

*Kenilworth and District
Historical Association Inc.*



*P. O. Box 166
Kenilworth Qld 4574*

1 April 2007

The Secretary
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Honourable Senators

Re: Flood Mitigation Upstream from the Proposed Traveston Dam

Please find attached supporting documents for my submission regarding the future survival of the Kenilworth township and district should the proposed Traveston Dam be constructed.

Kenilworth township nestles on the banks of the Mary River and opposite the mouth of the Obi Obi Creek (see Appendix 1 picture). When flood rains fall in the headwaters of the Mary River and Obi Obi Creek, in the Maleny Range similar rainfall is usually experienced in Kenilworth and the river heights rise rapidly. In 1955 the township received more than 95mm of rain (from Australian Weather Bureau records) and the river rose from 2.36 metres at midnight on March 26 to 13.67 metres at 9.30p.m. on March 27 (Appendix 2). River Height records have been gained from the books of the official river height recorder employed by the Department of Irrigation and Water at that time and confirmed from Australian Weather Bureau Records.

Major floods are considered those where the river rises to a height of more than 8.3 metres – of which Kenilworth has experienced 51 since 1926 when the earliest official records are available. For the district, devastating floods are those which rise above 10 metres of which 15 have been recorded between 1928 and 1999 (see Appendix 3). The impact on the township may be seen in the overlay picture attached as Appendix 4.

The Kenilworth and District Historical Association has collected a photographic record of floods in the district, unfortunately the majority of our collection is of the township but the impact on the district where primary production is a major industry does not appear to have been well recorded photographically. Appendices 5 and 6 which are copies of newspaper reports on the flood that occurred on January 9, 1968 which reached a height of 11.28 metres, may give a clearer indication of the extent to which floodwaters may overwhelm this district.

**President: Ms Lenore Meldrum; Vice President Mr Cecil Pearson
Secretary: Mr. Blair. Meldrum; Treasurer: Mr Clem Hassall.**

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I am a member of the Maroochy Shire Disaster Welfare Recovery Committee and from discussions with Rev Noel Park, the chairman of the committee; Kenilworth and District become one of those unsolvable problems in time of disaster, particularly in flood periods.

The township is divided, by floodwaters, into five separate communities:-
(See map Appendix 7)

1. Kenilworth-Maleny Road residents
2. The Kenilworth Community College area (Appendix 8)
3. The township "hill" (Appendices 9a& 9b,10a & 10b,11)
4. Eumundi-Kenilworth Road residents (Appendix 12)
5. Kenilworth-Imbil Road residents (Appendix 13)

Localities of Gheerulla, Coolabine, Kidaman Creek, Cambronn and Moy Pocket within the district are completely isolated during flood times making progress by all emergency road vehicles impossible (Appendix 14).

Whilst Kenilworth and district has a relatively small permanent population, in holiday periods the population swells by up to 2,000 people utilising the excellent camping facilities in the National Parks and private tourist facilities in the area. Country people are well aware of the dangers of fast rising flood waters; unfortunately many of the tourists who chose a "tree change" holiday are not so perceptive thereby placing themselves at great risk of harm. The Kenilworth Homestead accommodates up to 300 persons camping on the bank of the Mary River in holiday periods. As can be seen by the scene in Appendix 15 the camping area at Kenilworth Homestead is under several metres of water. As floods in this area often peak during darkness the potential for people to be caught unawares is extremely high. Kenilworth Country Foods, the township's major tourist attraction is also inundated in times of the devastating floods (Appendix 16).

The most recent Project Update from Queensland Water Infrastructure Pty Ltd distributed to residents of the Mary Valley clearly delineates the plans for *delivering flood impact reduction downstream* (Appendix 17). There appears to be no mention of *delivering flood impact reduction UPSTREAM*. At the Information Evenings held by the Department of Natural Resources in the Mary Valley the "experts" from the Department would not give any credence to the information about flood heights in Kenilworth and District by residents who had lived in the area for an extended period. It is the belief of this writer that high water marks have been planned on the flood heights of the 1999 devastating flood in Gympie and utilising computer generated information which does not appear to agree with the knowledge of people who were present when the flood waters swirled around their legs as they endeavoured to save precious equipment and livestock.

