was an ongoing and ever-present risk to their lives that I could not overlook. I have never had that presented to me," Cr Newman said. "I don't have the desire to kick people out of their homes."

He said the flooding around Wilston was a one-in-70-year event.

But the new **flood** modelling for the city, to be released in a few weeks, may change the way people think, although it would not alter the Q100, the level at which a one-in-100-year **flood** would rise to and above that be safe for development.

Council's Labor leader Shayne Sutton said it was imperative that the city's drainage was improved even though it was expensive.

Griffith University head of urban research Dr Brendan Gleeson said the floods reminded everyone that Brisbane could not leave itself exposed to nature.

"This week's floods shocked a community that had focused its mind on water shortage," he said.

"This is no cause for panic, but grounds for a serious rethink of the planning regime and urban development process so that they help us to adapt safely to inevitable climate change and to prevent further warming."

UQ associate professor Peter Skinner points out the urban footprint is now covered by roofs, roads, driveways and car parks with less permeable landscape to absorb rainfall.

"I would like to see us spending money on public transport, sustainable housing and renewable energy to change the causes of climate change, not just attempt to ride out its consequences," he said.

Column: Big Wet

Section: NEWS

7. Council needs to act on flood report (*The Courier Mail*, 13 September 2005)

But there is one leadership test he has passed, simply by releasing the taskforce report

8. Council 'alone' in flooding buyback (*The Courier Mail*, 14 February 2006)

Cr Newman said the buy-back would be offered only in areas where flooding could not be eased by "infrastructure work" and "never should have been built".

9. Flood warning 'waste in drought' (*The Courier Mail*, 25 March 2007)

The council has been running a \$500,000 campaign to improve the community's understanding of flooding' despite the Bureau of Meteorology declaring a flood was very unlikely. Local government analyst Doug Tucker labelled the advertisements "strange" and a waste of money.

10. Flooding fears cloud future of northbank (*The Courier Mail*, 17 April 2008)

Joining a long list of critics, Lord Mayor Campbell Newman yesterday warned the proposal would have major impacts on flood levels, encroached too far into the river and would impact on heritage buildings.

11. North Bank flood peril – Project to cost millions in damage (*The Courier Mail*, 11 June 2008)

The controversial \$1.7 billion North Bank development would cause serious flooding costing the community hundreds of millions of dollars, a new report has revealed.

Lord Mayor Campbell Newman tabled the North Bank Flooding and Tidal Impact report at yesterday's Brisbane City Council meeting, saying he had also sent a copy to Premier Anna Bligh.

12. Newman wants North Bank risks minimalised (www.abc.net.au, 10 June 2008)

Campbell Newman has released a report that finds the current North Bank development proposal poses serious flood risks along the Brisbane River in the CBD.

13. Crews continue mop-up in SE Qld (www.abc.net.au, 21 May 2009)

"Brisbane is a flood-prone city," he said. "There are many houses that are built in locations with today what we know about climate we would not have built there."

14. Newman demands flood of answers over Mews construction (www.abc.net.au, 27 May 2009)

Questions need to be asked over the construction of the The Mews luxury apartment block in Bowen Hills which flooded badly last week, Lord Mayor Campbell Newman said yesterday.

Newman demands flood of answers over Mews construction

Tony Moore
May 27, 2009 - 5:45AM

Questions need to be asked over the construction of the The Mews luxury apartment block in Bowen Hills which flooded badly last week, Lord Mayor Campbell Newman said yesterday.

Advertisement

"I question why any building would be built in this day and age - in the modern age - within the 1:100 year flood line in the city of Brisbane," he said.

The Lord Mayor said the conditions of the construction should have prevented the building being flooded.

Almost 500 residents in the estimated 175 apartments moved out after rainwater swamped the downstairs carpark, breaking sewerage and stormwater pipes, cutting electricity and fire alarms.

Residents began to move back inside the apartment complex last night.

Until last night the damage rendered the apartments in Campbell Street uninhabitable.

Lord Mayor Campbell Newman said Brisbane City Council was now investigating the reasons behind flooding.

"I will certainly be conducting an investigation," Cr Newman said.

"This building was built just prior to me becoming Lord Mayor (2004) and was being completed as I became the Mayor," he said.

"I want to know why it was approved in a flood plain. I want to know why it was approved within the Q:100, or the one in 100 year flood level.

"I also want to know why a building that was approved in such a way - it was meant to withstand a 4.3 metre flood level - flooded when the flood level was recorded nearby at 3.2 metres.

"These are real questions and the people who live in The Mews Apartments deserve some answers."

Cr Newman said he had seen documentation about the building's construction.

"The building was conditioned in such a way to survive a much higher flood than we saw the other day, but it failed to deal with," he said.

"Those are questions that need to be answered for the residents of The Mews."

Onsite manager Belinda Smith last night said residents were moving back into the apartments..

"We would expect to have a percentage of them - say around 30 per cent - in tonight," Ms Smith said.

"We are hoping to have the rest of them in by the end of the week."

Meanwhile in Council chambers yesterday, the ALP Opposition questioned the steps taken by Cr Newman's team to give Brisbane residents timely flood advice.

Opposition leader Cr Shayne Sutton said she was concerned by Council's failure to start an SMS early warning system for residents, despite the scheme being recommended in 2005 as part of the Lord Mayor's Taskforce on Suburban Flooding.

"As part of the Lord Mayor's Taskforce on Suburban Flooding, it was recommended that Council investigate the establishment of local flood advice, forecasting and warning systems - including making Council's Floodwise warning system SMS-enabled," she said.

A council spokesman last night said the ALP had confused two separate issues - an SMS alert system, and providing early flood advice on rising creeks and streams.

He said Council had put systems in place to give residents notice of rising creeks and had provided it to media outlets last week.

The spokesman said the SMS system needed to be considered on a regional basis, not simply in Brisbane.

But Cr Sutton said the SMS alert system was "three years out of date."

"This vital warning system is now three years overdue and \$2 million over budget," she said.

This story was found at: <http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/queensland/newman-demands-flood-of-answers-over-news-construction-20090526-blyx.html>

Inquiry not needed into Brisbane flood handling, Newman says

By Emma Pollard

Posted Wed May 27, 2009 7:46am AEST

Brisbane Lord Mayor Campbell Newman has rejected calls for a commission of inquiry into how the Council handled last week's flood disaster.

• [Map: Brisbane 4000](#)

Council Opposition Leader Shayne Sutton says an inquiry is needed to ensure lessons are learnt from last week's floods.

She told yesterday's Council meeting an investigation should examine drainage system capacity, the effect of infrastructure construction and benefits of an early warning system.

"To examine council's processes for communicating with local residents," she said.

"As our weather patterns change and the city experiences more frequent and severe storms, we need to be sure that Council is absolutely prepared for these events with strategies to help mitigate property damage and manage Council's response."

But Councillor Newman says an inquiry is not needed as his administration has already done a lot of flood preparation work.

He says Brisbane Labor is playing politics.

"We have a flood task force report from 2005 that we have been faithfully implementing," he said.

He says flooding is not just a Brisbane issue and any text message alert system would have to be introduced by the Queensland Government.

"When I last checked, there were floodwaters around the Sunshine Coast, Gold Coast, Moreton Regional Council, Logan, Ipswich - you name it," he said.

"If we're going to have one of these SMS-type warning systems, that's something the State [Government] and their Emergency Management Queensland area needs to implement."

Tags: [disasters-and-accidents](#), [floods](#), [government-and-politics](#), [local-government](#), [australia](#), [qld](#), [brisbane-4000](#)

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The Courier Mail

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Flood risk mapped - Water patterns up for view

By Ursula Heger

BRISBANE residents will soon have access to high-tech maps showing whether their homes are vulnerable to flash-flooding in heavy downpours.

