



BURNETT RIVER COMMUNITIES FLOOD PREVENTION

ORGANISATION INC.

No: IA41525

Postal Address: PO Box 7395 Bundaberg North Qld 4670

President: Warren Osborne

Secretary: Audrey Henderson

Publicity Officer: Christine Hardy

The Productivity Commissioner

Natural Disaster Funding

Dear Sir/Madam,

We, of the above-named organization are writing to you with the concerns of a vast majority of residents in the Bundaberg Region, in particular those affected by the 2013 Floods. Our group was first officially formed in November 2013 when it was perceived that efforts to manage disaster struck areas, were greatly inadequate and sometimes ignored.

Our major request is that accountability and transparency of the funds given to the Bundaberg Regional Council for flood mitigation be made available for public perusal. To date, few if any of the original forty recommendations for flood mitigation , put forward by GHD (the engineering company hired to do the necessary research into alleviating flood damage) which was subsequently given to CRG (community representative group); by whom these recommendations were whittled down to five options.

As a very concerned representative group we have had numerous meetings with the Mayor Mal Forman and Local Councillors; with the State Government Representatives, Mr Jack Dempsey, Mr Stephen Bennett and the Federal Representative, Mr Keith Pitt. A petition was signed by more than 6000 residents in 2013, and has been presented in State Parliament. We see local roads being upgraded, many of which were not flooded. This is not mitigation!

Our information on actual Funding amounts, we have learnt from the local media. A summary of this is printed below.

MEDIA	DATE	AMOUNT	PURPOSE
The News Mail	28 June 2013	5 Million	Promised by Minister Crisafulli for Counselling
The News Mail	28 June 2013	8 Million	To be used by the Local Council for an Evacuation Centre.
The News Mail	31 July 2013	25 Million	2010/2011 Flood Information given by Minister Crisafulli.
The News Mail	31 July 2013	40 Million	2013 Flood (as above)
The News Mail	18 Jan 2013	04 Million	Repair of Hanbury Street (entrance to flood plain).
The News Mail	07 Feb 2014	4.9 Million	Repair of damaged rock wall at Port Bundaberg.
The News Mail	06 March 2014	90 Million	Rubyanna Sewerage Plant, to be done in stages.
The News Mail	28 March 2014	no estimate	Restoration of Riverside Recreation Park
The News Mail	17 April 2014	no estimate	Council to buy land for levee in Technology Park.
Media Release	24 June 2014	56 Million	Betterment program. Copy to be sent under Separate cover

These are but some of the statements made by the incumbent politicians to the general public. The contradictions in the information are, to say the least, confusing. We are not seeing results in the areas that were most severely inundated, particularly in North, East and South Bundaberg.

Where is the Mitigation? Where is the Betterment?

This is an overview of the situation as perceived by the local residents. Nothing has been done in Mitigation works in 4 years from the 2010/2011 floods up to and including the 2013 disaster.

Awaiting your professional consideration.

Warren Osborne

President

Friday 10 October 2014