

# Demand for river living

## Buyers not put off by flood risk

Sophie Elsworth

EXCLUSIVE riverfront property sales were on the rise in Brisbane before January's floods, the latest Johnston Dixon River Report says.

And despite this year's disaster, there's still plenty of interest in riverside living.

The number of absolute riverfront house sales rose 24 per cent last year from 33 to 41 and included the record sale of a Hamilton home for \$10.3 million.

The annual river report shows Chelmer was the top-performing suburb in 2010 for riverfront house sales - 11 homes sold for a total \$36.19 million.

Chelmer was well ahead of Yeronga, which was the second-highest performing suburb, with four sales totalling \$19.89 million.

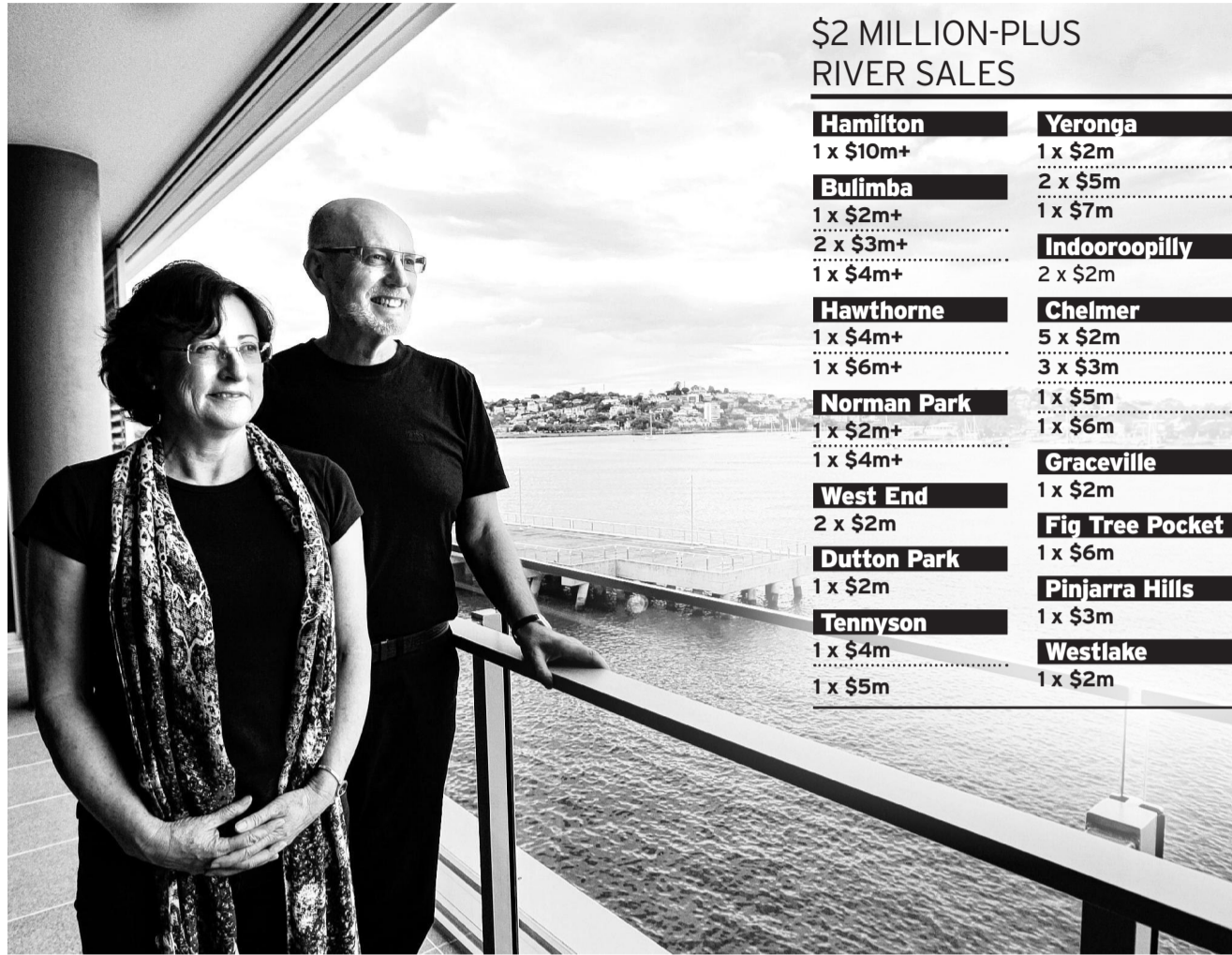
The report shows the average price for a riverfront home has skyrocketed in the past 10 years, from \$961,500 in 2000 to \$3.54 million last year.