The new mapping will allow residents to view water run-off patterns in the city during one-in-50-year **flood** events, similar to those experienced last month.

The Brisbane City Council will allocate \$110 million to **flood** management in this year's budget, including \$600,000 to allow residents to access city **flood** mapping.

A further \$1 million will be put towards management of vegetation in the city's waterways, and \$4 million towards storm-drain rehabilitation.

Council said up to 15 per cent of the city's properties were considered "significantly affected" by overland flow, or stormwater runoff that cannot enter underground drainage, instead spilling into homes, yards and gullies.

Lord Mayor **Campbell Newman** said residents would be able to see how their property was susceptible to flooding from overland flow, alongside current data on river and creek **flood** modelling.

"For the first time ever, people will be able to see how groundwater will affect their homes and their lives, without them having to experience a **flood**," he said.

"The people have a right to know this information, for better or worse."

If people were forewarned, they would be able to plan to offset the next **flood**, whenever it might be, he said.

While residents such as those recently inundated in Brisbane's north would be aware of their susceptibility, the information could help them to be better prepared, Cr Newman said.

"While this information will probably come as no surprise to most affected residents, it means you may be able to save money on engineering reports for building work, and it will be of assistance when you are considering changes to landscaping or even fencing," he said.

Letters informing Brisbane's 440,000 householders about the new maps will be sent out soon.

Section: NEWS

Thousands in flood path

By Margaret Wenham

ABOUT 30,000 homes in Brisbane are in the path of flash-flood waters caused by the city's summer storms.

Lord Mayor **Campbell Newman** released the figures yesterday at the launch of new hi-tech computer-generated maps showing the suburbs and streets affected by "overland flow" waters.

The maps - which also show river and creek **flood** areas - are available on the council's website, and residents can zoom in to see computer-modelled stormwater flows in and around their streets and home blocks.

"There are three ways that people in their homes in Brisbane can be affected by water coming on to their property," Cr Newman said.

"The first is, of course, a river **flood**, there's also suburban creek flooding and there's something that people have not really heard about before, but it is an issue, and that's overland flow.

"Overland flow flooding occurs (from) heavy rain events simply through the lay of the land - it's just the intensity of the rain and this modelling has been done on the basis of a one in 50 (years) rainfall event."

The modelling estimates 28,651 properties could be affected by overland flow waters from deluges.

Coorparoo has the highest number of properties potentially affected, followed by Newstead and Clayfield.

Real Estate Institute of Queensland managing director Dan Molloy said the **flood** mapping was unlikely to have a dramatic effect on property values, merely providing another level of research for prospective buyers.

"The tool ensures more information is available to the community and this is a positive," he said.

The Insurance Council of Australia welcomed the initiative as a means of improving community awareness and resilience to weather events.

"To adequately protect and assist consumers, **flood** risk data needs to be improved in Australia, and through better **flood** mapping data developed by government, the industry can continue its work to bring **flood** products to market," a spokesperson said.

The publication of the information is unlikely to affect insurance premiums.

NRMA Insurance spokeswoman Sue Hawkins said the company already covered the potential impact of stormwater run-off in its home insurance policies.

A spokesperson for Suncorp said it had undertaken its own extensive research.

At risk

Top five suburbs affected by flash flooding:

Suburbs Properties

* Coorparoo.....1067

* Newstead.....770

* Clayfield.....728

* Camp Hill.....666

* Paddington.....665

Caption: AWASH: Kingsford Smith Drive following heavy summer rains. Graph showing: Top five suburbs affected by flash flooding

Illus: Photo

Table

IllusBy: Peter Wallis

Section: NEWS

Brisbane flash floods 'no surprise': Mayor

By Emma Pollard and Natalie Poyhonen

Updated Wed Feb 17, 2010 4:25pm AEDT

Brisbane's Lord Mayor Campbell Newman says he is not surprised that parts of the city were flooded by yesterday's downpour.

Cars, homes, and businesses were damaged as up to 120 millimetres of rain fell on the region.

Councillor Newman says council officers have been out in force today cleaning up.

He has also defended the city's drainage system.

"Brisbane is a flood prone city," he said.

"It experiences extremes of climate.

"We've been through a very dry drought period for some years and now we're seeing the way the city operates.

"January and February are our wet season - there are low-lying areas of Brisbane that have always flooded and unfortunately they always continue to flood."

Dam levels rise

Meanwhile, south-east Queensland's combined dam levels have risen by 1 per cent with the floodgates at North Pine now opened.

SEQ Water spokesman Mike Foster says the dams had their largest overnight increase this summer.

"We had some pretty significant rainfall across our catchments overnight," he said.

"Sunshine Coast got the best of it - Baroon Pocket Dam jumped by about 4.5 per cent.

"In terms of Brisbane's dams, North Pine and Somerset certainly got the best of it."

Central Qld warning

Emergency services are warning Central Queensland residents to be prepared for possible flash flooding, with severe storms expected through the region.

The [Bureau of Meteorology \(BOM\)](#) has issued a warning.

Rockhampton, Gladstone and Yeppoon are among the areas that might be affected.

Heavy rain has been falling through the day in Rockhampton.

- [Map: Brisbane 4000](#)
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Robbie Medlin from Emergency Management Queensland (EMQ) says people should take precautions and not try to walk or drive through floodwaters.

Tags: [disasters-and-accidents](#), [emergency-incidents](#), [weather](#), [rainfall](#), [australia](#), [qld](#), [brisbane-4000](#), [bundaberg-4670](#), [gladstone-4680](#), [maroochydore-4558](#), [rockhampton-4700](#), [southport-4215](#), [yeppoon-4703](#)

First posted Wed Feb 17, 2010 3:54pm AEDT

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Brisbane Mayor fears 1974 flood repeat

Updated Tue Oct 12, 2010 1:46pm AEDT

The Brisbane City Council says a combination of heavy rainfall, flooding and full dams have all the hallmarks of the period leading up to the 1974 floods in south-east Queensland.

Record-breaking rainfall has flooded waterways, roads and homes, cut power and filled the region's dams.

The State Emergency Service (SES) has received more than 2,000 calls for help since early Monday morning, with homes, businesses and properties flooded on Brisbane's northside.

More than a dozen homes were evacuated at Deagon in Brisbane's outer north and swift water rescue teams were sent to collect stranded residents.

About 150 people were stranded by floodwaters in the small town of Kilcoy overnight on the Sunshine Coast hinterland.

Somerset Council spokesman Dan Hall says about 80 bunked down in the town hall and others camped in tents and caravans in the street.

Water rose over the local bridge, cutting off the town last night.

Kenilworth in the Sunshine Coast hinterland has also been isolated by flooding.

The highway into Kilcoy has now reopened more than 12 hours after it was cut by floodwaters.

Emergency Management Queensland says the western bridge has reopened and the highway east to Caboolture will be clear later today.

Moreton Bay Regional Council Mayor Allan Sutherland says members of the public pitched in to help emergency crews.

"We had our back against the wall with the number of calls we were getting and rang up and offered assistance," he said.

He says the deluge will cost councils hundreds of thousands of dollars for road repairs.

Meanwhile, water is flowing over the spillway at the Hinze Dam on the Gold Coast.

The South East Queensland Water Grid manager says the spill gates were opened around 7:30am (AEST).

1974 flood fears

Queensland Emergency Services Minister Neil Roberts says there were parts of Brisbane affected that have not been flooded in a decade.

