



Tuesday 18 October 2016.

Agriculture and Environment Committee,
Queensland Parliament,
Brisbane – Queensland.

Re: Submission to the Auditor-General Report 16 - 2015-16: Flood resilience of river catchments

Dear Agriculture and Environment Committee Members,

On behalf of the member participants from the Flood Community of Practice (FloodCoP) – a Brisbane based collective of multi-disciplined professionals¹ with skills, experience and a strong interest in integrated management of water and in that context , flood risk management (www.floodcop.com.au), I would like to provide the following responses which address a number of the Auditor-General’s recommendations. Namely:

1. The Flood Community of Practice supports a coordinated approach to building flood resilience in the communities of South East Queensland;
2. Community and professional engagement is fundamental to creating joined-up resilience to natural disasters for individuals, businesses and service providers.
3. A recent initiative that the FloodCoP has facilitated, SEQWaterFutures – a planning charrette, and the outcomes of that activity will be released in a matter of days. The activity aimed to integrate regional thinking on resilience through planning, preparing, responding and recovering. Once published next week we would like to forward the summary of this 5 day charrette workshop to the Committee as we believe it can assist in the implementation of Recommendation 3.
4. The FloodCoP operates as a shared resource for Flood Resilience and has brought colleagues from Australian, Dutch and British governments, NFP and private sectors together to share their knowledge and capacity.

The group engages with the wider community of water practitioners and can assist in any collective thinking on innovative and approaches used in other parts of the world – eg Dutch, British and USA approaches – that could be adapted to catchments in sub-tropical Queensland. Through the

¹ Our participant members are drawn from: Local, State and Commonwealth Government agencies; Water Utilities in South East Queensland; Research groups – Qld University, CSIRO and Dutch & USA groups; Practice professionals including architects, town planners, resilience advisors, insurance and disaster management; Consulting professionals across various engineering, land management and economics; Regional NRM groups; and interested community members. We currently have 500 interested participants and have been active since early 2014. We are an independent consortium with a goal to improve the collective capacity and capability of professionals to holistically manage water and flood risk management and in addition provide collective experienced advice.

SEQWaterFutures [planning charrettes](#) and an earlier, forward looking [hypothetical that considered a future Brisbane River flood](#), key stakeholders have engaged in developing ideas and options for flood resilience.

Embedded links for these two activities will take the readers to our website and there details, videos and photos will explain more closely what was achieved. In addition, the website [highlights](#) topics that have been addressed over the last 2 years which closely match with various components of the recommendations. As a resource these seminar and workshop materials are an additional insight for Local and State Government colleagues who will be responsible for implementing the recommendations.

5. In early November, on the occasion of a State Visit from the Dutch King and Queen to Brisbane, a Water Summit will be held to discuss “Resilient Urban Deltas and Floodplains”. Through the Flood Community of Practice, we would be happy to arrange for staff from the Queensland Audit Officer and/or the Agriculture and Environment Committee to participate or observe at this workshop on Friday 4 November at QUT.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to these recommendations and we would be more than happy to provide further details on any aspects of our responses.

With kind regards – Dr Piet Filet

Convenor – Flood Community of Practice