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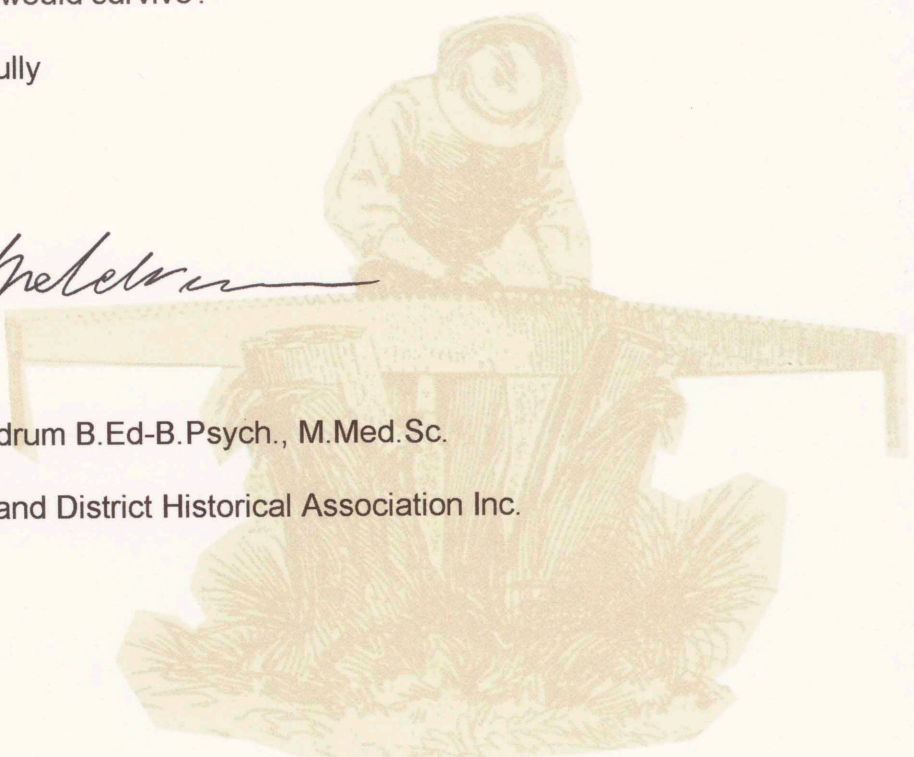
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This township has an aging population with a large percentage of residents over the age of 70 years, no resident doctor or pharmacist. The majority of the emergency service personnel live in outlying localities, therefore in times of flood, the township is left under resourced and ill equipped to deal with any emergency. For medical emergencies, the Sunshine Coast is equipped with a Medivac Helicopter service. For Kenilworth in flood times there are few if any safe landing areas, because only the steep hillsides are not covered by flood waters.

Should the Traveston Crossing Dam be constructed, which would cause a consistent river height and the district receive rainfall such as occurred in 1955 how much of Kenilworth and District would survive?

Yours faithfully



L. Meldrum

Lenore Meldrum B.Ed-B.Psych., M.Med.Sc.
President
Kenilworth and District Historical Association Inc.

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APPENDICES

- Appendix 1 Photograph of Mary River flats and Kenilworth township from air
- Appendix 2 1955 River Height recordings
- Appendix 3 Table of Devastating Flood Heights recorded at Kenilworth Bridge
- Appendix 4 Mary River/Kenilworth Township photograph with flood height graphic overlay
- Appendix 5 Gympie Times Report 1968 flood
- Appendix 6 Courier Mail Report 1968 flood
- Appendix 7 Flood indicator map
- Appendix 8 Kenilworth Community College Principal's residence – 1972 flood
- Appendices 9a 9b George and Elizabeth Sts intersection – two flood views
- Appendices 10a & 10b Charles & Elizabeth Sts corner – two flood views
- Appendix 11 Mary Street view 1955 flood – 10 hours post-peak
- Appendix 12 Mary River Bridge – built “never to be flooded” – under water in 1999
- Appendix 13 Kenilworth-Brooloo Rd – 1999 flood
- Appendix 14 Eumundi –Kenilworth Rd, Gheerulla – 1999 flood
- Appendix 15 Kenilworth Homestead – almost surrounded by 1999 floodwaters
- Appendix 16 Kenilworth Country Foods – 1989 flood
- Appendix 17 Project Update – NO Upstream Flood Mitigation

