

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

TWEED SHIRE FLOOD MITIGATION SUGGESTION:

My name is . I am an 80-year-old, third generation life-time resident in the Tweed Shire. I was a Tweed Shire Councillor from to , a small crop farmer from 1956 and a land developer from 1988.

I attended the public Flood Inquiry meeting in the Tumbulgum Hall on Wednesday 4th May 2022. I witnessed first-hand the severe distress of many of the attendees who had been severely flood affected.

I have never had property affected by flood, but I have lived through many a major flood in my district. My Aunt lost two rental houses at the end of Street in Murwillumbah in the 1954 flood. They were washed downriver and deposited on the other side of the river, smashed to pieces. She was a disabled person, and this was her only source of income.

During my time on Tweed Shire Council (TSC), I was made aware that the catchment area for Council's Clarrie Hall water supply dam, was 560 sq kms. Councillors were also advised that the spillways on many existing dams were inadequate for the 'big event' and needed upgrading so as to protect the integrity of these structures. TSC has performed this work at considerable cost.

For the best part of 50 years, TSC has acquired land for the construction of a second dam on Byrill Creek. For decades now, TSC has purchased all land that became available in the area which was proposed to be inundated. I am advised that TSC practically owns all the land required for this dam.

I am also advised that the catchment area for the Byrill Creek dam is twice the size of the catchment of the Clarrie Hall dam. If the wall of the Clarrie Hall dam is to be raised, further land acquisition is necessary, and the expenditure on the spillway upgrade would have been a waste of money. I am unsure of the intended extra capacity of the Clarrie Hall dam, but this should easily be ascertained.

I suggest that research be carried out on the feasibility of building the Byrill Creek dam, and only storing the extra 'intended capacity' of the Clarrie Hall dam, and keep the remainder of the dam empty, for flood mitigation purposes.

At the meeting in the Tumbulgum Hall, there were many requests to dredge the river. This would be a huge undertaking and where could the spoil be deposited?

I remember, in 1979, the Tweed River mouth was severely 'sanded up' with only a narrow V-section against the western revetment wall. This could be observed from the river-end of Francis Street Tweed Heads. In 1979, , a local dredging contractor, did a joint venture with & pumps, to dredge the sand from this area through pipelines to Queensland beaches. I vividly remember the big poly pipe going around Kirra point with the K & L Pump logo stencilled in green paint, on every length of pipe. Following the completion of that project, I believe that the highest and lowest tides for years, were recorded in the Tweed River in Murwillumbah. The water could freely flow into the river and flow freely out of the river. The 'choke point' had been removed.

In 1983, my parents purchased a unit in the 'Nassau' high-rise building at the end of Francis Street Tweed Heads. In the four years following the dredging, the river once again, sanded up to its former 'choke point'.

About 20 years ago, the sand by-pass system was installed just south of the Tweed River entrance to transfer the north-drifting sand, via a pipeline, under the Tweed River to maintain a clear bar entrance and deposit sand to the north to replenish the beaches.

Sand still seemed to deposit in the mouth of the river, and , with his 'sea-going' dredge 'Port Frederick', dredged the river mouth and this time, dumped the sand off-shore.

Maybe we need an investigation now, to ascertain how much sand is currently choking the river mouth. I have recently observed the navigation marker buoys again, directing water traffic to the western side of the river. So maybe there is considerable build-up on the eastern side.

In my opinion, the current situation of siltation at the river mouth requires serious consideration and removal of silt, may have a dramatic effect on minimising the flood effects upstream. This could be cost-effective and a quick solution.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the flooding problem on the Tweed. Please contact me on if further clarification is required.

Regards

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20.05.2022

NB: I tried repeatedly to lodge this online, but The Flood inquiry submissions portal failed, with the note "There was an error during validation of your form submission, please try to reload the page and submit form again".

I have resorted to mailing and would appreciate consideration of my submission.

Thanking you