- [Map: Brisbane 4000](#)
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In the 1974 floods, 14 people died, nearly 7,000 homes were flooded and the city was left with a damage bill of more than \$200 million.

Brisbane Lord Mayor Campbell Newman says the current weather conditions are very similar and residents should start thinking about preparing for another big flood.

"Back in '73 there was an extended period of wet leading up to January '74 where we had a cyclonic rain event which turned into a rain depression and then dumped a whole lot of rain in the catchment areas," he said.

"That's something that will one day happen again and given that this is the first time we have had so much rain, plus with full dams, again it is of concern."

He says council started talking in 2006 about the flooding issues across Brisbane.

"That was during the drought - my message is that it will flood again one day in different parts of the town and people should inform themselves and take precautions if they are in one of those flood-prone properties," he said.

"We have got a very wet period at the moment - we have got full dams and all we would need is another big rain event in the next few months in the catchment areas and we could have flooding.

"Certainly what has been demonstrated in the last 72 hours is that we can have significant creek flooding effects that will give some big problems to local residents and businesses."

A leading climatologist warns another devastating flood could happen in southern Queensland now the La Nina weather pattern is entrenched.

Record floods caused millions of dollars of damage to southern Queensland in March.

The floods were described as a 'once-in-a-100-year' event but University of Southern Queensland climatologist Roger Stone says a repeat is possible.

"The rain we're getting at the moment is just a foretaste, you might say," he said.

"It's just a little warning of things to come for the summer.

"This type of year Queensland is exposed enormously and a lot of eastern Australian and northern Australia to extreme events."

Clean-up

The clean-up begins today after days of the record-breaking rain across the state's south-east.

The weather bureau says the rain is easing but will continue for several more days.

Roads have been badly damaged across the region, hundreds of properties were flooded and beaches were eroded.

Premier Anna Bligh says the SES responded to more than 700 calls for help yesterday in the Brisbane and Moreton council regions.

"I do encourage people though to stay safe in and around water," she said.

"There are many young children who won't have seen fast moving flood water in local creeks.

"Please keep your children away from pipes, keep them away from these fast running creeks.

"We don't want any accidents, and we have seen some rapid water rescues already."

Sandgate fire officer Leigh Campbell says he is concerned some residents were reluctant to leave their homes yesterday despite the danger:

"An understandable problem was that people didn't want to leave their homes," he said.

"We were concerned that we were going to get more rain and that the high tide hadn't reached its peak and that the speed of the water was going to pick up.

"When that happens, it makes it very difficult to rescue people."

He says he is worried about the approaching wet season.

"The dams are full, the ground is very wet," he said.

"It is concerning me now that we're coming into the wet season or the rainy season - if we get cyclones, which are predicted, I think we're going to have a lot more of these rescues.

"I reach out to people to say start preparing for those conditions."

Records tumble

Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) senior forecaster Brian Rolstone says October rainfall records for many areas in the state's south-east have tumbled in the past few days.

On the Sunshine Coast, Tewantin and Maleny have had more than 400 millimetres since the start of the month, breaking 60-year old records.

He says there will be further periods of rain before the end of the month.

"The heavy rain has really gone inland now and the precipitation is decreasing on the south-east coast," he said.

"We have still got lots of little showers but overall it is decreasing and the main pulse has gone into across the Darling Downs and we can expect just lighter showers on Tuesday."

Mr Harrison says the heaviest falls are on Brisbane's northern outskirts, but conditions have eased slightly on the Gold Coast to the south and parts of the northern Sunshine Coast.

He says the wet weather is not expected to clear in the south-east until Thursday.

"The rainfall has become a bit more focussed now compared to affecting the whole south-east coast that we saw [Monday] morning," he said.

"The heaviest rain is affecting the northern parts of Brisbane and out towards the north-west and west."

- Reporting by Francis Tapim, Kim Lyell, Jo Skinner, Bruce Atkinson, Sam Burgess and Charmaine Kane

Tags: [disasters-and-accidents](#), [emergency-incidents](#), [weather](#), [rainfall](#), [storm](#), [australia](#), [qld](#), [brisbane-4000](#), [caboolture-4510](#), [maroochydore-4558](#), [somer-set-dam-4312](#), [southport-4215](#), [toowoomba-4350](#)

First posted Mon Oct 11, 2010 10:54pm AEDT

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Brisbane MXX

Edition 1 - BRISTUE 12 OCT 2010, Page 004

Newman sounds flood alert

WET FORECAST

Brisbane's **flood** threat is at 1974 levels, says Lord Mayor **Campbell Newman**.

Speaking on ABC Radio this morning, Newman said people should be aware of the **flood** risks, particularly with more rain forecast for the coming weeks.

"It's not the sky is falling, it's just that there could be a series of circumstances which could lead to a fairly significant series of **flood** events around Brisbane," he said.

The weather bureau said Brisbane had received 22.8mm of rain since 9am yesterday.

The rain is expected to clear today and tomorrow, before a fine day on Thursday. Thundery rain is forecast for Friday.

BIOG: CAMPBELL NEWMAN

Column: mX News

Section: MX



**FLOOD FIGHTBACK RIBBON CAMPAIGN TO
HONOUR VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS**
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Brisbane suburbs most at risk of flooding as Campbell Newman warns of repeat of 1974

- Anna Caldwell, Natalie Gregg and Ursula Heger
- From: The Courier-Mail
- October 13, 2010 12:12PM
- 89 comments

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SWATHES of Brisbane suburbs and thousands of homes lie in the path of a once-in-50-year flood event, with experts warning that Wivenhoe Dam may not be sufficient to prevent a repeat of the disastrous 1974 floods.

An analysis of Brisbane's flood maps reveal suburbs including Rocklea, Windsor, Toombul, Deagon, Ashgrove, Albion, Bulimba, Chelmer and Tennyson are at risk if the rain keeps falling.

Is your suburb floodprone? Check the map. (<http://maps.google.com.au/maps/ms?hl=en&ie=UTF8&msa=0&msid=117462258805947164785.000492754166ff46a24a7&z=11>)

Lord Mayor Campbell Newman said no amount of flood mitigation works would protect low-lying areas of the city, as he foreshadowed a repeat of the 1974 floods.

Southeast Queensland Water Grid managers said yesterday residents should feel secure that Wivenhoe would mitigate the impact of a 1974 rainfall, but other experts said the southeast needed to prepare for the worst-case scenario.

Five of Wivenhoe's floodgates were opened yesterday for the first time since 1999 as the State Government tried desperately to manage the water level.

Hydrologist David Sargent said Wivenhoe Dam "wasn't the solution to everything" and the flood capability of the southeast depended on where the rain fell.

Queensland University of Technology property economics expert Chris Eves said in-fill development within the 10km inner-ring of the CBD had left new properties at risk.

The warning came as Cr Newman said recent weather had all the hallmarks of the 1974 flood disaster, where 7000 homes were flooded and 14 people died. He went so far as to guarantee residents of low-lying suburbs such as Deagon, Toombul, Windsor and Rocklea were set to experience more flooding.

"No amount of concrete or steel or flood mitigation works will stop flooding in those parts of town," he said.

Natural Resources Minister Stephen Robertson urged the southeast to be "live to the possibility" that there could be a repeat of the 1974 floods, adding that the state was experiencing more rain than it had had in years – all before the official wet season.

Brisbane City Council and the State Government both tried to dodge the blame for residents living in flood-prone areas. Cr Newman hit out at the Beattie Labor government, which he said refused to contribute to the council's flood buy-back program which began in 2005.

But Mr Robertson yesterday blamed local councils for allowing Queenslanders to build in the flood-prone areas. "That is a council responsibility and always has been," he said.

