To whom it may concern,  
  
We have been in touch with the DPIPWE in relation to erosion of the Forth river which was caused by the flood that occurred in June this year. They have told us to put a submission into you.  
Our story is as follows:-

Please find attached photos of river bank damage from the June flood.

The river bank has continued to erode since the June flood and will continue to do so if nothing is done to repair it.

Before the flood in June our property was able to handle a minor flood with no water entering the property. Since then there has been 2 minor flood warnings issued and we now have water flow straight across the middle of our property where the bank has eroded into a dam on the other side, the dam cannot handle that volume of water which causes the water to backup and fill the lower areas of our paddocks with water and this now occurs before the river reaches minor flood level.

This will make any future cropping of our property high risk due to the above reasons and the crop will be inundated with water.

Also it has been mentioned that the erosion is caused by a natural flood event and that it can't be helped. In this situation I don't think this is the case due to the Levee walls which have been constructed down either side of the river to a significant height which in turn creates rapid flow of the river between these two levee's in this area not allowing the river to spread out over the natural flood plains until the levee's either break or level rises above them which in the June event it did.

If the erosion had happened with no levee's it would be fair to say it is a natural occurance but due to the  altered course of the river during a flood event this can no long be said.

I find it hard to accept that theses levee's can be built to protect some properties but we end up between them suffering the damage and if recent events has greatly decreased the value and use ability of our property,on which we had future plans  
  
Looking forward to your prompt reply to discuss this matter further

Our contact details

Regards,

Paul and Katie Austin





