

# Coolum West Petition Comments

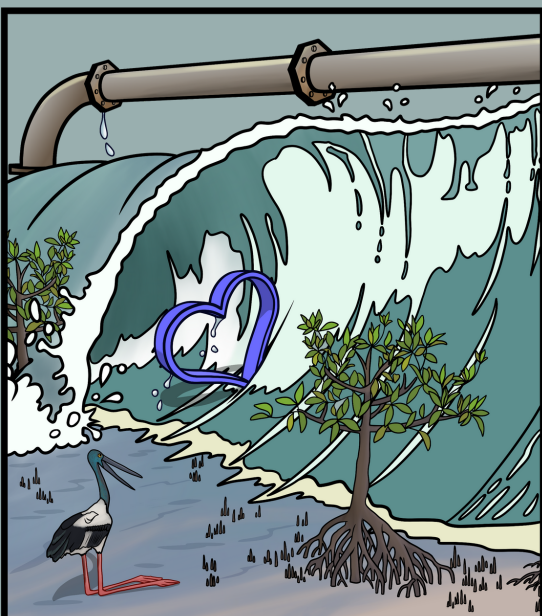
2,717 people have signed  
361 people left comments



"I am signing because floodplains are paramount to be safe from floods and in harmony with our natural environment. Recent floods in Germany give a great example of it! I am more so not seeing that our council is actively combatting climate change. We do not need more development at the cost of our natural environment. It is a crime to continue this ideology of perpetual economic growth. We have an ocean to surf in. As a founding member of the UN Australia has committed itself to sustainable development. Continuous development at the cost of natural habitat is NOT sustainable! The Coast has changed so much in the past few years and loosing not only its charm but also community feel. We are NOT the Gold Coast. Please stop this insane development!"

"It's a flood plain. The clue is in the name. Apart from being unsuitable for development, such areas are also vital parts of the local ecology. And, it's very important that local communities are heard, and for them to know that they are heard by their elected representatives. Pushing through developments like this harm the environment and further erode people's morale."

"I am against this proposal because the infrastructure is not in place to handle this huge housing development. You only have to try to negotiate the Coolum motorway roundabout in peak hour to see the problem. I doubt if the wave pool would ever be built. It is my opinion that it is yet another attempt to get a housing development on the site."

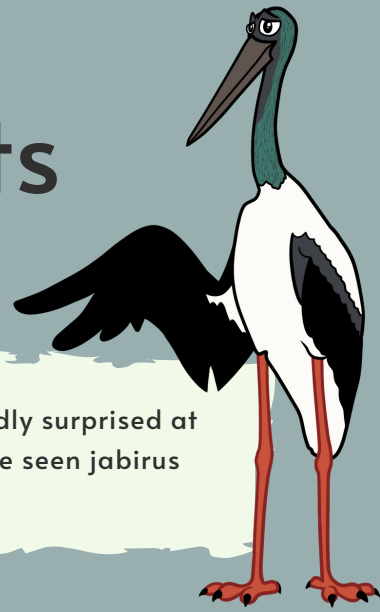


"Because this development is not in the best interests of the environment or locals. Keep our blue heart, we need the diversity, we need nature."

"I personally assisted as part of 'the mud army' in 2011. Houses built on floodplains were horrifically inundated. Why would we want to do that again? These events are only going to increase with climate change."

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"I moved to this area thinking it would not be overdeveloped & now I am badly surprised at how much the locals have to fight against bad development plans! Also I've seen jabirus there with my own eyes & don't want them to be displaced"

"I don't want my insurance premiums increasing to help bail out the inevitable results of this madness."

"This unique habitat supports a range of ecosystem services which are not found in any other ecosystem. As well as being important habitat for local wild-life, the role of this habitat in carbon sequestration is of utmost importance. Also it managaes risks of flooding and more importantly fire which has been known to rip through neighboring areas (due to increased cleared land promoting fire risks). Development of this area would be i feasible because of many reasons including these."

"As a local resident I have observed this area flooding frequently. If development goes ahead the run-off will have to go somewhere. This development makes sense only to those who wish to profit from it."



"I've seen this area flood several times. There is a reason for flood plains being where they are. Build here and Coolum and other townships will flood."

