

## WIVENHOE DAM and the JANUARY 2011 FLOODS

### THE ULTIMATE EPISTLE!

Firstly, is what follows being written with the benefit of hindsight (20/20) or as they say being smart after the event? Certainly it is, but somebody has to attempt to learn from the lessons of history.

The authority charged with this responsibility, SEQ Water remains in a state of denial (a river in Egypt—sorry!).

It appears to me that the whole operation of the Wivenhoe Dam gates has been overcomplicated in the extreme with reference to real time computer programmes, weather forecasts, pre-releases and other various peripheral matters. Perhaps, just perhaps, there may be an antique, mundane method of gate operation?

I believe such a strategy (Note the jargon) has been available all along , but the wood has been hidden in the trees!. Perhaps its fault lies in its inherent simplicity and efficacy.

The operational method has the following principles

- (1)An early start.
- (2)A reasonably rapid/logical gate opening sequence until a gate opening of 5 gates x 6.00 metres vertical is attained.
- (3)Then sit on this opening, sweat and drink coffee, anticipating that the dam water level will peak before **EI 74.00**

(4) If the dam water level significantly exceeds El. 74.00 the fusing or “default” fusing may be an option

This gate operation schedule is detailed in the attached documentation.

Results of such a gate operation on the January floods is illustrated on the attached tabulation (Green lettering, Yellow background) The tabulations headed “5% plus” and “30% Pre-release” have the same operation schedule applied.

Study the data and make your own assessment!!

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