

14th February 2011

Dear Commissioners,

I would like to raise the matter of the floods in Emerald in early January 2011.

The flood inundated approx 80% of the buildings in Emerald.

Emerald also flooded in early 2008.

During the 2008 flood approx 60% of the Emerald flooded and could have been greater if a very high and long flood bank hadn't broken down stream.

The wall of earth is located at or near a mine down streams from Emerald and was approx 23 meters high in 2008 when the water breached the bank.

The bank blocks approx 2km to 3 km of the natural flood plain.

When the wall broke in 2008 the flood level dropped approx 2 metres in Emerald.

In 2011 the mine was building up this same wall to an approx height of 33 meters before they were forced to stop raising it by the raising water.

The wall is there to protect the open cut coal mine and its machinery.

I am not trying to put blame on the mine if the wall is a partial cause of the flood height reached in Emerald in 2008 and 2011.

The wall was possibly permitted by the EPA or other relevant Government authorities.

I would like to see if something can be done to help plan for Emerald to suffer less when the next flood comes.

Maybe if the overburden from the mine was used to put levies each side of the river flowing through Emerald?

I have written to the Central Highlands Regional Council (Emerald) regarding the flood and possible solutions, but unfortunately I have had no response, nor from the State Government.

I thank you for the time you have taken to read this email and hopefully a solution can be found that will appease all parties.

Regards

Cliff Mitting

