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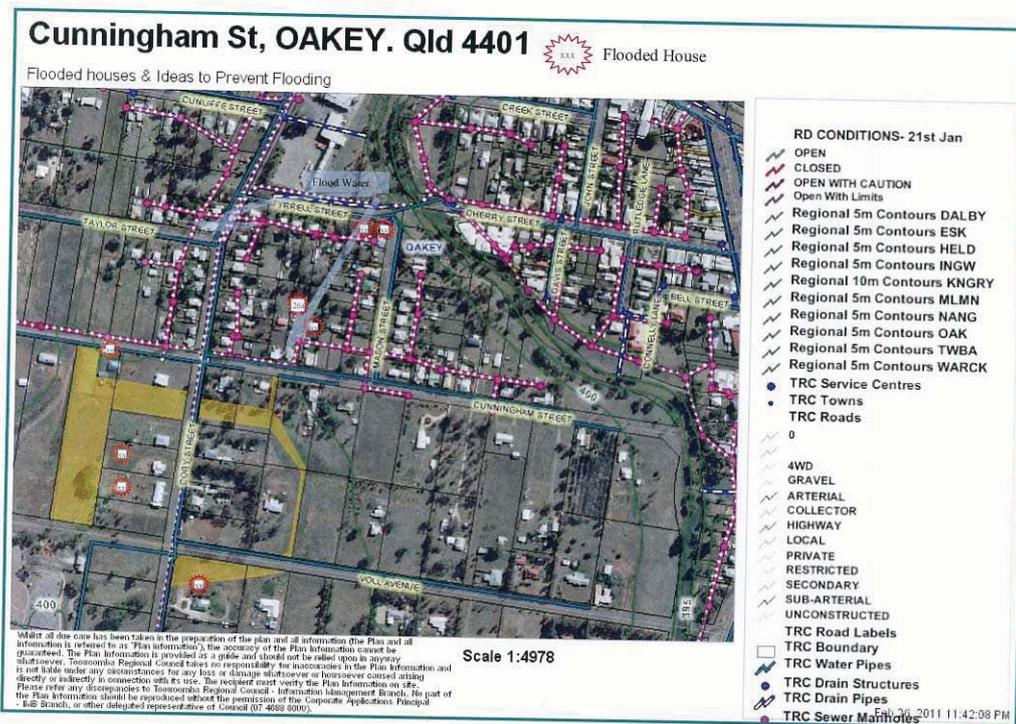
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10 January 2011

Houses Flooded in the Cunningham Street Area of Oakey

On 10 January 2011 Oakey experienced a flood after areas of Acland, Goombungee and Meringandan had rainfall of approximately 120mm in two downpours, at approximately 10am and 2pm. Areas west of Crows Nest, Hampton and Northern Highfields also experienced these downpours, some of this water however runs via Cooby Dam, which may have slowed its arrival and not reached Oakey until 11 or 12 January 2011. Houses around Cunningham Street in Oakey that experienced flooding are indicated below. I believe that the extent of flooding could have been reduced or prevented altogether if more planning had gone into the design of the area. Even normal rainwater causes issues in this area with water drainage.



Picture 2 'Cunningham St Oakey Qld 4401 Flooded Area with Descriptions.jpg'

Ideas That Might Prevent Further Flooding

Idea # 1

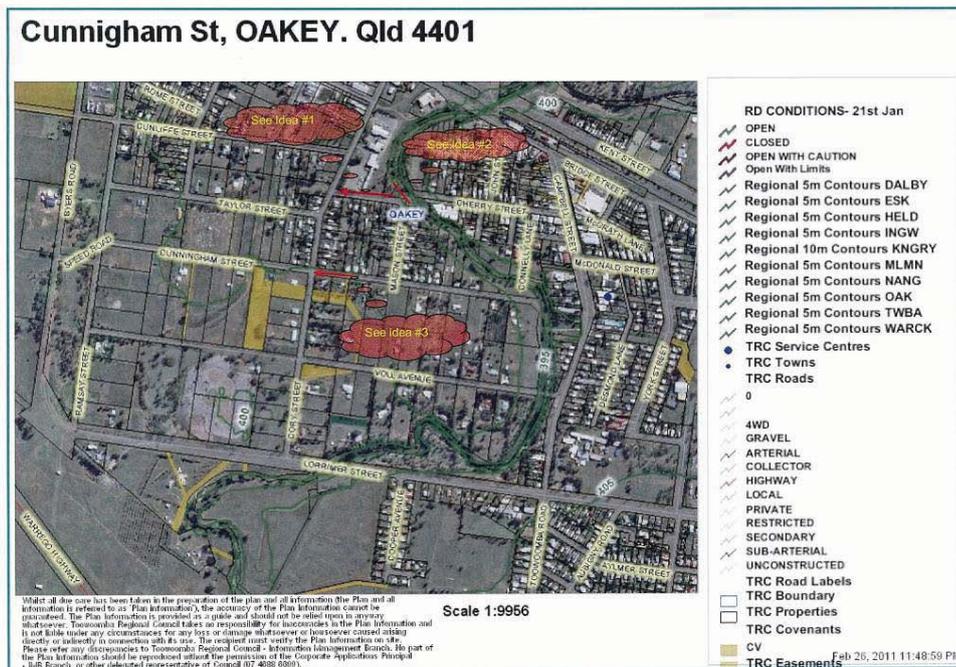
Re-grade Tyrrell Street so that more water runs towards Cory Street and does not flow over the gutter into house yards to the south. This should include work on the drain to the north to allow water to flow back to Oakey Creek, with a one-way valve to allow water to enter the creek and not exit the creek. This would allow local rainfall to either go to the creek or run down Tyrrell Street and Cory Street to the south and re-enter Oakey Creek near Lorrimer Street.

Idea # 2

Build a levy bank to prevent water escaping Oakey Creek. This would require a one-way valve (same one as above in idea # 1) to allow water from the drain to the north of Tyrrell Street to enter the creek.

Idea # 3

Re-grade Cunningham Street lower than the front yard of 26a, so that water runs towards Cory Street. This would need to start just east of house #26a. Again this would allow local rainfall to run down Tyrell Street and Cory Street to the south and re-enter Oakey Creek near Lorrimer Street.



Ref: Cunningham St OAKEY Qld 4401 Flooded Area Zoomed Out with Descriptions.jpg

Picture 3 'Cunningham St OAKEY Qld 4401 Flooded Area Zoomed Out with Descriptions.jpg'

Questions

Q1 – Why is there next to no drainage in this area?

Considering the proximity to Oakey Creek, it would appear that the development has been allowed without much thought about flood water movement. I would like the inquiry to look into the processes applied to this particular development during council's approval process.

This may not solve the current issues but it may highlight inadequacies that, if addressed, might prevent future areas like this from flooding.

Q2 – What has been actioned in this area to date and what action is planned for the future?

As a rate payer and local resident of this area I would like to know. I definitely would not like to experience a similar or worse event of this nature again!

Q3 – What systems are Toowoomba Regional Council implementing in regards to early warnings?

Little or no warning was issued to Oakey residents prior to flooding on 10 January 2011. Council employees indicated to [REDACTED] on the morning of 10 January, at Cooby Dam, that it had peaked at 1am yet this was not communicated to myself or others at Oakey. I believe there are no monitoring systems installed on Cooby Creek, Gorman Creek and Oakey Creek. I would like to see monitoring systems on all these creeks.