Although Southeast Queensland Water Grid spokesman Barry Dennien said water levels were meticulously managed by the use of floodgates, he was unable to say what would happen if more water fell than the amount in 1974.

Residents in Brisbane's inner-north have blamed the \$5.6 billion Airport Link busway and toll road project of worsening flooding along one of the city's main waterways.

But Thiess John Holland has denied the problems were due to the project, saying the area was already flood-prone.

Long-term residents in Gordon Park and Woolloowin have said work done to Kedron Brook for the Airport Link project has left residents at risk and their pleas for protection have gone unanswered.

Cr Newman said yesterday he had written to the council chief executive to follow up on residents' concerns that the Airport Link project had added to the flooding.

Recommend 178 recommendations. Sign Up to see what your friends recommend.

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Flooding threat to inner city suburbs

By Ursula Heger, Anna Caldwell

THE decision to open the **flood** gates on southeast Queensland's biggest dam could trigger localised flooding in inner Brisbane today.

Brisbane City Council last night offered sandbags to residents in seven suburbs and warned them to take their cars to higher ground, as millions of litres of water made its way towards the city via the river.

State water officials insist they haven't misjudged the water release, saying that failing to open the **flood** gates would have put the city at greater risk.

Despite a forecast of fine weather today, council said the extra water gushing from the dam's five open gates would combine with the regular high tide, due to peak at 2.23pm, to threaten parts of the city.

``With controlled water releases from Wivenhoe Dam by Seqwater beginning to arrive at the lower reaches of Brisbane River and coming on top of (the) high tide . . . residents are encouraged to be prepared for possible street flooding in susceptible areas," the council warning said.

The warning, sent last night by text message to 10,000 residents, came just 24 hours after Seqwater grid management opened all five of Wivenhoe's massive **flood** gates for the first time since 1999.

Council last night opened four works depots to provide residents with **flood** supplies, and closed off **flood** prone streets ``until further notice".

Lord Mayor **Campbell Newman** said council was being ``open", and trying to give residents as much notice as possible of the danger.

``Modelling by council officers based on the amount of water let out of Wivenhoe Dam by Seqwater combined with high tide levels shows there could be some local street flooding," he said.

``As a precaution, council is advising people not to park in certain areas."

But Seqwater chief executive Barry Dennien said there would be minimal impact to Brisbane from dam releases.

Mr Dennien said Seqwater had taken advice from the Weather Bureau on how much water to release and was confident with its operations.

``There won't be an issue. Water is released to a strictly monitored and controlled plan and the Brisbane City Council has been informed of this," he said. ``What do people want us to do, hold back water and put the city at risk?"

Mr Dennien said state legislation required water to be released from the dam within seven days of it filling to 100 per cent to ensure there was capacity in the event of a **flood**.

``A third of the **flood** compartment is holding water and it has to be reduced in case we get further rain and the risk increases," he said.

Council workers last night closed off access to the Northey Street Car Park, at Windsor.

One worker said the order to shut the park was circulated among staff about 3pm and the safety measures would remain in place for most of today.

Last night, the Bureau of Meteorology issued a warning for minor flooding easing in the upper Brisbane River above Wivenhoe Dam. It said releases would be increased today and this would affect water levels downstream to Mt Crosby.

A spokesman said the high tide due this afternoon wasn't expected to create levels higher than those seen on Monday.

The **flood** warning comes as the State Government activated disaster relief and recovery arrangements following this week's deluge. The damage bill has topped \$9.5 million.

WIVENHOE'S WALL OF WATER ... HAS A DATE WITH THE 2PM TIDE

AREAS TIPPED TO **FLOOD**

WINDSOR

Bryden Street, Allom Street, Downey Street, Edgar Street, Green Terrace, Northey Street, Victoria Street.

Entry to the Northey Street carpark (behind Royal Brisbane Hospital) will be closed from 6.30pm tonight. An exit point will be open at the site until midnight tonight.

MILTON

Torwood Street Eagle Terrace

The Coronation Drive bikeway near Park Road may also be closed during the peak and diversions will be put in place

NORMAN PARK

Donaldson Street

EAST BRISBANE

Hilton Street

ALBION

Bogan Street, Immarna Street, Collingwood Street, Fox Street and Elliott Street

BOWEN HILLS

Edmondstone Street, Abbotsford Road (outbound from Burrow Street) and Wickham Grove

NEWSTEAD

Longland Street (at Ann Street end)

HELP AVAILABLE

Collect sandbags from:

- * Darra Works Depot, Shamrock Rd, Darra
- * Morningside Works Depot, Redfern Street, Morningside
- * Newmarket SES Depot, Wilston Rd, Newmarket
- * Zillmere Works Depot, Jennings St, Zillmere

Caption: on pages 2 and 3: DELAYED REACTION: Leif McLean and Olivia, 3, of Lowood, check out the Wivenhoe Spillway yesterday while Brisbane City Council workers and Josh Howlett (inset) of Albion Tyres & More prepare for the water to hit the CBD today; graph and artwork showing WIVENHOE'S WALL OF WATER ... HAS A DATE WITH THE 2PM TIDE; graph showing HELP AVAILABLE

Illus: Photo

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Brisbane flood warning 'alarmist' says council opposition

By Emma Pollard

Updated Fri Oct 15, 2010 8:27am AEDT

The Brisbane City Council Opposition says the council's warning about possible flooding in low-lying areas yesterday was alarmist.

Residents were told water releases from Wivenhoe Dam, coupled with the high tide, could cause high water levels in some areas.

The flooding never eventuated, but Lord Mayor Campbell Newman says the council had a responsibility to warn the community.

Opposition Leader Shayne Sutton says he should have listened to advice from the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM).

"Campbell Newman's statements about the potential flooding were alarmist and clearly made off his own bat without taking any notice of the agencies which are best equipped to provide us with this information," she said.

Tags: [disasters-and-accidents](#), [emergency-planning](#), [floods](#), [government-and-politics](#), [local-government](#), [australia](#), [qld](#), [brisbane-4000](#)

First posted Fri Oct 15, 2010 8:20am AEDT

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- [Related Story: Brisbane residents sandbagging in case of floods](#)

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Mayor hits back on early flood warnings

By Andrew Fraser, Naomi Lim

THE Brisbane City Council has defended its decision to send out 17,000 text messages telling citizens to sandbag their houses and prepare for floods, despite the floods not arriving. Lord Mayor **Campbell Newman** said the council was "damned if we do, damned if we don't" in sending out the messages. And he criticised the Brisbane media for what he said was making a bigger threat of the floods than was actually the case.

"Elements of the media have caused alarm -- that's what happened in this case," Mr Newman said. "We sent out a straightforward community service announcement telling people we had expert advice that there may be flooding, and that they should prepare for it."

"If there had been floods, there would have been screams we didn't tell anyone."

Southeast Queensland had heavy rain early in the week and all dams in the area are at 100 per cent capacity, with further rain expected today and next week.

Consequently state government authorities made the decision to release water from Wivenhoe Dam, from Tuesday.

Wivenhoe is upstream on the Brisbane River, and on Thursday a king tide was forecast for the river. Brisbane City Council used its early warning system to send out targeted text messages and issue a community service announcement to the media.

While council officers advised the mayor there was a risk of flooding in areas close to the middle of Brisbane, the Bureau of Meteorology said the risk of flooding was further upstream.

So far the council's early warning system has been used 10 times. A private contractor, Early Warning Network, based in northern NSW, sends out the text messages.

The ALP opposition on Brisbane City Council said the SMS warnings were alarmist and the mayor should have listened to advice from the weather bureau.

