

May ask for inquiry on bridge loss

MITCHELL residents may seek an inquiry into this week's flood loss of a wooden bridge, estimated locally to have cost more than £10,000.

The Booringa Shire Council Overseer (Mr. A. Bell) said this yesterday.

The bridge, 20ft wide and 240ft long, spanned the Maranoa River, near Dunkeld, about 40 miles south of Mitchell.

Only completed about 10 months ago, it linked south-eastern Mitchell properties with the Condamine Highway to Brisbane, Toowoomba, and Dalby.

Mr. Bell said that moves were being made in Mitchell for an investigation into the building of the bridge by the Main Roads Department.

'Much delay'

Residents recalled that there had been considerable delay in the completion of the bridge because bridge piles had been washed away, he said.

"Initially the bridge was estimated to cost about £7000, but the completion figure was closer to £14,000.

"Now the bridge, after only 10 months' use, has been swept away."

Mr. Bell said the bridge served more than 300 people in a 2000 square mile area.

'Extra travel'

These people were now forced to travel more than an extra 30 miles by road to reach Mitchell.

They hoped another bridge, which would withstand flood waters, would be built as soon as possible.

The Main Roads Commissioner (Mr. A. R. Williams) said last night he did not know the cost of the bridge, but another bridge would not be built there this finan-

but another bridge would not be built there this financial year.

The department had built 30 miles of bridges, and this was the first one washed away.

The wrecked bridge had 20ft piles, and had been strongly built, he added.