

Flood relief for Wooyung and Crabbes Creek

TWEED Shire Council has been installing large box culverts in the Kallaroo Circuit bund at Ocean Shores in recent weeks on behalf of Byron Shire Council to help shift future floodwaters.

The bund is a man-made levee bank under the Kallaroo Circuit roadway that blocks nearly all water flow in the Capricornia Canal.

Originally there was to be a bridge over the Canal, but in 1992 Byron Council authorised the bund to be installed.

After heavy rainfall, the bund blocked flood water from Yelgun Creek dispersing into the Brunswick River.

Water then would back up into cane fields in the Wooyung and Crabbes Creek area causing crop losses to Tweed Shire farmers.

Ever since the bund was installed in 1992 it has been very controversial and became the subject of a public dispute and threatened legal action between the Tweed and Byron Councils.

However, in 2007, the Councils reached an agreement to install large box culverts in the



Council workers install the large box culverts measuring 15-metres wide by 1.5-metres high.

bund and have since then worked cooperatively to complete the project.

The installation of the large box culverts, 15 metres wide and 1.5 metres high, is aimed to dramatically reduce inundation in Tweed Shire which has increased since the bund was constructed 16 years ago and altered natural drainage patterns in the area.

Byron Shire Council was unable to secure a contractor to carry out the works for a reasonable price and asked Tweed Shire Council for assistance.

Tweed Shire Council's Director of Engineering and Operations Patrick Knight said that while construction of the Kallaroo Circuit bund culverts would delay some of Tweed Shire Council's own Works pro-

gram, finalisation of this long-standing drainage problem was of the highest priority.

Funding for the project is provided by the Department of Environment and Climate Change and Byron Shire Council in accordance with the NSW Flood Plain Management Program.

Works are expected to be completed before Christmas.