Section: LOCAL

Could the Big One happen again? - Experts warn of cyclones, rain and flooding on the way

By Patrick Lion and Samantha Healy

"Never mind 1974 . . . a repeat of the 1893 floods, that's what I would be concerned about"
- Meteorologist Jeff Callaghan

QUEENSLAND has been put on emergency footing for a wet and wild summer amid predictions of the worst flooding in more than a century in the southeast.

The state's top weather forecaster will present a special briefing for State Cabinet tomorrow to warn that communities must be prepared for the threat of up to six cyclones hitting the coast - including the southeast.

With gale-force winds yesterday battering the state after a week of torrential rain in the southeast, Bureau of Meteorology state director Jim Davidson will warn the Government that the emergence of a rare La Nina weather pattern has created an "increased risk" of severe cyclonic activity between December and March.

"This is not a run-of-the mill La Nina," Mr Davidson will say in the presentation.

"Expect with some degree of confidence a fairly active cyclone season and a continuation of the above-average rains and associated flooding."

Premier Anna Bligh yesterday said she had asked Mr Davidson to address Cabinet because it was important the Government was ready after recent disasters such as Cyclone Larry in 2006.

"It is clear to me that there is a heightened sense of concern in the community," the Premier told The Sunday Mail.

"I do not want Queenslanders to be unduly alarmed but it is my responsibility as Premier to make sure we are as prepared as we can be for whatever nature might throw at us.

"This is an unprecedented move. I want my ministers, our Government and the public to be prepared."

Mr Davidson said the weather pattern meant an increased risk of cyclones tracking further south than normal.

Another leading weather expert warned that a southeast cyclone could trigger the biggest **flood** to hit Brisbane in 120 years - and residents should prepare for it now.

Meteorologist Jeff Callaghan, who retired from the weather bureau last year, said a repeat of the massive 1893 **flood** would be devastating for Brisbane.

"Never mind 1974 . . . a repeat of the 1893 floods, that's what I would be concerned about," Mr. Callaghan said.

The highest of three **flood** peaks in Brisbane City in 1893 was 8.35m on February 5 - 2.9m higher than in 1974.

Mr Callaghan said it was inevitable a **flood** as big as 1893 would happen again.

"We have had a lot of large rain events over the past few years . . . you could assume we may have entered a new wet weather cycle," he said.

"The 30-odd years prior to 1976-77 were dominated by La Nina patterns and the 30 years since have been El Nino-dominated.

"But since about 2005 we have begun to see more large rainfall and cyclone events, so the question is whether we are entering a 30 or even 100-year wet cycle."

Brisbane Lord Mayor **Campbell Newman** warned that no amount of **flood** mitigation works would protect low-lying areas of the city.

Hydrologist Tony Weber, of eWater Cooperative Research Centre, said flooding would depend on where the rain fell.

"If it falls, say, in the Bremer and Lockyer rivers, we will have very little control over flooding," Mr Weber said.

"But if it falls in the Upper Brisbane and Stanley River catchment, we have some limited control . . . but we shouldn't be looking at the Wivenhoe Dam to save us."

Former **flood** task force director and professor of civil engineering Colin Apelt said Brisbane sat on a vast **flood** plain and the risks were still high. "People have been lulled into a false sense of security," he said.

FLOOD FACTS

1893

* February, after a series of cyclones

* Rain: 400-1900mm

* **Flood** peak: 8.35m

* Deaths: 7

* Damage bill: Unknown

1974

* January, after Cyclone Wanda

- * Rain: 500-900mm
- * **Flood peak:** 5.45m
- * Deaths: 16
- * Damage bill: \$980 million

2010

- * September-October, after intense low
- * Rain: 323mm
- * **Flood peak:** 1.55m
- * Deaths: 0
- * Damage bill: \$9.5 million

Caption: On pages 10 and 11: FLASHBACK: During the great flood of 1893, the Brisbane River breaks its banks to engulf the Customs House (main picture), a horse and rowboat crosses Edward St near the Botanic Gardens, and patrons line the balconies as Graham's Hotel at South Brisbane is surrounded by rising water; Graph showing Flood Facts.

Illus: Photo

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Brisbane MXX

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Council introduces flood alert system

EARLY WARNING

Brisbane residents in flood-prone areas can register for a new city council creek **flood** alert text service.

Lord Mayor **Campbell Newman** said registered residents would receive an alert via SMS, email or a voice recorded message when rain and creek levels indicated their property was at risk from flooding.

He said the new creek **flood** alert service was in addition to the Early Warning Alert system announced in December 2009 and would complement the free Floodwise property reports and **flood** flag maps available online.

For more information visit www.brisbane.qld.gov.au or ring 3403 8888.

Column: mX News

Section: MX

Early flood warnings for Brisbane

COUNCIL 20 OCT 10 @ 07:34AM BY TARYN DAVIS

0

Recommend 2 recommendations: Sign Up to see what your friends recommend.



IN the wake of flooding across Brisbane Lord Mayor Campbell Newman has announced a new creek flood alert service.

Councillor Newman said Council's new early warning tool would alert residents in Boondall, Rocklea, Hemmant and East Brisbane of rising water levels.

“This free service will allow people to receive alerts for creek flooding events that could potentially affect their home and we may look to expand it into other areas as technology allows,” Cr Newman said.

“This is a new, targeted form of free information for Brisbane residents that will allow them to prepare for potential flooding.

“Last week's flooding events had a huge impact on many residents across the city and the Weather Bureau is warning us to prepare for more storms and possible flooding.”

To sign up to the Early Warning Alert Service on Council's website or phoning Council on 3403 8888.

<http://www.wherelive.com.au>

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C.O.M.A.

All times AEST

Newman resolute over flood warning

TONY MOORE, BRISBANE TIMES

07 Dec, 2010 02:52 PM

Brisbane City Council will continue providing flood data to residents but will leave announcements about dam releases to state authorities, Lord Mayor Campbell Newman said this morning.

The council today released a revised version of its free Flood Wise Property Report, which shows flood levels and water flows at individual blocks of land in the city.

It also announced it would increase the number of flood warning lights beside flood-prone creeks.

There are now three flood warning lights, with the latest one installed at Shaw Road, Wooloowin joining lights at

Other lights are located at Marshall Road, Rocklea, and at Zillman Waterholes, Virginia.

Tensions rose between Brisbane City Council and state water officials in October, when the council provided information about likely local flooding after water was released from Wivenhoe Dam.

Lord Mayor Campbell Newman today disagreed there was poor communication between the two levels of government.

"Council will put out warnings when we believe there is an issue that needs to be put out in front of the community," Cr Newman said.

"We will continue to warn people about things and we will be very precise in our language.

"I am going to err on the side always of telling people what is going on, what the experts are saying and I will let people make a decision with the information in hand."

The Floodwise Report, available at www.brisbane.qld.gov.au, provides water flow information for individual blocks of land in Brisbane.

Meanwhile, more than 18,000 homes have signed up to Brisbane City Council's free SMS free flood and storm alert message service.

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[Wet Christmas: rain to continue all month](#)

Fear of floods haunts mayor

By Sarah Vogler

BRISBANE residents are being warned to take out **flood** insurance and move precious possessions out of homes in known **flood** zones, with predictions the holiday season will be marred by disaster.

Lord Mayor **Campbell Newman** says he is more concerned than ever that this holiday period could bring **flood** devastation similar to the infamous 1974 floods.

"The weather patterns are not encouraging," Cr Newman said. "Everything I've seen has indicated there will be flooding."

However, Cr Newman said it might not be a river **flood**.

"The real risk is to people who've moved into our community . . . who don't realise that the idyllic little local creek can turn into a terrible, dangerous, raging torrent that can destroy their hard-earned savings and the value of their home."

