

From:
To: [Flood Inquiry](#)
Subject: RE: Flood Inquiry Submission-Lismore
Date: Friday, 8 April 2022 7:31:36 AM

Dear Sir or Madam,

I've been a local resident of the northern rivers for over 15 years now.

I've been used to the flooding, every few years.

But, this one takes more than just the cake, as it's destroyed not only peoples livelihoods, but precious infrastructure, and a question of hope for a secure future for the town and other townships affected recently.

On a positive note, the community response has been fantastic. Humans will help each other in a crises this week know for sure. It also replicates values of the region not seen (enough) in bigger cities for sure.

So what do we do now?

After cyclone Debbie hit in 2017 there was a promise of relief and \$8.2million was given to improve water infrastructure to Lismore.

To me, it's not only the money that will help this dilemma, it's direction it needs.

Man needs a good darn plan here, not just money.

What's good in this disaster is we get a chance to get it right before the next one comes.

I'm not a big believer it's all climate change at work, as seasons go in cycles.

Floods come and go, in 2005 was another devastating blow to Lismore, plus the minor flooding since.

My suggestions are, a bit radical, but it needs newer thinking anyway.

Because towns and cities built in Europe, in waterways even, don't suffer as bad as this one.

It's easy to say the town was built in the wrong place to begin with, won't save it either.

Nor will relocating the township either, it's there and we have to live with the already 'built in place' infrastructure.

What's obvious, even from a topographical view of Lismore, is that two major water ways meet there.

This is part of the problem, if not the entire!

The reason I mentioned Europe was that they have different attitudes toward problem solving on a long term basis.

They tend to do things differently, and properly, regardless of costs.

Today, Lismore is not only faced with financial struggles from the state government funding, but, how to use it wisely if it had all the money in the world to do so!

And is the township at all comparable to cities like Newcastle, Wagga Wagga, Wollongong, or Coffs Harbour?

I mean, in terms of importance, or prestige, or economical significance.

What's so important about Lismore? And compared to these other cities?

Where would Lismore rate against Rome or Amsterdam, or even London?

Not very high on the list I'd say.

But, the town is important to many.

The last reason I mention Europe again, is that their engineering is beyond excellence, it's cutting edge, and problem solveable!

Perhaps, actually looking at the cost to solve the problem once and for all would cost more than the dollars it would endure.

The Dutch or the Germans would know instantly the problem looking at the topography of the town, once they got over the unusual reason a town was placed there at all.

So, while my submission might be more philosophical than practical, this might open eyes to bigger possibilities beyond the towns worth.

Should we sell it to the Chinese and see how they could manage the flood plan better?

Should we divert the Wilsons river well before it ends up in town ?

Should we build walls around the city like the Roman's did?

Should we install flood emergency signals that alert locals well in advance? Then build a skyscraper as a rescue Center?

Should big pipes be layed down to Ballina and out to the ocean?

Should new catchments be dug upstream too? Then ravaged flood waters could be diverted into them during flooding?

Should we build a hydro electric station with dames around the outskirts of town to stop waters coming in at all?'

It needs better thinking is my point.

No more flooding in Lismore, could that be a plan? Or change of thinking?'

Could all the unemployed help build these new infrastructures? New walls or canals?

I visited Dresden, Germany once. I couldn't believe the meadows on the banks of the Elbe river, 'what a waste of space,' I thought.

I saw also a canal unused. An abandoned area of grasslands where walkers exercised and walked their dogs!

Because those areas were used for flooding impacts. The Germans know only one mistake once. They plan for the worst out of the publics pockets.

Lismore ain't got a public pocket or prestige enough to invest a billion in new water infrastructure.

Only the Chinese do, but what would they get out of it?

Lismore is Lismore.

It's a great opportunity to have fun there and enjoy the culture of the city. But, what's it really worth ?

It's a town built adjacent the junction of the Wilsons River and Leyster Creek.

A symbol of country NSW, one of the best kept secrets of the country.

But, what's it worth? If it's all destroyed once every decade?

It's over to you!

With warm regards

Sent from my iPhone