TOUGHING IT OUT

READY TO GO: As little Logan Harrison clutches his teddy, all set in his life jacket ready for a trip home to Gracemere after an emergency ride in a Black Hawk helicopter, Mayor Brad Carter told the community it would take a year to clean up the flood-devastated city. See stories Page 3 and 5.

Tales of survival as Rocky starts counting the enormous cost

- New flash-flood warning for CQ - P2
- Carter says it will take a year to clean up Rockhampton - P3
- City's first 'looter' sent to jail - P9
- 30,000 pigs swept away in flood - P11

SODDEN CITY: As an ocean of water covers the Rockhampton Airport runway the full scope of this massive flood disaster is beginning to surface.

SARA STORER
with Special Guest GREG STORER

Appearing at the Rockhampton Leagues Club Thursday 24th February 2011
Show Only $29
Meal & Show $53
BIG WET HITS CQ

More than 30,000 pigs have been floating down the Dawson River since last weekend, with a piggery at Baralaba paralysed by flooding which has killed most of its herd livestock.

Baralaba Butchers' Sid Everingham owns and runs the piggery near Baralaba.

Mr Everingham said: "We've lost probably about 30,000 pigs in the floods, we tried to get as many weaners and suckers out by boat, but we could only save about 70 weaners, and the suckers didn't survive long, because they needed that mothers' milk, and all the soaks have been washed away."

"I let a whole lot of them out of the pens in the shed, so they could hopefully get to higher ground, but I haven't seen them since, and haven't heard any reports, so I believe they've gone downstream."

Mr Everingham had been building his butchery and piggery up for more than 30 years in the town, and while he was upset by the loss, he hoped he could re-build it.

He said he was angry that the grants made available of up to $25,000 for primary producers did not include reimbursements for livestock.

"I'm a pig farmer, and I spent years breeding these pigs, and building the pens, but there pigs I've lost I'll never get back again.

"The government offers this assistance, but a piggy is nothing without its sow, and what am I supposed to do about getting more sows now?"

He said at least $80,000 worth of damage had been caused to the property, including livestock losses, but that it was difficult to put a price on a good breeder.

"In beef, the best breeders go for thousands of dollars, and most people might have a couple, but I couldn't put a price on the pigs I had, so I wish there was at least something there for that loss of income that I am experiencing."

"How am I meant to provide a receipt for pigs I've bred and killed - it's not like I bought them at the supermarket."

Mr Everingham said the power was turned off to Baralaba for 48 hours as well, meaning over Christmas - one of the busiest times of year for him - he lost all his substantial meat holdings in the shop.

He said "Hopefully I can get some reimbursement for the meat I've lost, but as long as I have a bit of support, then I will just start all over and try to put the shop and pig farm back where it was, but it will take years."

Queensland Health public health physician Margaret Young said the leftovers, including pigs, that were floating down rivers around CQ posed no more threat to public health than anything else in the waterways, and advised people not to drive, walk or ride through floodwaters. She said it was vital that if people had to enter floodwaters, to wear appropriate clothing, boots, and to remember to wash hands regularly.

FAST FACTS

- More than 30,000 pigs lost in flooding
- Nearly 40 years of work down the drain for Baralaba butcher
- Government assistance won't cover livestock losses
- No increased risk to public health

Yes! We Are Open!

NORMAL TRADING HOURS

COME IN AND TRY OUR

RESTAURANT

GRADE BEEF!

118 MIDDLE ROAD, GRACEMERE.
PH 4933 4944, FAX 4933 4922

Or email us at laglanpremiumbeef@bigpond.com
Corruption

THERE was an error printed in a story titled "Pigs float down the Dawson" on Page 11 of yesterday’s Bully.

The story, by reporter Daniel Burdon, said "more than 30,000 pigs were floating down the Dawson River".

What Baralaba pig-gery owner Sid Everingham actually said was “30 sows and pigs”, not “30,000 pigs”.

The Morning Bulletin would like to apologise for this error, which was also reprinted in today’s Rural Weekly CQ before the mistake was known.