He said he would be holidaying close to Brisbane in case the worst happens.

Cr Newman's concerns were shared by Premier Anna Bligh yesterday.

"I will be only an hour's flight away and that was one of the things I took into consideration when making holiday plans," she said.

Cr Newman urged residents to look at the council's free **flood** reports to see if their home could be affected and, if so, to take out **flood** insurance if needed.

"There could easily be flooding in places like Northey St, Bulimba Creek, Stable Swamp Creek, right across Brisbane," he said. "We saw on the weekend some flooding down at Wynnum, we saw flooding back in October on the Cabbage Tree Creek system."

"There are people who could take action to remove precious personal effects to another location, to give it to relatives or someone to look after because I don't want to see people with the hardship of that '74 situation again."

Cr Newman said he did not believe his intentions to stay close to home would be in vain.

"I'm afraid I think I will be needed and so will council officials," he said.

"I intend to be on hand."

Caption: DANGER: Campbell Newman is concerned.

Illus: Photo

Section: NEWS

26. Early flood warnings for Brisbane (*North-West News*, 20 October 2010)

In the wake of flooding across Brisbane Lord Mayor Campbell Newman has announced a new creek flood alert service ...

"Last week's flooding events had a huge impact on many residents across the city and the Weather Bureau is warning us to prepare for more storms and possible flooding."

27. Newman resolute over flood warning (www.brisbanetimes.com.au, 7 December 2010)

Brisbane City Council will continue providing flood data to residents but will leave announcements about dam releases to state authorities, Lord Mayor Campbell Newman said this morning ...

"I am going to err on the side always of telling people what is going on, what the experts are saying and I will let people make a decision with the information in hand."

28. Fear of floods haunts mayor (*The Courier Mail*, 16 December 2010)

Brisbane residents are being warned to take out flood insurance and move precious possessions out of homes in known flood zones, with predictions the holiday season will be marred by disaster.

Lord Mayor Campbell Newman says he is more concerned than ever that this holiday period could bring flood devastation similar to the infamous 1974 floods.

29. Tides to reach new highs in Brisbane suburbs (www.news.domain.com.au, 17 December 2010)

Lord Mayor Campbell Newman again warned new residents yesterday of the flooding risks in the city.

"My concern is that over the last 15 years we have had a very dry period and we are now seeing a return to the conditions that prevailed during the 60s and 70s," he told 4BC Radio.

"Since then we have had a lot of people [move to Brisbane] and they have chosen to live near this beautiful, idyllic little creek in suburbia. I'm afraid they don't know that it could turn into a ranging torrent and it could actually threaten their property."



Tides to reach new highs in suburban Brisbane

Marissa Calligeros
December 17, 2010 - 7:53AM

Maps released this week show low-lying Brisbane suburbs, including Hemmant, Northgate, Strathpine, Bald Hills and Tingalpa, are most likely to be affected by sea level rises by the year 2100.

Advertisement

Suburbs along the Brisbane River, including Bulimba, New Farm and Woolloongabba, are also at risk of being flooded more frequently.

The maps calculated future water levels across all major capital cities with the use of laser technology, and were developed by the federal Department of Climate Change and the Co-operative Research Centre for Spatial Information.

See the maps in full:

- [Brisbane's northern suburbs](#)
- [Brisbane's inner northern suburbs](#)
- [Brisbane's eastern suburbs](#)
- [Brisbane's bayside suburbs](#)
- [Brisbane's southern suburbs](#)

The projections measured the impact of high tides resulting from seas rising various levels between 0.5 metres by 2100, which is considered unavoidable, and 1.1 metres.

The maps show low-lying suburbs alongside Brisbane's creeks and lakes are most at risk of being inundated by king tides, rather than oceanfront areas.

While the ocean is shown to encroach on some bayside suburbs, areas between Hemmant, Murarrie and Tingalpa are completely underwater.

Most of Brisbane Airport could also be regularly submerged by the end of the century, according to the maps.

Bruce Thom, the chairman of the Australian Coastal Society, said the impact of sea-level rises would be similar to the "Venice effect".

"You do not see one big flood, but a greater frequency of inundation due to high tides," he said.

"Seventy years ago St Mark's Square in Venice, Italy, would only be flooded just a few times a year. Now the square is flooded a couple of hundred times a year."

Research centre chief executive Peter Woodgate warned the maps were only showing the predicted tidal rise and did not take into account the impact of flooding rains and storms, which would occur much more regularly.

"One in 100 year [flooding] events would be occurring once a year," Dr Woodgate said.

"... If you get flooding coinciding with a high tide, as we do, then the impact will be even worse."

Dr Woodgate said he hoped that within two years the centre would be able to predict flooding levels for every

backyard in high-risk Brisbane suburbs.

"We will be able to go door-to-door and talk to residents about what the implications are and what needs to be done," he said.

"It may show that there are homes which are [unsustainable] but we cannot reach that conclusion until we do further detailed analysis.

"We need to think about the protective infrastructure we can put in place, for example, higher levy banks, better drainage systems and different building materials."

Lord Mayor Campbell Newman again warned new residents yesterday of the flooding risks in the city.

"My concern is that over the last 15 years we have had a very dry period and we are now seeing a return to the conditions that prevailed during the 60s and 70s," he told 4BC Radio.

"Since then we have had a lot of people [move to Brisbane] and they have chosen to live near this beautiful, idyllic little creek in suburbia. I'm afraid they don't know that it could turn into a raging torrent and it could actually threaten their property."

Cr Newman encouraged residents to make themselves aware of the flooding risk to their property and take out adequate flood insurance.

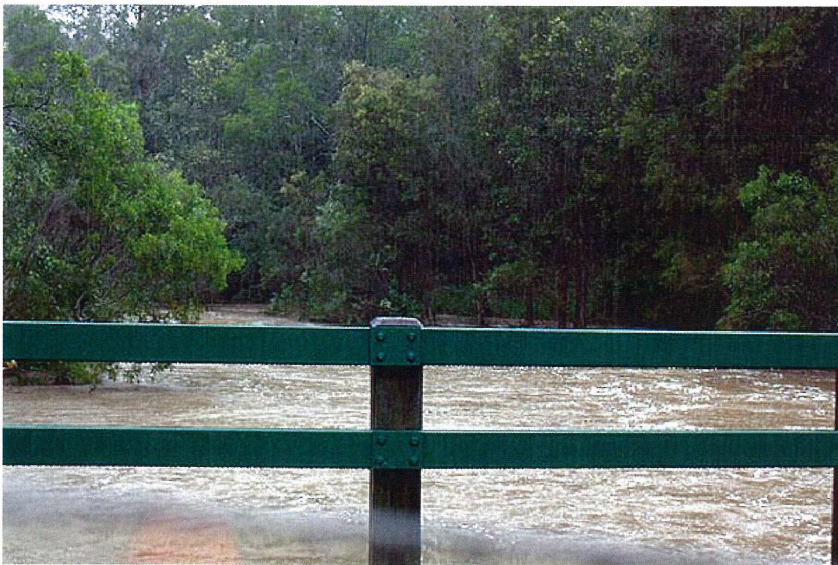
This story was found at: <http://news.domain.com.au/domain/real-estate-news/tides-to-reach-new-highs-in-suburban-brisbane-20101217-19028.html>



Could the 1974 flood happen again?

Daniel Hurst
October 13, 2010

Comments 9



Readers share their flood photos

Ira Buckby Road West, Cashmere *Photo: Mark Phillips*



For Bert Tracey, seeing the water come into his home during Brisbane's 1974 floods was a big shock.