But report author Josephine Johnston-Rowell said while riverfront sales increased in 2010, they were still down on sales before the GFC.

"In 2010 it was great, sales picked back up and I think it's going pretty well through the whole economic crisis because a lot of real estate is down," she said.

"There's other things impacting on the market at the moment apart from the floods, such as how people's businesses are going and interest rates."

Ms Johnston-Rowell said the average price for an absolute riverfront house climbed to



**NOT MOVING:** Christopher and Margaret Wren say they were not deterred from riverside living by the risk of flooding.

\$3.54 million in 2010 and set the 10th record in a row.

But riverfront land sales fell by nearly half, from seven sales in 2009 to just four.

The total value fell from \$14.1 million to \$9.53 million.

Ms Johnston-Rowell said despite January's flood, she expected riverside residents would be staying put.

"Not many people I know move off the river. I've got a property at the moment that's been in the one family for 46 years," she said.

"People who love living on the river are not necessarily just going to pack up and move because of the flood, they don't happen that often.

"I still have lots of people wanting to buy on the river. At the moment there's a lack of listings but that will pick up pretty quickly I think."

Christopher Wren and his wife Margaret have bought a three-bedroom riverfront property in Mirvac's Waterfront Newstead building Pier South. Already residents in the area,

the couple decided to downsize from a three-bedroom home to an apartment in the billion-dollar development and weren't deterred by January's floods.

"Based on our experience of living on the river and knowing the design standard of the property, we were above the reasonable level in terms of risk," Mr Wren said. "Our decision was based on our experience of living on the river - we are on level three but even the ground floor units are above the flood level."

### \$2 MILLION-PLUS RIVER SALES

Hamilton	Yeronga
1 x \$10m+	1 x \$2m
<b>Bulimba</b>	2 x \$5m
1 x \$2m+	1 x \$7m
2 x \$3m+	<b>Indooroopilly</b>
1 x \$4m+	2 x \$2m
<b>Hawthorne</b>	<b>Chelmer</b>
1 x \$4m+	5 x \$2m
1 x \$6m+	3 x \$3m
<b>Norman Park</b>	1 x \$5m
1 x \$2m+	1 x \$6m
1 x \$4m+	<b>Graceville</b>
<b>West End</b>	1 x \$2m
2 x \$2m	<b>Fig Tree Pocket</b>
<b>Dutton Park</b>	1 x \$6m
1 x \$2m	<b>Pinjarra Hills</b>
<b>Tennyson</b>	1 x \$3m
1 x \$4m	<b>Westlake</b>
1 x \$5m	1 x \$2m



»LIFTOUT INSIDE

## Reason to be afraid of dark

FEROCIOUS meat-eating dinosaurs were equipped with night vision that helped them stalk their prey in the dark, according to a study published in the journal *Science* yesterday.

Plant-eating dinosaurs could also see a fair bit at night, because they probably had to eat around the clock to keep their bellies satisfied, while flying dinosaurs were active only during the day, the study found.

Researchers at the University of California in the US were able to make these judgments by studying the eye area of fossilised dinosaurs.

By taking measurements of the bony circle called the scleral ring in their eye and comparing it to the eye socket size in 164 living lizards and birds as well as 33 dinosaur fossils, scientists could tell which ones saw in the dark.

Animals that are mainly active by day have a smaller opening in the scleral ring, while nocturnal creatures have a much larger opening.

Those which roam day and night fall somewhere in between.

