Attention, Brian Edmonds.

I welcome this review after the major flooding events this year.

My family has lived along the Mersey River at Merseylea for 100 years. Floods happen and are a relatively common event. But the floods in June this year were extreme, with others of similar size happening in  1971, ~1907.

The events of June had a welcome response from all the relevant authorities, there was however some areas that were/are of major concern to the residents of the greater area affected by the Mersey River:

1. Helicopters scaring cattle into flood waters
   1. It was witnessed in the Merseylea area Helicopters flying low, scaring livestock into flood water.
   2. The livestock that were swept away had a 60% survival rate
   3. Livestock on a grazing farm are THE major asset, after land.
2. The saving of livestock further downstream at Devonport
   1. Reports of government vets shooting cattle struggling ashore,
   2. Yet private locals were saving cattle using kayaks, jet skies etc.
3. The offer of help with disposal of dead farm stock could have been better implemented, but was welcomed
   1. With very wet conditions, the appropriate machinery and methods were not used.
      1. Everything was too wet to burn
      2. An appropriate tractor with loader and forks, towing an easily removable trailer would have been the best option in getting dead animals to local burial sites
4. Major infrastructure repairs
   1. This is a major hindrance, even 3 ½ months later, 3 important bridges are out of action on the Mersey River and 1 major road is in disrepair
      1. Examples,
         1. Merseylea Bridge @ Merseylea
         2. Hoggs Bridge @ Merseylea
         3. Dynans Bridge @ Wageena
         4. Railton Road @ Frogmore (Latrobe)
      2. I would recommend that the standard government process is far far too long, that an alternate, speedier process should be put in place in times of disasters, so that repair to lost bridges and roads can be started sooner.

Thankyou to listening to my concerns

                Mark Lambert, Sunnyside.