Mr Tracey, whose Ashgrove home in low-lying Mossvale Street backs on to Ithaca Creek, says there were no proper warnings and nobody thought the flood waters would rise so high.

He remembers the water peaking about five or six feet off the ground in his area and lapping inside his home. People across the road were worse affected, with their living areas being inundated with two or three feet of water.

“It was a shock alright,” he says.

Lord Mayor Campbell Newman has brought memories of the 1974 floods back to the surface by pointing to the deluge of the last few days and **warning the city is bound to flood again**.

He argues current conditions are similar to those witnessed in the lead-up to the 1974 floods, which caused hundreds of millions of dollars in property damage and resulted in 14 deaths, and people should not be complacent.

Brisbane experienced near-record rainfall during the 1973-74 summer, a trend that mirrored the rest of Australia at that time, a **Bureau of Meteorology report** notes.

The worst of the flooding occurred over the Australia Day holiday weekend in 1974, with more than 6700 homes flooded and the water reaching an additional 6000 properties.

On January 23, 1974, a low pressure system located 600 kilometres east of Mackay intensified into Cyclone Wanda. It crossed the coast near Double Island Point the next day, bringing saturating rain to the Brisbane River catchment and forcing the monsoonal trough southwards.

Total rainfall in the Brisbane metropolitan area ranged from 500 to 900 millimetres in the five-day period from January 24 to 29. The bureau recorded 650 millimetres in central Brisbane.

To put these falls in context in light of the recent deluge, the bureau reports Toowong received 160 millimetres in the four days leading up to 4pm yesterday while East Brisbane had about 136 millimetres. Kilcoy, which was **still cut off by floodwaters** yesterday, received 199 millimetres in that time.

Weatherzone meteorologist Doug Fenton says a repeat of the 1974 floods in coming months is not out of the question, given the looming wet season and **increased chance of cyclones**.

Mr Fenton says Brisbane has already had 216 millimetres of rain since the start of the month, despite the average total rainfall in October standing at only 62 millimetres.

“This is unusual, to have this much rain,” he says.

“It’s certainly a bit of a warning I guess, to watch out for the potential for flooding and prepare, because the wet season hasn’t started yet.”

The city could be in for above-average rainfall in coming months with lots of moisture in the atmosphere, he says.

Mr Fenton says the current La Niña event – increasing the chance of cloud, rain and tropical cyclones in Queensland – is likely to be present until early next year.

“Tropical cyclones bring torrential rain,” he says.

“They’re not common to reach as far south as Brisbane, but Tropical Cyclone Wanda in January 1974 did impact Brisbane, and on average 1.2 cyclones pass within 500 kilometres of Brisbane each year.

“It is hard to say whether we’ll have a repeat of the ’74 floods but it’s good to take precautions.”

Queensland Water Minister Stephen Robertson agrees a repeat of the rainfall seen in 1974 is possible, but says drought mitigation measures have improved since then.

He points to the impact of Wivenhoe Dam, which was constructed in 1984 with the memory of the

devastating city floods fresh in mind.

The dam, built on the Brisbane River 80 kilometres from the city, is classed as having a full water supply when it contains about 1.2 million megalitres and is currently holding more than this amount.

However, its total storage capacity is 2.6 million megalitres.

Water authorities have a strategy of opening the flood gates to prevent it filling anywhere near that much, leaving spare capacity for up to an extra 1.45 million megalitres for flood-mitigation purposes.

The number of floodgates opened at the spill way **increased from one to five overnight**, with authorities beginning to release water into the river at the rate of 130,000 megalitres a day until it returns to its full water supply level.

SEQWater says the full supply level of Wivenhoe Dam will still be enough to support the daily water consumption of Brisbane more than 2000 times over.

The state opposition has **questioned the wisdom** of releasing water when the dam remains at only 40 per cent of total capacity, with frontbencher Jeff Seeney last week suggesting the government "learned nothing from the water crisis" and past drought.

But Mr Robertson says the additional dam capacity is kept free for use as a defence against flooding in times of severe rainfall.

He says while the exact levels at which releases are done are currently under review, residents should have confidence the dam can be used to reduce flood impacts.

"The risk of a repeat of the impact of 1974 has been greatly reduced by these measures," the minister says.

SEQ Water Grid Manager chief executive Barry Dennien also wants people to be confident in the measures designed to reduce downstream flooding impacts.

"If there was a bigger event than 1974 in terms of rainfall and inflows, we're prepared for that," he says.

"As the levels start to rise, and there's forecasters looking at the weather predicting ahead what the inflows [may be], from those inflows they can gauge what the dam levels may be.

"Based on trigger points of the dams, they start opening gates when it approaches that full supply level."

However, Cr Newman argues much of the impact from the big flood was a result of suburban creek flooding.

Despite the Wivenhoe Dam measures, he says significant rain over the Bremer River catchment near Ipswich could affect Brisbane in a big way.

It's all food for thought for those who remember the 1974 floods.

Mr Tracey, whose property has missed out on any serious flooding following the downpour of the last few days, is not sure about claims the conditions are right for a repeat of those devastating floods.

But he agrees people should guard against complacency.

"Anything's possible," he says.

Mr Tracey also reckons residents should take stock, assess the risk and double-check their insurance coverage.

"After the '74 flood they forgot about it and people bought land that was flooded in '74, and they weren't told about it all," he recalls.

Comments

9 comments so far

If Mr Seeney can't understand why water is released from Wivenhoe, perhaps he should ask an expert rather than trying to look clever. He's come across as a fool, and for once makes Robertson look like he knows what he's doing.

This is what you get when a parliament is full of lawyers and business administrators. Time for more engineers and scientists as MPs.

Dave I | Brisbane - October 13, 2010, 8:09AM

A timely article. It is important to remember that Brisbane is low-lying and built on a river and its associated flood plains. It WILL flood, not matter what. Drainage works can only do so much, and with a combination of sustained rain, high tide and the stupidity of allowing construction on flood plains, flooding is inevitable.

People also forget the Bremer river, which is not "blocked" by Wivenhoe.

Those calling for Wivenhoe to increase its "storage" capacity at the expense of its flood mitigation capacity need their heads examined. With Somerset full, and the de-sal plant online, combined with current flooding events, there is no need to store more water for drinking purposes.

Those calling for a reduction in prices of water also need to understand that the main cost of water is not incurred by its availability, but rather its treatment and more importantly, its transport from treatment plant to your home - i.e. the pipes and pumps. These costs don't decrease with increased storage.

At the end of the day, people need to make sure that they prepare as much as possible for floods, especially if they are in low-lying areas.

Many insurers also now offer full "flood" cover which, while expensive (which is why they never previously offered it) can protect against losses.

As someone who has lived next to Ithaca Creek for 30 years, the current events are really not unusual, more a return to weather patterns of 15 years ago.

s/c getded - hopefully not a premonition for the near future

Simba | brisbane - October 13, 2010, 9:15AM

I notice that the LNP wants to sacrifice the anti-flood reserve. Out here in a rural setting their voice is loud about what they call "Labor mismanagement", which is how they describe the flood reserve.

John S - October 13, 2010, 9:17AM

Perhaps it could happen again, while the creation of Lake Wivenhoe to act as a buffer may mitigate that to some extent, however we've been increasingly turning that into a storage system (and obviating the buffer capacity).

Combined with the increased rainfall runoff due to urbanisation and the increased "impervious area" one may offset the other ... I'm staking my bets on this or the next two years to be the most likely time.

