**Infrastructure Coordination**

**(LGPI Amendment 1a)**

**BRISBANE CITY COUNCIL**

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**Date: 25 June 2021**

### **Dear Lord Mayor and** **Infrastructure Co-ordination Team**

**SUBMISSION – PROPOSED CUTS TO YERONGA STORMWATER DRAINAGE PROJECTS**

**27052021- LTIP-Schedule-of-Amendments to the Brisbane City Plan 2014, Infrastructure Amendment 1a – Long Term Infrastructure Plans**

### I am shocked and dismayed that you have not only failed to deliver planned improvements to the Yeronga stormwater drainage network scheduled in the 2016/2021 LGIP, but have now cut funding and removed these projects from the LGIP altogether.

**Twenty-two (22) ‘priority’ Yeronga stormwater pipe upgrade projects are listed in the LGIP for installation between 2016 and 2021 - *none have been implemented and all have been deleted.***

In 2000, Council undertook a major study into the Yeronga stormwater drainage systems and identified significant capital works to upgrade the stormwater networks. That report found several **existing stormwater pipes were inadequate to manage the overland flooding caused by heavy rain** and **that other sections of the overland network required additional pipework and outlets to make them fit for purpose**.

These obvious deficits resulted in residential properties regularly having to manage significant flooding, and **frequent disruption and danger within the suburb caused by overland flooding**. This is still the situation today, ***some 21 years later***.

The proposed works were designed to manage and mitigate the effects of overland stormwater flooding as it flows into and out of recognised floodways. It includes new pipelines and increased pipe sizes for some existing drains.

Following the 2000 report, the Yeronga stormwater drainage plans were included in BCC’s PIP – ‘**Priority** Infrastructure Projects’. More than half of these **priority** projects were not brought forward into the 2016/25 LGIP – now the remaining **priority** projects have also been removed. Because overland flooding caries considerable health & safety risks, along with damage to property and ongoing mental and physical stress to residents, **this surely represents total abrogation of responsibility by BCC to Yeronga and neighbouring residents.**

It is well known that rainwater trying to reach these floodways via pipes in the stormwater system is limited by pipe networks and sizes. During storm events, residents in low lying areas in Yeronga and Yeronga West along and in the floodway are **still being regularly flooded 21 years after the 2000 Report**.

In fact, **surface stormwater runoff resulting in flooding has increased** - **there is now actually more stormwater flooding *more frequently* in our suburb and adjacent areas.**

So, Yeronga residents are not only suffering the effects of **inadequate stormwater drains**, but the situation is worsening, due to growth and development, including:

* increased population, building density and larger footprints of housing
* land fill in parks and other areas
* subdivision of larger blocks
* vegetation removal
* major new developments, including apartment complexes & retirement village
* many units/townhouses, and, of course,
* the effects of climate change

With this clear increase in paved and roof top surfaces, land fill, and vegetation removal due to development in the suburb (a population increase of approx. 50% (1986 - 2016), **surface water runoff resulting in flooding will continue to increase**.

Flooding affects all members of our community. Concern is both for those coping directly with personal trauma and ongoing financial loss, but also for **all in our community** who are impacted by the closure and disruption to local businesses; increased cost of insurance; reduction of land values; increased cost of new development; damage to infrastructure and vital communication services; toxic waste flowing from old industrial dumps into the drains, creeks and rivers; social disruption; environmental degradation; and sewage overflow from the treatment works and flooded sewage lines.

## I call on the Lord Mayor and Brisbane City Council to:

1. Immediately **reinstate funding** for and implement the 22 Yeronga stormwater projects (YER-SW1 to YER-SW-22) identified for removal from the Brisbane City Plan 2014, LGIP Infrastructure amendment 1a – Long term infrastructure plans
2. Remediate the obstructed and inadequately drained overland stormwater flow pathways identified in the 2000 report which were never addressed in the 2014 City Plan LGIP
3. **Communicate** directly with us and our representative group (Yeronga District Residents’ Association YDRA). Your ***2011 Flood Action Plan*** mentions “collaborating with residents” and “partnering with communities” (p 10). We urge you and relevant Engineers to meet with us as soon as possible!
4. Live up to **your commitment** made in ‘Brisbane’s Floodsmart Future Update 2021 - Catchment Floodplain Management Planning’ ….
	* 1. *As our climate changes we want to ensure our community remains safe by adapting and preparing for future flood events from all sources including river, creek, coastal and* ***overland*** *flow. (p4)*

I look forward to your early attention to this critical aspect of infrastructure. The health, safety, property and general well-being of Yeronga residents are at stake.

**Sincerely**

**Name:**

**Address:**

**Email:**