

ANNEX E

SYDNEY

8 DEC 1982

Mr C J Shevellar,
Shire Clerk,
Byron Shire Council,
Post Office Box 159,
BYRON BAY NSW 2481.

Dear Mr Shevellar,

I refer to your letter of 15th October, 1982 concerning the siltation of the North Arm of the Brunswick River at New Brighton and proposing a flood study for the Main Arm of the Brunswick River.

I am advised that officers of my Department met with your representatives on 11th November, 1982 to inspect and discuss the Brunswick River. My officers were of the opinion that the flood behaviour of the North Arm of the Brunswick River will not be significantly improved by dredging. Dredging will almost certainly accelerate the erosion of the river banks and will further complicate an already delicately balanced river and coastal system. Council's roads at New Brighton are currently being threatened by bank erosion, and can best be protected with suitable rockwork.

The flooding problem of the North Arm is compounded by Ocean Shores Estate. It is of concern to me that the conditions of my Department's concurrence to the Ocean Shores Project have not been enforced by Council. The flood assessment for the development was made on the basis that an ocean outfall would be provided to reduce flood levels in the area, and the first stages of the development were approved subject to the outfall being constructed and maintained.

The temporary outfall which was constructed is and has been for sometime ineffective due to road construction and dune stabilisation across the outfall mouth. Consequently, it is likely that existing residential development and any currently being approved on the lower parts of the estate is flood liable. This is contrary to the principles of sound flood plain management as enunciated in the Government's Flood Prone Lands policy and Council is likely to be in an invidious position in the event of flooding and damage to property. Council would therefore be well advised to undertake immediate remedial measures to alleviate this situation.

I have noted your request for financial assistance to carry out a flood study of the Main Arm of the Brunswick River. Requests have been received for similar studies of other river valleys but funds are fully committed. However, my officers will assist in the preparation of a brief for the carrying out of such a study which can be reconsidered for funding in 1983/84.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) I. J. Ferguson

Deputy Premier
and

Minister for Public Works and Ports