

Dollar drain

For the past few weeks we have been treated to pure drivel concerning the facts surrounding the illegal Capricornia canal bund at North Ocean Shores.

Your readers may be interested to know that the Byron Shire Council has spent in excess of \$1.3 million dollars implementing a nonsensical flood management plan which after 15 years has raised flood levels both upstream and downstream of this illegal structure.

Among the information obtained at horrendous expense for this floodplain plan was a computer model constructed by council consultants Webb McEwan that will show within millimetres how high the water will come if a measured rainfall event occurred in the area modelled.

This model was fine-tuned several times in past minor flood events and among much backslapping confirmed to be correct after the Mothers Day 1987 flood.

This analysis took a few weeks at the most. This computer modelling was among the resource material used by the ABI group for their drainage estimates on the highway upgrade.

The only major physical difference between the modelled area in 1987 and in June 2005 was the construction of the illegal bund and the levee built by Byron Council around

Golden Beach (again in breach of EP&A requirements).

Therefore it should have been relatively easy to see what effect the bund and levee bank had on flood heights in the area.

However Byron Council in its wisdom decided after the June 2005 flood to scrap the model and start again. Could it be that this model confirms the damage that Byron Council has done with these illegal structures?

It has now allegedly taken Byron Council more than 11 months to obtain the rainfall information for the June 2005 flood and the residents believe it is time the Government ordered a full investigation into why both Tweed Council and Byron Council have allowed and/or ordered the blocking of the flood flows in the Marshalls Creek drainage system, increasing flood height unnecessarily in both shires.

For the Byron Shire general manager to infer she is surprised at council being held accountable is laughable when the residents and government ministers for the past 30 years have been warning council about its liability.

Should any person have any reservations over documentation of that liability the effected residents have constructed a community website www.brunswickvalley.com.au/floodhistory to prove that liability.

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