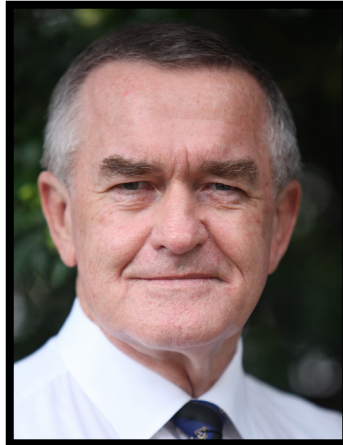


media release #12



GREG McMAHON

**INDEPENDENT SENATE CANDIDATE for QUEENSLAND
FEDERAL ELECTION - 2 JULY 2016**

Wivenhoe Dam and other serious issues for Queensland voters

Queensland Senate candidate Greg McMahon said today it was a matter of great concern that the upgrading of Wivenhoe Dam to protect people, property and infrastructure in Brisbane and elsewhere downstream of the dam was not even on the government's infrastructure list for the next 15 years.

Mr McMahon told the ABC's Steve Austin, that Wivenhoe Dam had been described several years ago by the now-Chief Justice of Queensland as "the most dangerous piece of public infrastructure in Queensland".

"It still is," Mr McMahon said today.

"People need to understand that a flood that is 80 per cent in size of the maximum flood, derived from the Bureau of Meteorology's estimates of maximum rainfall, would likely overtop the dam wall.

"You cannot allow rock-filled dams like Wivenhoe to overtop," Mr McMahon said.

"The wall would be breached and the dam would fail.

"That would be catastrophic for communities downstream," he said.

"Authorities have calculated the likely death toll, but are not informing the public of this death toll when describing the risk of dam failure to the public.

"And fixing the problem and protecting those downstream and their properties is not even on a priority list.

"People should know these things," he said.

"That is why I have called for an inquiry into flood inquiries and what happens after them.

"The way that the dam is operated could also worsen damages from flooding for less extreme events.

"Resolution of differences over how dams should be operated should not depend on class actions," Mr McMahon added.

"Class actions may be settled out of court. An inquiry that invites hydrologists, meteorologists, risk management specialists and other relevant disciplines to contribute to this debate is necessary.

"And Wivenhoe is also an example of why I have called for the community to receive better public leadership from those who govern us.

"The Premier reiterated today that the multi-billion dollar cross-rail project is number one on the government's priority list.

"Fixing Wivenhoe is not even on that list," Mr McMahon said.

"The situation at the Oakey military base is another example of the need for government to follow some creed of public leadership" was another point also made by Greg McMahon to Steve Austin.

"The authorities knew for a decade that the water supply there had been drastically polluted ... but said nothing to the people of Oakey.

"That is not the public leadership people expect from government agencies ... it is the opposite.

"And the list goes on," Mr McMahon said.

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