Finophile | Gold Coast - October 13, 2010, 9:26AM

Look up Carina heights Brisbane suburb on whereis.com on the internet if all of carina heights goes under water it will be 5 times as bad as the 1974 floods. This is a fact.

pure health - October 13, 2010, 10:05AM

I take it Mr Seeney doesn't understand the words "100% drinking water capacity" . Matter of fact, at the moment it's more like 120% full. The rest of Wivenhoe is designed for flood mitigation - and that is mildly important in times like these.

The LNP is a truly viable alternative in this great state of ours...

mini me - October 13, 2010, 10:17AM

Daniel

you may like to look at this:

<http://cjeastwd.blogspot.com/2010/10/how-big-is-current-big-wet.html>

Finophile | Gold Coast - October 13, 2010, 10:36AM

@Simba and Dave

Completely agree.

And yes Dave, a house full of lawyers, does not make a good government. Quite the opposite. They're the least likely of professions to say that they're not qualified at something or need assistance from real experts! I should know, I've been a lawyer for 10 years!!

Apart from that, its amazing to see the dams full from where they were three years ago. I remember visiting Wivenhoe when it was at 20% capacity and then seeing Somerset when it first hit 90%. Hopefully the weather clears up and I can see both at over 100% with gates open. A pretty cool show of nature and engineering!

Jimmy | Brisbane / Melbourne - October 13, 2010, 1:44PM

it is clear to everyone that one of the main purpose of the dam: flood prevention.

you need a lot of capacity to hold water for this.

if the dam is full, then there is no room for flood water.

the government has been telling us the dam is not full, so they have to charge us for water usage to save water.

now the dam is only 40% full, what they did: release water.

they know perfectly clear--if they don't release water, future flood may combine with the dam water to form a bigger artificial disaster.

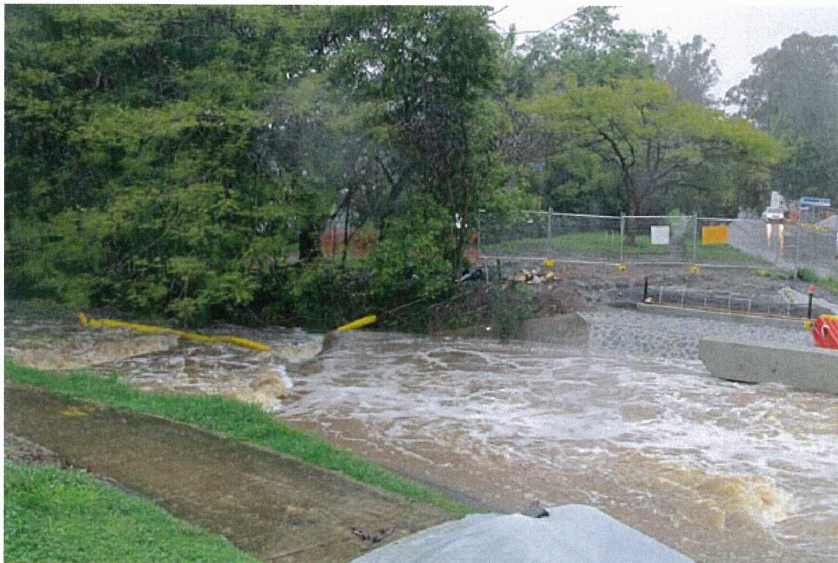
now you can see how dirty and money-thirsty politicians are.

sick of money grabbing - October 13, 2010, 8:01PM

Memories come flooding back

Marissa Calligeros
October 12, 2010

Comments 14



Violent weather pummels Brisbane

Flooded Ithaca Creek on Bowman Parade, Ashgrove. *Photo: Dan Nancarrow*



Could the recent heavy rainfall that has drenched southeast Queensland foreshadow a major flooding event?

Brisbane's Lord Mayor has warned the deluge is exhibiting the early signs of the disastrous flood of 1974.

The annual wet season still has months to run, and Campbell Newman is concerned about the combined impact of heavy rainfall, flooding and overflowing dams.

"People shouldn't be complacent. This is a flood-prone city," Cr Newman told ABC Radio. "No

amount of engineering work ... will ultimately deal with the fact that Brisbane will flood again one day."

Readers share their photos of the floods

Send your pictures to scoop@brisbanetimes.com.au or MMS 0414 284 637

Earlier this month, the Bureau of Meteorology predicted **an active cyclone season** and a wetter than average summer.

Cr Newman said a cyclonic rain depression followed an extended wet period in late 1973, before the once-in-a-century flood devastated Brisbane in January 1974.

"Just by having this sort of rainfall leading up to the true wet season ... then we could have very significant flooding damage in the suburbs of Brisbane," he said.

"We could still get a large Brisbane River flood ... if we get a large amount of rain fall in the Bremer River catchment [near Ipswich] - completely bypass Wivenhoe Dam - that would see significant impacts around the city."

He urged residents to ensure their homes were properly insured for flood damage.

Conditions across the region are easing today, but weather forecasters have warned more rain could be on the way.

The **southeast was left reeling yesterday** after torrential rain and wind gusts reaching up to 90kmh lashed the region, causing flash flooding.

Brisbane's north received some of the heaviest falls, with **residents evacuated at Deagon**, while **Boondall had its wettest day on record**. The town of Kilcoy, northwest of Brisbane, **remains cut off by floodwaters**.

Comments

14 comments so far

Just wondering is the Borg is still calling for the Government to stop releasing water from Wivenhoe for future use?? Isn't the extra capacity in Wivenhoe for flood mitigation - for moments like now??? Imagine the problems if it was truly full and we had a huge rain event - huge flooding. Fingers would be pointed then as well!

Pie Thrower - October 12, 2010, 8:31AM

I am not going to get flooded where I live. Opart of our Brisbane suburb has Brisbane's highest residential land.

pure health - October 12, 2010, 8:34AM

So pure health, do you live on the exclusive Hamilton Hill? If you don't, don't count your chickens too soon.

resident | brisbane - October 12, 2010, 8:56AM

wow 'pure health',thank you for that insightful nugget of wisdom.

appreciative | a standard altitude part of brisbane - October 12, 2010, 9:00AM

A sensible warning from the Lord Mayor - I hope everyone checks their insurance, even if you don't think it could happen in your area.

Tim | Indooroopilly - October 12, 2010, 9:03AM

Imagine if some of the water released could be rediverted inland so it could flow down through the Darling River onto the Murray River. What a stimulus to the Australian economy that would make. Inland water storage would not be under as great a threat and it would be a GREEN solution. The water charges could be used to offset the cost in South East Queensland and may even save some wild life, grow and sustain some trees and thus reduce the need for carbon taxes, grow some food etc.

The Voter | Brisbane - October 12, 2010, 9:34AM

So the Mayor is warning Brisbane is a flood prone city. This sounds and smells like political insurance to cover the many developments his administration, and to be fair the previous ALP council, approved on flood prone land. This continues to this day in Herston with approval of developments on the floodplains of Breakfast Creeks and other flood prone gullies. It's sad that such short-sightedness by Council is influenced by its hunger for rates income as well as the venal currying favour with developers who fund election campaigns as well as provide future employment opportunities for Councillors and staff.

Chris | Herston - October 12, 2010, 9:56AM

*Here, here The Voter!
Why aren't you running the state?!*

resident | brisbane - October 12, 2010, 10:10AM

*OMG! so you mean global warming err. sorry "climate change" was around when brisbane flooded in 74? OMG.
where are the believers to explain away this one?*

blue | bris - October 12, 2010, 10:25AM

What concerns me is all the residential developments allowed to developed on the 1974 flood plains. Check out the BCC flood maps, you might be in for a shock.

Ozbob | Congestion Capital - October 12, 2010, 11:21AM

Show more comments