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MEMBER FOR LOCKYER

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17 October 2016

Mr Glenn Butcher MP  
Chair  
Agriculture and Environment Committee  
[aec@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:aec@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Glenn

**Agriculture and Environment Parliamentary Committee -  
Consideration of the Review of Auditor-General Report 16 - 2015-16: Flood resilience of river  
catchments**

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I refer to the above report which is currently before the committee for consideration and would like to make the following comments.

As you would be aware, the Lockyer Valley region experienced two devastating flood events in 2011 and 2013. Local governments in my electorate (i.e. Ipswich City Council, Scenic Rim Regional Council and Lockyer Regional Council) have been financially impacted by the flood reconstruction and ongoing resilience works.

I request that the government work with local government to ensure the allocation of appropriate funding for these flood resilience projects in the catchment areas. I also feel that it is paramount that appropriate legislation, particularly in regard to overland flows, levees and water management in general is supported by an ability for state and local governments to issue penalties that will ensure non-compliant landholders and government bodies follow the legislation (there needs to be penalties not only for non-compliant land owners, but also non-compliant local governments).

I believe that it is necessary for the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA), the Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM), the Department of Local Government and Planning and Police and Emergency Services (Disaster Management) ensure they have a full understanding and comprehension of basic rainfall and catchment flows that could create devastating scenarios in the above mentioned local government areas.

These areas are affected by immediate stream rises and sudden inundation that is more foreseeable than the greater Brisbane area and even some of the areas of Ipswich. It is imperative that appropriate modelling and flood studies be finalised.

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All state departments and local government areas that are dramatically affected by floods have regular reviews and scenarios put forward that can ensure preparation is never at the poor standard that it was prior to 2011. This would also include involvement of the Bureau of Meteorology who were definitely found wanting in 2011.

At the Committee hearing, the QRA did advise that it was in the process of finalising studies of the Brisbane River and its catchments. It is important that this is done as soon as possible and continues to be built on for the foreseeable future, until every department and any local government area that would be affected is fully aware of where and how flooding will occur. This will change as land use and management changes over time (development around Ipswich e.g. Springfield, Deebing, Ripley, Moggill etc).

DNRM, with the support of QRA and SEQ Catchments, needs to ensure that riparian land holders and land holders in general who control 85% of the land in South East Queensland are assisted to help manage their land so that the smallest amount of erosion takes place on their property. The community needs to assist land holders, particularly land holders with vulnerable riparian land. This should be looked at as a whole of South East Queensland problem as it will improve the quality of Moreton Bay, reduce the cost of managing water treatment facilities and also improve land management over the most densely populated areas of Queensland.

There needs to be an ongoing conversation between government bodies and local land managers and Natural Resource Management groups to ensure confidence and resilience are built into the system for time immemorial.

South East Queensland, government bodies and community need to be building resilience on a continual basis, even in the dry times, because the episodic nature of rainfall in sub-tropical Queensland is going to create similar type flooding events again and again.

I feel it would be important to have one or more of the major government bodies, either QRA or DNRM, report on a yearly basis as to what progress is being made and a suitable table or body of work that can be compared over a period of time to see that we are building more resilience into the community and the land.

This appropriate recommendation from a powerful group such as the Agricultural and Environment Committee is paramount to seeing that the resilience of South East Queensland to a natural flood disaster is improved to a point where the loss of life, surprise flooding and environmental degradation becomes a thing of the past.

Your assistance in these matters is most appreciated. I look forward to reading the Committee's recommendations.

Yours sincerely



**Ian Rickuss MP**  
Member for Lockyer

**From:**  
**To:** [Agriculture and Environment Committee](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Member for Lockyer - Review of Auditor-General Report 16 2015-16: Flood Resilience of River Catchments  
**Date:** Monday, 24 October 2016 12:47:49 PM

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Glenn

I would like to make an additional comment to my submission to the committee's review of the Auditor-General Report 16 – 2015-16: Flood resilience of river catchments.

I would like to make a comment in relation to the transcript of the Public Briefing, 12 October, Page 15, where Mr Brendan Moon, CEO of the Qld. Reconstruction Authority highlights the number of gauges on the Brisbane River and how there had not been any coordinated discussion about how they may be managed into the future.

It is imperative that gauges and their understanding and use are managed efficiently into the future because as I stated in my original submission, the Bureau of Meteorology definitely let the Lockyer Valley down with its poor interpretation of some of gauges that were in place.

Regards

**Ian Rickuss MP**  
Member for Lockyer



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