

From:
Sent: Wednesday, 19 January 2011 3:32 PM
To:
Subject: FW: Background flood facts

[Xin and others – FYI.](#)

From:
Sent: Monday, 17 January 2011 9:36 AM
To:
Subject: FW: Background flood facts

[fyi](#)

From:
Sent: Thursday, 13 January 2011 4:45 PM
To:
Cc:
Subject: Background flood facts

Hi Joseph

As requested attached are some background facts comparing the current floods with the 1974 floods.

Modelling and Forecasting Unit

Attachment 1

In 1974, QLD had a population of around 2 million. It now has a population of around 4.5 million.

- Brisbane has grown from 940,000 in 1974 to around 2 million in 2010.
- Ipswich has grown from 66,100 to 121,000.
- Queensland accounted for around 15 per cent of Australia's working age population in 1974 and 20 per cent in 2010.
- The Queensland economy accounted for around 14 per cent of national output in 1974 compared with around 20 per cent today.
 - Queensland coal exports represented around 0.3 per cent of Australian GDP in 1973-74. Today, they represent around 1.5 per cent.
- The Queensland economy employed 825,000 persons in 1974 and 2.3 million in 2010.
 - Its share of national employment grew from 14 per cent to more than 20 per cent in 2010.
- In 1974, there were 615,000 dwellings in QLD. There are now 1,660,000.
 - Brisbane had 290,000 dwellings in 1974 and now has more than 700,000.
 - Queensland now has a higher density. In 1974, 15 per cent of housing was medium or high density. Now around 30 per cent is medium or high density.
 - There were around 60 homes completely destroyed/condemned in 1974.
- In 1974, there were around 8500 homes affected in Brisbane. This time around 26,000 houses have been affected.
 - In 1974 there were 1,800 homes affected by floods in Ipswich. This time there were around 3000.
- In 1974 around 1000 businesses were affected by the floods compared with around 7000 today.
- The 1974 floods mainly affected the greater Brisbane area. This time, 75 per cent of QLD has been declared a disaster zone.
 - This has affected Brisbane, Bundaberg, Dalby, Gladstone, Gold Coast, Gympie, Ipswich, Logan, Maryborough, Rockhampton, Roma, Sunshine Coast, Toowoomba, Warwick and Redcliffe districts, where 3.1 million reside.
 - The Brisbane City Council reports that 33 suburbs have been affected by the current floods in Brisbane.
- The 1974 flood is estimated to have caused damage of \$200m (\$1.4b in today's dollars). The estimated economic impact was around \$1b dollars (\$6.8b in today's dollars).

- The estimated economic impact quoted in the media for the current flood ranges from \$5-13 billion.
- In 1974 the Brisbane River peaked at 5.45 m, in 2011 at 4.46 m.
- So far around 70 towns and cities across Queensland have been affected by the recent heavy rains.
- The five largest industries in the Queensland economy are mining (10.3 per cent), construction (8.7 per cent), manufacturing (8.4 per cent), health care and social assistance (7.0 per cent) and transport, postal and warehousing (6.5 per cent).

Attachment 2

[This section has been redacted under Section 22]
[pages 4-5]

Attachment 3

From:
Sent: Friday, 14 January 2011 4:01 PM
To:
Cc:
Subject: RE: Background flood facts

I wonder if this statement is double counting? – the increase to 700,000 includes the increase in medium or high density (apartments). Could be easily fixed by removing “And”.

Brisbane has more than doubled the number of homes, from 290,000 to 700,000. And housing density has increased – from 15 per cent medium or high density to double that, 30 per cent. That means a lot more homes affected by these floods.

General Manager

Domestic Economy Division
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phone:
mobile:
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From:
Sent: Friday, 14 January 2011 3:46 PM
To:
Cc:
Subject: RE: Background flood facts

Thanks all – will do.

From:
Sent: Friday, 14 January 2011 3:30 PM
To:
Cc:
Subject: RE: Background flood facts

Hi Joseph, just a few points.

- Strike out Logan and Redcliffe, which most people understand to be part of Brisbane.
- Ipswich is around 160,000 (not 121,000)
- Employment number for Queensland is total employment (not just “wage earners”)

- Change the number of houses affected in Brisbane in 1974 from 8500 to 6700

Dave

From:

Sent: Friday, 14 January 2011 2:53 PM

To:

Cc:

Subject: RE: Background flood facts

David

I've turned your points into a two-page speech that could be used for a range of functions, essentially making the point that the current floods are likely to have a bigger impact than the 74 ones. Grateful if you could fact-check this one. The office has put an urgent stamp on it, so grateful if you could let me know if any issues ASAP.

Regards,

Senior Adviser - Speechwriter

Policy Co-ordination and Governance

The Treasury, Langton Crescent, Parkes ACT 2600

phone:

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Modelling and Forecasting Unit