



PRIME MINISTER

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AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR BRISBANE FLOOD MITIGATION WORKS

The Australian Government has approved up to \$1 million for the first stage of a flood mitigation measures program in Brisbane this financial year. The Prime Minister, Mr Whitlam announced this in Canberra today. Assistance of \$800,000 will be provided for works on the Enoggera/Breakfast Creek, and \$200,000 for assistance towards an early warning program and flood mitigation and evacuation measures on the Brisbane Creek.

The Enoggera/Breakfast Creek works will involve the first stage of the reconstruction of the Enoggera Dam and associated dredging works for the lower reaches of the Breakfast Creek.

"If we are to protect people in future from floods of the kind Brisbane has suffered in the past couple of summers, we must take a comprehensive approach to the problem," Mr Whitlam said.

"This must include an examination of land use controls, of flood monitoring and of evacuation techniques and equipment, as well as physical works on dams and drainage.

"The Brisbane flood disasters of 1972 and 1974 showed that the city lacks an adequate system of flood plain management.

"As I said in Brisbane on 21 November, we have made repeated requests at official level to the Queensland Government to furnish firm works proposals on which we could base decisions regarding further mitigation projects.

"This is why it is possible to go ahead with only the Enoggera/Breakfast Creek works at this stage. It also explains why no other major works can be announced at this stage, and particularly why no major physical works can be carried out before the coming wet season."