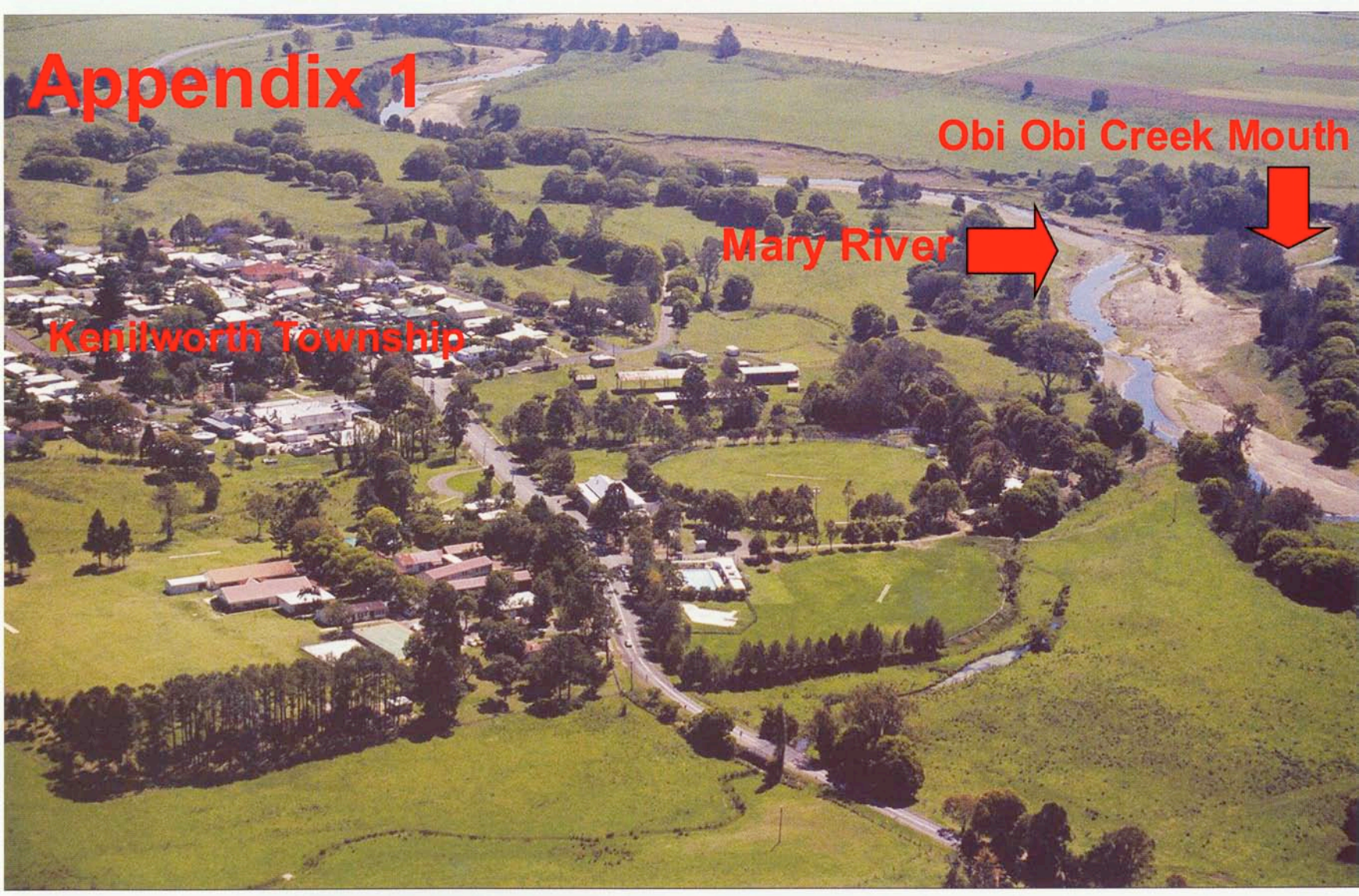
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Appendix 1

Obi Obi Creek Mouth

Mary River

Kenilworth Township



1955 RAINFALL AND RIVER HEIGHTS RECORDED BY MR DAVE PICKERING

Sustained and widespread flooding occurred throughout practically the whole of the States river systems during the month. Record or near record levels were reached in the **Burdekin** , **Fitzroy** , **Flinders** , **Thomson** and **Mary** rivers.

The first cyclone of the month gave heavy rains over the central interior on 8th and 9th , the Burdekin catchment on 11th and some totals up to 300mm on the far north coast on 15th.

The second cyclone brought serious floods to the South Coast Moreton from 27th to 30th. Rainfalls of 250 to 500mm over the **Mary Valley** resulted in the worst floods experienced there this century. A peak at Gympie on 28th was the highest since 1898 , and flooded the main street of Gympie to a depth of some 3 metres. Houses were washed away, crops were severely damaged. Peak heights at Tiaro and Maryborough were the second highest on record . This was below the disastrous 1893 flood.

Appendix 2

March, 1955

Total Rainfall for the Month 26.01 inches (660.65 mm)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Height (ft)</u>	<u>Height (m)</u>	<u>Rise rate</u>
7	8.15 a.m.	16'6"	5.02	6" per hr
7	2.00 p.m.	20'	6.09	3" per hr
8	11.00 a.m	16'	4.87	
8	3.00 p.m	17'10"	5.43	Stationary
9	8.50 a.m.	22'10'	6.95	2' per hr
9	3.00 p.m	24'11"	7.59	Stationary
11	9.00 a.m.	17'	5.18	2' per hr
26	3.00 p.m.	6'2"	1.88	
	8.00 p.m.	6'11"	2.13	
	Midnight	7'8"	2.36	
27	6.00 a.m.	11'3"	3.45	
	9.00 a.m.	16'11"	5.18	
	2.00 p.m.	27'5"	8.38	
	3.00 p.m.	30'6"	9.3	
	6.00 p.m.	37'6"	11.43	
	7.00 p.m.	40'1"	12.22	
	7.30 p.m.	41'7"	12.67	
	8.00 p.m.	43'3"	13.18	
27	8.30 p.m.	44'	13.41	
27	9.30 p.m.	44'11"	13.67	Stationary

Rainfall

26th 376 points (95.5mm);27th 1064 points (270.25mm)

Appendix 3

<u>Devastating</u> <u>Floods</u>	
Dates	Flood Heights
19/04/1928	11.66
5/02/1931	10.44
25/03/1946	10.72
27/03/1955	13.67
11/03/1956	10.67
17/03/1963	11.28
9/01/1968	11.28
12/02/1972	11.58
2/04/1972	11.07
7/07/1973	10.97
25/01/1974	11.73
27/01/1974	12
2/04/1989	11.7
25/04/1989	12.06
9/02/1999	11.9

Appendix 4



1989 Flood Height

1955 Flood Height

The Gympie Times

Thursday January 18 1968

Kenilworth's Week of Floods

IN A DELAYED despatch from Kenilworth, our correspondent, Mrs. W. G. Hassall, tells of the tragedy, heroism, and community effort associated with last weeks flood In this thriving Mary Valley rural area.

When a storm broke over Kenilworth at 9 a.m. on Sunday, January 7 we little dreamed that it, would usher in a week of nearly record flooding, says Mrs Hassall.

It was a week in which tragedy struck when the Mary River claimed a victim, a seriously ill man had to be transported across the flooded river by boat and a baby with Rh blood factor was born at a homestead in the Obi Obi district at 9 pm. on Thursday night.

These are the personal stories of the flood and on top of this stranded milk tankers from Kraft milk factory added to the worry and anxiety. Drivers were away for three days in some cases and milk had to be poured away on the stranded dairy farms. Fences were washed away and roads badly damaged while the Mary River bridge received a bad battering as the Mary River raced along in full flood rising on Tuesday at the rate of 4 ft. an hour to reach the height of 37 ft. 6 in. From then until Saturday at noon the bridge was clear of water for only brief intervals

So, quickly did the river rise again on Wednesday after a brief respite that some people who drove into the township for necessary supplies were stranded.

Doyle's mill became a danger spot on Tuesday, so the electric motors were taken up, some stacks of pine were carted to higher ground and other stacks were wired to the ground. All this was done in pouring rain..

Miss Betty Doyle's caravan was made available to the lads who live in the mill quarters, as these were surrounded by the flood waters.

Kraft cheese factory, was busy with necessary precautions, against flooding.

When the young man, Norman Mohammed who tried to swim, the flooded Mary River on, Thursday afternoon, was seen in difficulties by a party of S.E.A. men and also local residents. Police Sergeant Mr. Marchant was quickly alerted and a search was underway, immediately.

Young men combed the river banks for miles until darkness made it too dangerous. Mr. Murray Hicks' power boat was requisitioned, but the search proved futile. At first light next morning the searchers were out again and his body was found some miles down stream by Mr. J. Stotsches and his son Joseph.

A boat was necessary again for Police Sergeant Marchant and party to cross the river at Gheerulla on their way to Nambour with the body.

Drenching thunderstorms all that day again caused a big rise in the river. The cream and mail truck owners who were able to cross the river in the morning were unable to cross in the early afternoon, so they turned and drove back to Eumundi then along the coast road to Maleny and after an hour's wait at the Conondale Bridge, they came on to Kenilworth late that night. However, the bridge was not crossable until after 10.00 a.m. on Saturday morning to allow Mr Jack Hassall's mail and cream truck and the Obi Obi carriers to return to their homes on the other side of the river.

GRATITUDE

The people, of the district are extremely grateful to those who kept the wheels turning in this crisis.

Sergeant Marchant was on the job by day and by night. The Post Office staff, with relieving Post -Mistress Mrs. Burns and her assistants worked under extreme difficulties There was only one line open for Kenilworth and that was through Imbil and Gympie. Kenilworth office could not ring Imbil and were dependent on the postmaster at Imbil and his family who rang all the time to take the Kenilworth calls. Without them and the Gympie exchange girls Kenilworth would have had nothing.

Appendix 5

Cr. A. H. Sims said that all the district people owe a debt of gratitude to the staff of these post offices.

The S.E.A. men patrolled the area unceasingly and it was indeed fortunate that there were no major power failures.

As, soon as possible Cr A. H. Sims, had a gang out to repair the bridge damage. This was on Saturday after the flood had receded.

The river had completely covered the telephone poles at Gheerulla. Debris on top of the poles and cross-bars bear testimony to this. The cream and milk truck owners who go out in all weathers to get the produce away deserve high praise.

Obi Obi Drama

Sister Saville, from Melbourne and Sydney, holidaying with her mother, Mrs. Ken Smith, at Obi, was, able to go to, the assistance of Mrs N Clarke who gave birth to a son at her farm home in the Obi Obi Valley last Thursday at 9 p.m.

As the Rh blood factor was involved the patient and baby had to be transported to hospital as quickly as possible. The mother has been booked in at the Nambour Maternity Hospital in a month's time. It was impossible to reach Nambour that night, so the Maleny Ambulance came down the back road, locally known as "the suicide track" and mother and babe were carried over three creek crossings on a stretcher. Messrs N. Clarke, Ken Smith, Alec Cordwell and Philip English were the stretcher bearers. Mr. Ken Smith, an employee of the S.E.A. had a four wheel drive vehicle at his home, in case of a power emergency, so this proved a blessing on the wet and hilly roads. Mother and babe are well.

Mr. Mervyn Parker became seriously ill at 1 a.m. on Thursday morning and was brought by Mr. Fred Goeths' Land Rover across the back country to Cr. and Mrs. A. H. Sims.' farm at Gheerulla. Arriving there about 6 a.m. A doctor was contacted at Cooroy and he advised hospital, saying he would come out himself if possible. Mr Walter Woods, boat, manned by Mr Leon Adams was quickly on the scene and the patient and, and his brother, Mr. Jack Parker, and Mr. Goeths crossed. Road transport was waiting for them to continue to Cooroy. At the Belli-Cooroy turn-off, they were met by the doctor and, police officers in a four-wheel drive vehicle.

After X-rays at Cooroy, the patient was transferred to Maroochy District Hospital for further X-rays and treatment. His condition has improved slightly.

Sewerage Problem

A sewerage mishap was prevented when Mr. John Doyle noticed that a phlange of one, of the big delivery pipes at the mill was broken. Mr. Sims, local caretaker for, the water and sewerage systems, was notified. As the river was then in flood, the Maroochy Shire Council officer in charge was unable to come out, so Cr. A. H. Sims' authorised local repairs. Fortunately there was a spare pipe around the place. so, Mr. Ern Sims assisted by his son, Frank, home on holidays, and Mr. Selby Doyle to give a lift, replaced the broken pipe, which was on the main line carrying the sewerage to the treatment lake at Beatties.

Coolabine Creek

The Courier-Mail

January, 1968

Kenilworth's Senior Constable Ray Marchant told The Courier Mail by telephone last night: "Before it got dark I looked out from the police station across three miles of water. It's the biggest flood I've ever seen here

"The water's only 30 yards from the police station fence. It's broken into the lower area of the school grounds.

"We're not worried yet, but we've got a power boat ready just in case."

Mill Shift

Another Kenilworth resident, Mrs W.G. Hassall said: "Our property is on a hill and we're surrounded by water. It's the highest flood since 1955, when it was six feet deep in the cheese factory."

Mrs Hassall said men were shifting stacks and timber and electric motors threatened by the flood at Doyle's sawmill.

Kenilworth has had more than 14½ inches since Sunday morning.

Cooroy last night was a town besieged by water. It had 13 inches since Sunday.

Dozens of stranded holidaymakers and truck drivers made an accommodation problem at the little town. Its hotel, the Victory quickly became booked out as holidaying families sought shelter.

Hall opened

Several local residents took in families from as far away as Melbourne.

Cooroy police arranged to open the C.W.A. Hall and the cinema to accommodate travellers.

Sunshine Coast beaches last night were still accessible by road from the Bruce Highway. The Yandina-Coolum road was impassable, but cars reached Coolum by the coast road through Bli Bli.

Between Cooroy and Tewantin-Noosa the road was cut by floods several times yesterday but early last night traffic was getting through.

Maleny after 12 inches of rain was cut off from all points last night. But the town's Constable Brian Johnston said: "We're not in any trouble".

Note: River heights at the Mary River bridge in January, 1968:-

9.01.1968	11.28 metres
10.01.1968	9.22 metres
11.01.1968	9.75 metres
12.01.1968	8.53 metres
14.01.1968	3.73 metres

Appendix 7



Appendix 13

Appendix 12

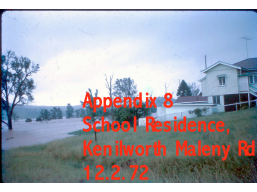
Appendices 9a & 9b

Appendix 11

Appendix 10a


Appendix 10b

See Appendix 8

A photograph of a two-story house with a white exterior and a dark roof, situated on a grassy hillside. The house has a prominent chimney and a window with a white frame. In the foreground, there is a grassy slope. In the background, a paved road curves through a landscape with several trees under a bright, overcast sky. The text is overlaid in red on the right side of the image.

Appendix 8
School Residence,
Kenilworth Maleny Rd
12.2.72

Appendix 9a



**12.2.1972 - 11.58 m . flood
Cnr Elizabeth & George Sts**

Appendix 9b



**9/2/1999 Elizabeth St. - 11.9 metre flood
Photograph David Pearson**

Appendix 10b



**9/2/1999 - 11.9 metre flood
Elizabeth & Charles St, Kenilworth**

A photograph showing a flooded area, likely a park, with trees and a building in the background. The water is murky and reflects the sky. The scene is captured from a slightly elevated position, possibly a walkway or ramp.

Appendix 10 a

12.2.1972 - 11.58 m. flood -
Town Park

**1955 Flood, Mary Street
10 hours post-peak**

Appendix 11



Appendix 12



**Mary River Bridge - 9/2/1999 - 11.9 metre flood
Eumundi-Kenilworth Rd.**

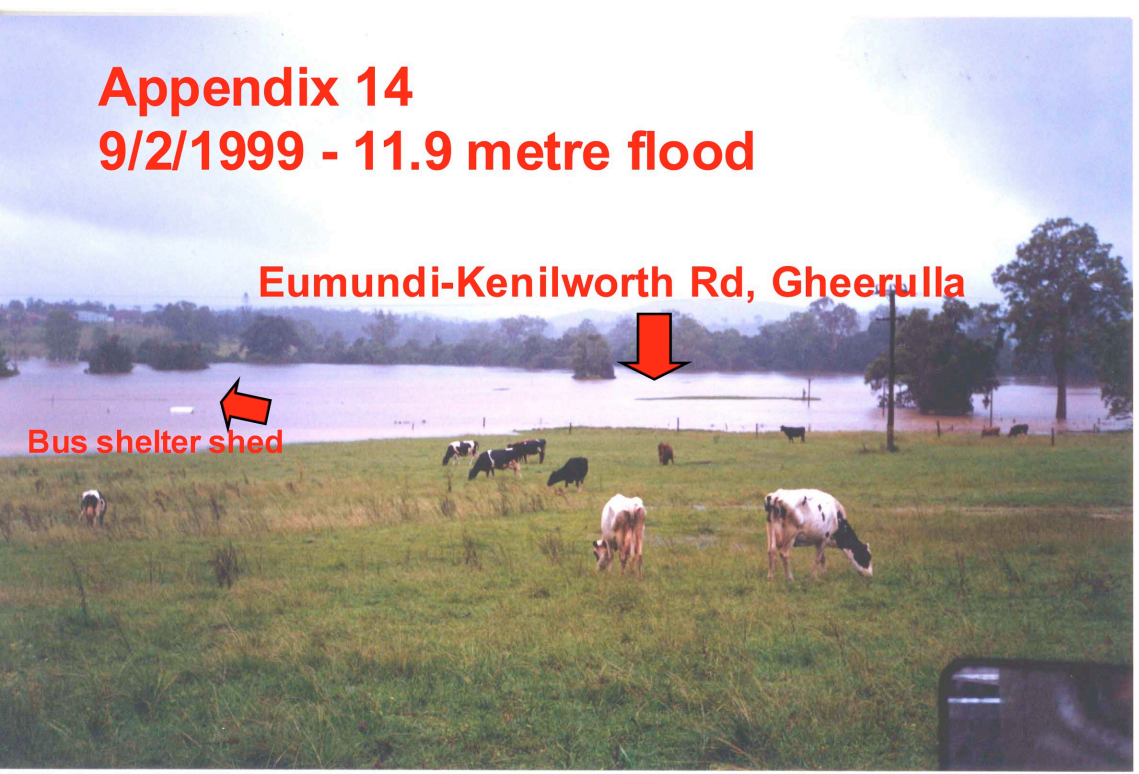
Appendix 14

9/2/1999 - 11.9 metre flood

