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13 October 2016

Mr Glenn Butcher MP
Chair
Agriculture and Environment Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

By email aec@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Butcher

Auditor-General's Report 16: 2015-16 – *Flood resilience of river catchments*

Council appreciates the opportunity to provide a submission to the inquiry into the Auditor-General's Report 16: 2015-16 – *Flood resilience of river catchments* (the report).

The report examined the effectiveness of flood resilience activities since 2011 in the Bremer, Lockyer, Mid and Upper Brisbane River Catchments. The only area within those catchments located within the Scenic Rim Regional Council local government area is the upper reaches of the Bremer River/Warrill Creek Catchment.

At a principle level Council agreed with the recommendations in the report with particular emphasis on:

1. The merit of various organisations working together to achieve more unity on how floodplains are managed, particularly where catchment boundaries extend into neighbouring local government areas; and
2. For State Government organisations such as the Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning under the State Disaster Management Plan to play a more active role in assisting local governments in the areas of both resourcing and investment.

In the absence of a coordinating agency being established with regard to catchment management in South East Queensland, Council would support the Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning or another State agency taking on a coordinating role. Local governments in SEQ are operating at differing levels of capacity with larger urban councils having a higher capacity and funding ability to manage their responsibilities relating to flood resilience in their local government areas; however, Scenic Rim Regional Council does not have the ability to specifically allocate resources to flood resilience and would benefit from having access to specialist expertise from a State agency.

While the report recommendations are generally supported, Council also views these as only being achievable where resources allow. In a local government context resources are scarce and State assistance will be necessary in the delivery of some of the recommended outcomes.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Barke", written over a white background.

Craig R Barke
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER