Government Flood Review Team

Submission of John Hayward, resident of …………….. at Weegena inundated by Mersey River during June 2016 flood.

Our home and property were flooded earlier this year to an unprecedented level, badly damaging the house and destroying virtually everything else. While much of the severity probably resulted from the extremes to be expected from climate change, it was seemingly exacerbated by more more specific human influences.

The most notorious was the cloud-seeding which was reported as taking place over parts of the upper Mersey catchment on the day the flood commenced, despite the marked increase of extreme flood events in Australia and other parts of the world this year. This was reportedly done to increase the levels in Hydro's dams for BassLink power exports to the mainland.

Another very common practice which exacerbates flooding is the intensive logging of catchments, including the cable-logging of very steep slopes, which greatly increases the speed, volume, erosion and siltation of run-off. In addition to its environmental damage, this practice is a major net drain on Tasmanian public money.

Flooding such as seen in June is increasingly regarded less as an act of some god than as negligence by the government agencies entrusted with the protection of the public interest.

John Hayward

10/11/16