

Home Truth

The DAM TRUTH

When the Commission of Enquiry into Brisbane's Floods convened, we penned 'The Whole Dam Truth' article (reproduced opposite). Sticking our neck out thus was uncomfortable but the right thing to do. Our position hasn't changed. Regardless of the financial and personal cost, the real truth about what happened at Wivenhoe (or didn't happen that should have) to trigger a flood of such magnitude that it has set South-East Queensland back by at least a decade, must be told.

\$15 million has thus far been spent on the flood enquiry. Whilst that's a significant sum of money, in the broad scheme of what's at stake, it's a drop in the ocean. If the Commission of Enquiry can genuinely get to the bottom of what really happened on that fateful weekend or it's findings no longer carry weight given its eroded credibility from the media reporting what it couldn't, then starting afresh with a fully independent investigation is required.

The political sensitivity of this matter can't be underestimated as the recent clever attempt to argue that whilst the alleged breaches of the manual are denied, if they did happen, then that would have reduced the flood impact, bears testament. This, bureaucratic artful dodging at its purest.

We are also starting to see cleverly couched articles appearing in the media, appealing to the public to 'let bygones be bygones', that 'yes someone probably stuffed up but hey, we're all human'. I respectfully say to the authors of such diatribe (ignoring the nature of their incentive), you are not just harming your reputation, you are also wasting your time. The resolve to getting to the truth of this matter is profound, and deepens with every attempt to forestall it.