



Rural Environment Planning Association Inc.

7 March 2011

Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry
GPO Box 1738
Brisbane QLD 4001



Dear Sir/Madam,

Preliminary Submission on Brisbane Floods, January 2011

This preliminary submission addresses issues of flood preparedness relevant to next summer's wet season. It is proposed that flood level markers be installed throughout the areas in Brisbane that were affected by the recent floods.

The Rural Environment Planning Association (Inc.) (REPA) has been active in the western Brisbane suburbs of Brookfield, Upper Brookfield, Pinjarra Hills, Pullenvale, Anstead, Moggill and parts of Kenmore Hills since 1973. REPA has frequently voiced concerns over lack of regard for flooding issues.

REPA Committee members have been surprised and concerned at the lack of awareness of flooding risks amongst the general population. Furthermore we have realised that many residents were totally unaware of areas which would be flooded even when forecasts were made during the events leading up to the January 2011 Brisbane floods.

Following the 1974 floods the suggestion was made that marks or levels on power poles would provide excellent flood markers which residents would be able to relate to in their local areas. This suggestion was not followed through at that time. REPA proposes that flood level marks be installed throughout areas that have been affected by the recent floods in Brisbane. These could either be on power poles or bus stops or other appropriate items of existing public infrastructure. They need to be visible reminders of the level to which the January 2011 flood rose, so that in the event of a future flood residents are able to make rational decisions regarding their preparations for that flood.

REPA hopes that the Commission will accept this suggestion, as, in our opinion, it would enable the general population to become better informed regarding the flood risks in their immediate area.

Yours faithfully,

[Redacted signature]

Jennifer LF Hacker

Vice-Chairman
Rural Environment Planning Association Inc.

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cc. Cr Margaret de Wit, Pullenvale Ward

Dr Bruce Flegg, Member for Moggill