

Key points summary

Simon Aiken

- My name is Simon James Aiken. I am employed by Tonkin and Taylor as a Senior Water Resources consultant. I am an experienced catchment planner, with expertise in stormwater management, hydrological and hydraulic modelling, and flood risk.
- The purpose of my evidence was to assess, on behalf of CJ Industries, the impact of the proposed activity on flooding-related effects, in particular, on the Peach Island stopbanks but also on upstream and downstream of the site.

Key Points

- Having assessed the applicant's proposal, my professional opinion is that the greatest effect may be an almost indiscernible attenuation of flood flows, if the Stage One work area was to become flooded during the operation of the borrow pit.
- Based on my assessment there is no evidence to suggest this activity will worsen current flood risk. Based on the modelled scenarios there is no indication that upstream or downstream changes in either water level or velocity are either extensive or significant.
- Following the excavation of material, the borrow pits will be backfilled to a similar level as the existing ground level and revegetated, therefore will act in a similar hydraulic manner to the pre-excavation floodplain.
- I accept that flooding of the proposed Stage One works area floodplain may occur on a semi-regular, **but not annual, basis**. I acknowledge that the frequency, duration, and magnitude of flooding will change because of future climate change.
- Due to the nature of the proposed activity (i.e., not critical or lifeline infrastructure or habitable dwellings) my professional opinion is that degree of flood is acceptable and is best **controlled through conditions of consent**.
- I have read the submitters technical evidence and am satisfied that no new information has been presented to me that would change my previous conclusions.