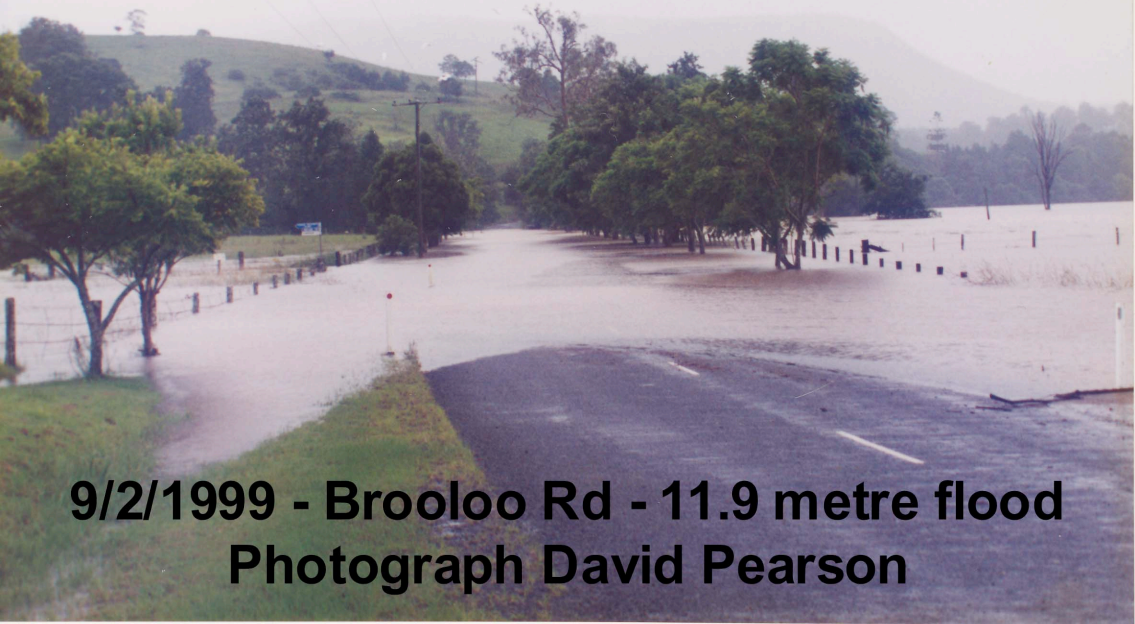
Eumundi-Kenilworth Rd, Gheerulla



Bus shelter shed



Appendix 13



**9/2/1999 - Brooloo Rd - 11.9 metre flood
Photograph David Pearson**

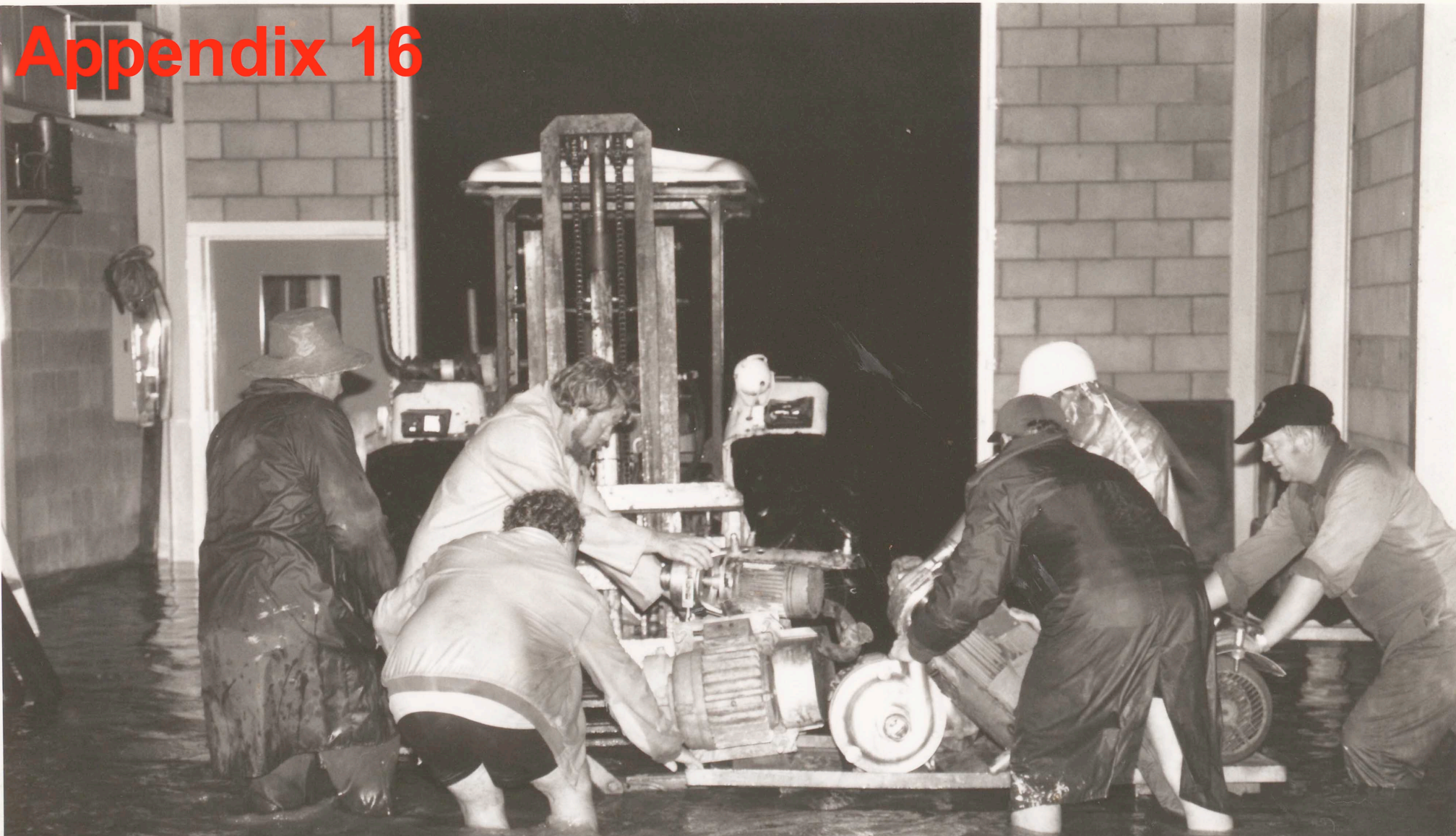
Appendix 15 - 9/2/1999 - 11.9 metre flood

