

***HERBERT RIVER IMPROVEMENT TRUST***  
**Lower Herbert Flood Study Impacts of Levees**  
***MEETING MINUTES***

**Held on Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2011  
at 10:20 am**



**A. ATTENDENCE**

Present were Mr Bill Pickering [Trust Chairperson], Cr Geoff Gianotti [Trust Member], Mr Bruce Mahony and Mr David Carr [Community Members], Mr Paul Tabone [Canegrowers Representative], Mr Graham Dickson [Sucrogen Representative], Dr Mark Jempson [BMT WBM Pty Ltd], Mr Bruce Leach [Trust Engineer], and Mr Robert Clark [Trust Secretary].

**B. APOLOGIES**

Mr Vince Russo [Canegrowers Representative], and Cr Pat Lynch (Trust Member).

**C. DISCUSSION POINTS**

- Introduction

Chairperson, Mr Bill Pickering provided Lower Herbert Levee Study Members with update on progress to date and the purpose of this Lower Herbert Flood Study Impacts of Levees Meeting.

- Previous Minutes

Members adopted Minutes of 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2011, Lower Herbert Flood Study Impacts of Levees Meeting, as a true record of that meeting.

- Results of Theoretical Levees Assessment

Members perused the trial model runs which were intended to approximate a scenario whereby unauthorised levees may be constructed along the Lower Herbert over a period of time. The series of runs show modelled impacts for a series of levees offering protection to the level of the recent 2009 event. Members were satisfied that the results would serve to depict to the public the consequences of unauthorised levee construction continuing.

- Results of Theoretical Sand Island Removal

Members perused trial model runs. The runs clearly depicted that the effect of sand island dredging was to transfer flood impacts downstream. Mr Mark Jempson recounted the results of previous exercises whereby dredging was shown to be ineffective in that deposited material was likely to soon reappear and be cost-prohibitive.

- Equity Measures and Addressing Problems of the Past

Discussion came to the conclusion that this particular Study is to concentrate on developing a pathway to control unauthorised levee growth. It was recognised that a key factor in moving forward would be to secure general Community support. It was agreed that an outcome of the Study would be broad recommendations detailing how equity considerations may be best approached.

- Way Forward

The Lower Herbert Levee Study Team determined that it was necessary to develop a clear message to the Community as to the aims of the exercise. The following statement was developed:-

- Where We Are Now?

- Continuing growth of levees and inequity; and
- Levees cause problems.

- Response

Stage 1

- Educate community of consequences;
- Buy time – Stop from getting worse;
- Likely to be a Local Law with Community support; and
- Identifying that there is an intention to investigate equity and possible options.

Stage 2

- Whole of floodplain solution (equity).

It was identified that this Study would be Stage 1 of the Response. A later exercise could pickup the Stage 2 objective.

- Stakeholder Buy-in

Stakeholder representatives (Sucrogen and Canegrowers) to speak to their organisations with a view to securing support for the Study process.

- Community Workshop

The decision was taken to hold a Community Workshop at 5:30 pm on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> July 2011, at the Halifax Community Hall. A meeting of the Lower Herbert Levee Study Team would be held prior to the workshop in order to finalise arrangements for the workshop.

**D. NEXT MEETING OF LOWER HERBERT LEEVE STUDY TEAM MEETING**

The next meeting of the Lower Herbert Levee Study Team Meeting is to be scheduled prior to the Community Workshop at 2:30 pm in Council Chambers.

**E. CONCLUSION**

Meeting closed at 4:30 pm.

Signed:  
W Pickering  
TRUST CHAIRPERSON



Dated: 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2011