

Jericho community meeting – 9 March 2011

Summary of discussion

Background

The Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry held a community meeting at the Jericho Town Hall. Eight residents attended the meeting, including one representative of 18 residents who were unable to attend. The following summary is an overview of the issues raised with Commission staff by Jericho residents. It is not meant to represent the views of the community as a whole.

Issues arising

- A local, uncompleted levee bank assisted in mitigating the flood's effect on the town. Full completion of the levee could have made a greater difference.
- The issue of whether a more extensive levee bank system would displace water on surrounding properties was also raised.
- The local community believed that the railway line (running east to west) along the northern edge of the township backed up floodwaters through the town. Residents felt that more effective culverts may be required under the rail line to allow water to reach the flood plain.
- The issue of how equipment belonging to the local SES group could be put to greater use was raised.
- The local police officer played a valuable role in alerting and assisting the community. In addition, the efforts of local medical staff were commended.
- The issue of the amount of time people's movements were restricted after the flood waters subsided was raised.
- 16 residents were evacuated to the town hall and 5 of these residents were airlifted to Alpha. The helipad in town was unusable so alternative measures had to be taken.
- Suggested flood mitigation ideas from residents included:
 - completing the current levee
 - placing more efficient culverts under the rail line
 - diverting the flow of Jordan Creek into an upstream anabranch to bypass the town, and
 - raising the 60 houses of the town to a higher level.