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From: Trevor Gynther [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 10 March 2011 6:29 PM
To: Submissions Flood Commission
Subject: Heavy rainfall and SEQ Water's slow release response

FLOOD COMMISSION

On Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th January 2010 very heavy rain fell on sodden catchments of the Stanley River & tributaries above Somerset Dam, and on the Brisbane River & tributaries above Wivenhoe Dam. This was in addition to widespread significant falls over the previous week, and some record breaking falls over many months prior to January. Some of these falls registered over 300mm (e.g. Maleny, West Bellthorpe). Many falls over a very wide area exceeded 200mm. The dams were already well over full supply.

Why didn't SEQ Water look at the radar images on the BOM site and react by releasing at a much higher rate on Saturday, Sunday & Monday to keep the flood mitigation capacity, to help protect those downstream? After all it was obvious to even amateur weather watchers that a massive volume of water was heading for both overfull dams, with no sign of the rain easing. It was obvious on Sat 8th that unless the discharge rate from Wivenhoe was dramatically increased the flood mitigation capacity would be rapidly eroded within days.

I am sending you a forwarded email where I requested information from BOM to offer to the commission, information that would support my claim. Unfortunately BOM charge for this info, but maybe you can collect it. I also requested information on release rates from Wivenhoe from SEQ Water on those days but was denied access.

Regards

Trevor Gynther