

Stephen Muir

From: Jim Cladingboel [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 18 June 2011 2:16 PM
To: Info Flood Commission
Subject: Has the Commission missed a major point ?

Good day,

When the Wivenhoe Dam was completed, it was made clear that this was NOT to be a water storage dam but a **buffer dam**, designed specifically to prevent another 1974 flood from devastating Brisbane. To this end, it's designed capacity would be just 45%.

Several years later, at a time when the Wivenhoe Dam was again 100% full, a large cyclone was heading directly toward Brisbane. Fortunately, it turned away at the last moment, averting a major flood.

This prompted the "Sunday Mail" to print an excellent article pointing out that, had the cyclone not turned away, Brisbane would have suffered another flood of 1974 proportions because the Wivenhoe Dam was already at 100% capacity. The article went on to point out - once again - that the Wivenhoe Dam was NOT a water storage dam, but a buffer dam with a designed capacity of 45%.

In direct contrast to this, when the Wivenhoe Dam reached 100% capacity towards the end of 2010, all sections of Government, from the Premier down, celebrated this as an achievement in drought-proofing Brisbane!

Despite having seven - seven! - separate bodies entrusted with administering South East Queensland's water, The sad fact is that ever since it's completion, the Wivenhoe Dam has never been managed in the way and for the specific purpose for which it was designed and constructed.

There can be no doubt that, had the Wivenhoe Dam been at it's designed capacity at the end of 2010, the flood waters that ravaged Brisbane and Ipswich would have been considerably reduced. Now that we know that the Wivenhoe Dam can go to 190% this capacity, plus the additional designed 55% buffer, might well have been sufficient to reduce this flood to a relatively minor event.

With best wishes,

Jim Cladingboel
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