Early birds and flying dinosaurs known as pterosaurs were mostly daytime hunters.

Velociraptors, the type featured in the movie *Jurassic Park*, were probably night-stalkers.

Scientists could not say the same about the massive meat-gnashing Tyrannosaurus Rex however, because they did not have any well-preserved eye fossils.

The study counters the widely held belief that most dinosaurs hunted by day while smaller mammals roamed at night.

"It was a surprise, but it makes sense," co-author Ryoosuke Motani said.

## QUEENSLAND CHANGE COMMISSION GOLD COAST CITY COUNCIL INVITATION FOR SUBMISSIONS

The Gold Coast City Council has advised that its electoral divisions no longer meet the quota requirements set down in the Local Government Act. The Minister responsible for Local Government has in turn referred the matter to the Change Commission for independent assessment.

The Commission invites written suggestions from interested persons and bodies relating to the council's electoral divisions, to be lodged on or before **5.00 pm Friday 6 May 2011**.

A public meeting to assist with public input for this assessment is to be held as follows:-

DATE & TIME OF HEARING: **Thursday 28 April 2011 at 9.45 am**  
PLACE OF HEARING: **Southport Community Centre**  
6 Lawson Street, Southport Qld.

For the purpose of this review, the Commission has determined that the average number of enrolled electors for electoral divisions is 21,332. Section 15 of the Act requires the Commission to ensure that the number of enrolled electors in all divisions does not differ from this average by more than 10%. Applying the specified level of tolerance means that the minimum number of electors in each division must be 19,199, with a maximum of 23,466. (These figures are as at 31 January 2011 and may need to be readjusted slightly depending upon population growth between now and the Local Government elections scheduled for March 2012.)

Further information about the review process and advice on formulating submissions may be found on the Electoral Commission of Queensland website [www.ecq.qld.gov.au](http://www.ecq.qld.gov.au).

Anyone interested in lodging a submission should note that all suggestions will be published on this website. Submissions should be marked GOLD COAST and may be posted to:

Change Commissioner  
Queensland Change Commission  
GPO Box 1393  
BRISBANE QLD 4001

or personally delivered to the office of the Electoral Commission of Queensland, Level 6, Forestry House, 160 Mary Street, Brisbane between the hours of 9.00 am and 5.00 pm or lodged by email [goldcoastcitycouncilreview@ecq.qld.gov.au](mailto:goldcoastcitycouncilreview@ecq.qld.gov.au).

It would assist the Commission if anyone intending to submit maps with written suggestions could do so by using maps of the present divisions which are available on the Commission's website, or by contacting the Commission on 1300 881 665 for assistance.

Members of the public are also asked to contact the Commission by phone if they wish to speak in support of their views at the public hearing.

David Kerslake  
Change Commissioner  
Electoral Commission of Queensland

## Parent's reversing car runs down tot

A TODDLER has been hit by a car being reversed by one of his parents out of a driveway on the NSW mid-north coast.

The 13-month-old boy was taken to Coffs Harbour Hospital with a suspected fractured pelvis, where he remains in a stable condition.

Emergency services workers were called to the home at Corindi Beach about 7am yesterday.

Detective Inspector Cameron Lindsay said the incident was a reminder to parents to be aware of where their children were.

The incident is under investigation.

## QUT International Research Open Day



Do you have a passion for discovery and solving real-world problems?

International students interested in undertaking research are invited to attend QUT's International Research Open Day.

**When:** Friday, 29 April 2011  
**Time:** 9.30am - 1.00pm  
**Where:** Gardens Theatre Foyer  
QUT Gardens Point campus, Brisbane city

Join us to learn more about QUT's research opportunities, multi-disciplinary research centres, leading facilities and student support.

A number of information sessions will take place - including a live panel presentation demonstrating the assessment of a research project.

Academic and senior research staff will be on hand to discuss your research ambitions and answer any questions you may have.

To register to attend visit [www.international.qut.edu.au/research-day](http://www.international.qut.edu.au/research-day) or for more information email [qutevents@qut.edu.au](mailto:qutevents@qut.edu.au).

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