Kenilworth Homestead

Camping Area



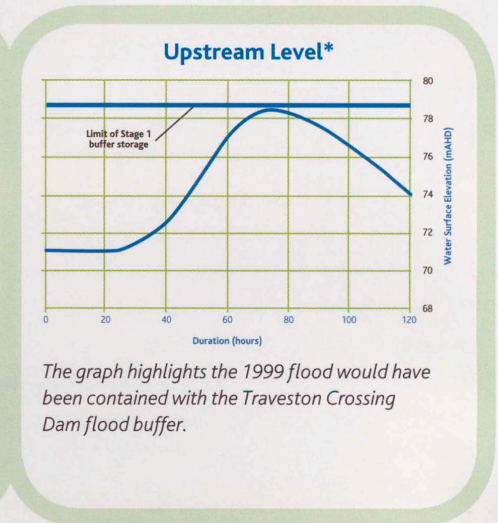
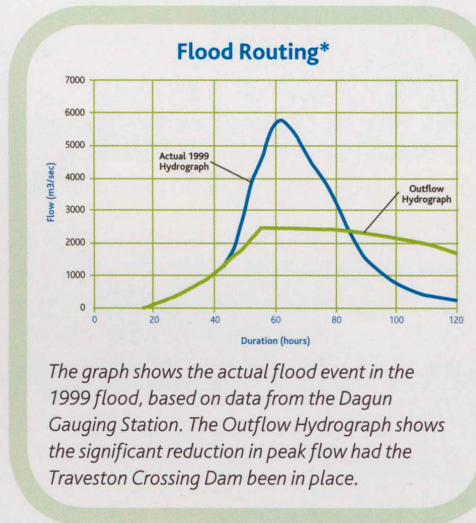
Appendix 16



Kenilworth Country Foods Floods of April 1989
April 2 - 11.7 metres; April 25 - 12.06 metres

Delivering Flood Impact Reduction Downstream

The proposed Traveston Crossing Dam will provide significant downstream flood mitigation, particularly to Gympie. In response to enquiries, QWI can confirm that its hydraulic modelling assessment of the 1974, 1989, 1992, and 1999 floods that caused extensive damage to Gympie demonstrates that the peak water level in the town would have been reduced by 3.5 - 4.0m had the proposed Traveston Crossing Dam existed at that time. For example, had the dam been in place in 1999, it would have been possible to regulate the flow of flood water over a longer period, preventing significant damage and cost to houses, businesses, roads and local industry. Importantly, the dam will also have the effect of substantially reducing the impact of smaller, more frequent floods. A detailed flood



Note: similar graphs are available for the 1974, 1989 and 1992 floods on the QWI website.

warning system and associated gate operating strategies will be developed in consultation with emergency services, local authorities and other key stakeholders for a range of flood

conditions, in accordance with the Queensland Dam Safety Management Guidelines and the Australian National Committee on Large Dams Inc Guidelines in Dam Safety Management.

(*Source: SunWater)

Benefit to Gympie

The pictures demonstrate how damage to Gympie caused by the 1999 floods could have been substantially reduced had Traveston Crossing Dam existed at that time. Similar modelling has been done for a range of other floods (including the 1974, 1989 and 1992 floods), with similar results. The Bureau of Meteorology's Flood Benefit Table (below) further highlights the flood reduction to Gympie.



Actual flooding in Gympie CBD – 1999*



Modelled flooding area in Gympie CBD 1999 – with the proposed Traveston Crossing Dam in place*

(*Source: SunWater)

Benefit to Maryborough

An initial assessment indicates the proposed Traveston Crossing Dam would provide a considerable (about 1-2m) flood mitigation effect in Maryborough when there are flood events occurring in the upper part of the catchment, such as those that resulted in the 1992 and 1999 floods. The initial assessments also indicate that there will be some flood mitigation effect in Maryborough for flood events occurring in the lower part of the catchment, such as those occurring in 1955 and 1974. Further assessment will be considered under the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

GAUGE Ht (m)	PROBABLE FLOOD EFFECT IN GYMPIE*	Flood Benefit Table
6.00	MINOR FLOOD LEVEL	
6.00	Crops/Grazing	
9.75	Kidd Street Bridge	
9.90	BRIDGE	
12.00	MODERATE FLOOD LEVEL	
13.10	Bell's Bridge	
13.41	Madill's Garage Floor	
15.85	Normanby Bridge, South End	
16.00	Approx 5 commercial properties inundated	
17.00	MAJOR FLOOD LEVEL	
17.37	Mary Street	
17.53	Swimming Pool	
18.00	Approx 34 commercial properties flooded	
18.29	The first houses are flooded	
20.00	Approx 81 commercial properties flooded	
21.95	Feb 1999 flood: 60 residences and 130 businesses affected by floodwaters	
22.00	Approx 116 commercial properties flooded	

Dam Flood Benefit ↑

(*Source: Bureau of Meteorology)