"I personally assisted as part of "the mud army" in 2011. Houses built on floodplains were horrifically inundated. Why would we want to do that again? These events are only going to increase with climate change."

# Minister for State Development & Tourism: PLEASE DON'T OPEN THE FLOODGATES AT COOLUM WEST!



Developers can claim they have solutions to mitigating floodwaters when it comes to developing flood plains BUT when an extreme event occurs, whether it be on the site itself or downstream of a river, the developers are nowhere to be found.

A developer is currently lobbying the State Government to have the rural zoned floodplains at Coolum West deemed a Priority Development Area under the South East Queensland Regional Plan. If this occurs it would not only push through an inappropriate development that is not permitted under current planning instruments, but it would also sideline the community and have dire environmental impacts.

The proposal for Coolum West has been represented as a surf ranch and wave pool BUT it is an intense residential and commercial development with a “surf ranch and wave pool”, that would not even be available to the casual surfer, as a sweetener.

## IT'S A FLOODPLAIN!

### IMPACTS ON ECOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT MAROOCHY RIVER AND CATCHMENT

Apart from potential impacts on the important and sensitive hydrology of the site, the developer has indicated that water for the wave pool will be extracted from the Maroochy River. There are many questions and issues around such a proposal:

How will such extraction impact on the ecology of the river, both macro and micro biodiversity? At what rate would water be extracted?

If there is an intent to replenish the water in the wave pool, with what frequency and what impacts on the river ecology and balance?

What would be the implications for mineral mobilisation with acid sulphate and humic soils?

The Maroochy River is a declared Fish Habitat area – what impacts might a potential change in the salt/freshwater and pH balance have?

The recreational fishing values of the river are currently in decline, and this will only add to the impact on the highly lucrative tourism industry and valued past-time of locals.

The Maroochy floodplain has significant vegetation communities which are Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems. These include the largest stand of *Casuarina glauca* in Australia which has recently been listed as nationally endangered – Coastal Swamp Oak (*Casuarina glauca*) Forest of South-East Queensland and New South Wales; Subtropical and Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh community which is EPBC listed as critically endangered; and a threatened population of endangered water mouse (*Xeromys myoides*). A full ecological study over time of the impact of any of the proposed changes to the floodplain should be undertaken before any consideration of development or any similar activity on any part of the Maroochy floodplain.

[Change.org/coolumwest](https://change.org/coolumwest)

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## SOCIAL/ECONOMIC IMPACTS

The State Government's Chief Scientist says -

Floods have large social consequences for communities and individuals. As most people are well aware, the immediate impacts of flooding include loss of human life, damage to property ... some economic activities may come to a standstill, people are forced to leave their homes and normal life is disrupted. ... Loss of livelihoods, reduction in purchasing power and loss of land value in the floodplains can leave communities economically vulnerable.

Floods can also traumatise victims and their families for long periods of time. The loss of loved ones has deep impacts, especially on children. Displacement from one's home, loss of property and disruption to business and social affairs can cause continuing stress. For some people the psychological impacts can be long lasting.

In Australia, floods are the most expensive type of natural disaster with direct costs estimated over the period 1967-2005 averaging at \$377 million per year (calculated in 2008 Australian dollars). Until recently, the most costly year for floods in Australia was 1974, when floods affecting New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland resulted in a total cost of \$2.9 billion. The Queensland Government estimates costs for the 2011 floods will exceed this figure for Queensland alone; with the damage to local government infrastructure estimated at \$2 billion, and the total damage to public infrastructure across the state at between \$5 and \$6 billion [1] [emphasis added]

And the Townsville floods alone were estimated to cost \$1 billion [2]

## SO WHY WOULD GOVERNMENT KNOWINGLY RISK OUR LIVES, OUR LIVELIHOOD AND OUR ENVIRONMENT?

From limited and skewed 'consultation', the developer claims the community is in favour of this.

If you are not in favour and you do not want the flood plains at Coolum West turned into an intense residential and commercial development then please sign our Petition today and also make a comment so that we can pass the community's feedback onto the State Government.

[1] <https://www.chiefscientist.qld.gov.au/publications/understanding-floods/flood-consequences>

[2] <https://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/national/queensland/queensland-floods-damage-bill-estimates-top-1-billion-20190216-p50yal.html>

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