

**Submission
No 103**

INQUIRY INTO WATER AUGMENTATION

Name: Mr Robert Mortlock

Date received: 23 January 2017

THE PURPOSE OF THE SUBMISSION : Additional Data for consideration regarding TAMWORTH REGIONAL COUNCIL BENDEMEER FLOODPLAIN RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

In 2014 a group of Bendemeer residents and volunteers formed an action group , after discussion with DPI Fisheries both in Tamworth and at area management level , which resulted in the group becoming part of Tamworth Regional Landcare Group . The purpose of the exercise was to clear invasive weeds from the banks of the MacDonald river which runs through the village of Bendemeer and has recorded two flood incidents which inundated land and surrounded many houses in 1962 and which rose to the second highest known level in 2008 when very few buildings and land suffered any inundation at all . In 2015 , a year of above average rainfall two separate issues were highlighted . In asking the Committee to take them into account when considering the Tamworth Regional Council plan for flood mitigation in Bendemeer , I wish to report that the restoration work carried out by the local group , with much assistance from the well organised Tamworth Landcare Group resulted in a faster dispersal of rising levels in the river on five occasions during the year . The biggest plus was that a heavily used low level concrete bridge upstream of the cleared banks was not overtopped . This points to the success of the programme of bank restoration . With more work planned further downstream it seems possible that future flooding might be less likely to impact on the village to the extent that was experienced previously . I further suggest that a visit to Bendemeer by representatives from the Committee to view the work and discuss other issues with the Landcare group would be time well spent , bearing in mind some of the dramatic suggestions in the Council plan . I am not a resident of the village , but we are frequent visitors and own property in the main street , Caroline Street . Like the residents , many of them long term , we do not share the summation of Tamworth Council that Bendemeer is ' highly flood prone' . I thank you for the opportunity to make a submission and I await the outcome of your inquiry . Robert Mortlock .