

Statement of Witness

Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry

<i>Name of Witness</i>	MCLEOD Goodwin David James
<i>Date of Birth</i>	
<i>Address and contact details</i>	Zorzan Drive Gooburrum
<i>Occupation</i>	Retired
<i>Officer taking statement</i>	Det/Sgt A VLISMAS
<i>Date taken</i>	29 September 2011

Goodwin David James MCLEOD states,

1. I am a retired farmer and reside with my family at Zorzan Drive Gooburrum.
2. Our property is located in the Bundaberg Regional Council Area we were previously in Burnett Shire Council before amalgamation. The property is Lot and is 4000.000 square metres in size and is zoned rural residential.
3. Our property shares a common boundary with a tea tree forests owned by Bundaberg Sugar. When we purchased the block there was no drainage between the forest and us. However there was an Energex easement separating us from the forest.
4. There was a spoon drain as part of the original development of the estate however the drain levelled out as it approached our block making it ineffective.
5. When we purchased the house we spoke with a neighbour who has lived in the area for about 8 years had not seen any evidence of flooding. We utilised the services of solicitors FINEMORE, WALTERS and STOREY. They did not make us aware of any flooding issues nor did they suggest doing so.
6. I requested a flood search and they dismissed the idea as unwarranted.
7. To my knowledge there were no flood control measures in the area. There is bore water nine (9) feet underground and is a good source of water suitable for gardens and lawns.

Witness Signature.
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Signature of officer

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8. From the information available at the time we purchased the property there was no thought flooding would occur.
9. I recall in the early part of 2010 we had a lot of rain which caused storm water to run off from the road and surrounding properties as well as the tea tree forest and settles in an area of the forest at the rear of the estate.
10. The main volume of water came from the forest came in from the back boundary and edged towards our house and stopped about 5 metres away and flooded at the back yard and the northern side of the property to the front boundary.
11. I recall after this flooding I tried to speak with the Bundaberg Shire Council about the issue with a view of asking for drainage to be provided along the boundary line so that water could not come into our properties.
12. We were unable to get past the girl at the front desk and I recall being told that there had been a lot of flooding and left the conversation there.
13. This flooding lasted for about three months on and off.
14. In December 2010 we again received a lot rain and the same thing happened and our property flooded once more but this time it was worse and came closer to the house stopping about 2metres from the house.
15. It again flooded the northern side of the property out to the roadway and the flood water was surrounding the house.
16. The rain continued through December into January 2011 and the flooding continued all through January and into February and parts of March 2011 as the storm water was sitting in this area and could not run away.

17. This would be because the underground water rose not allowing the water to run away as the tea tree forrest held a lot of water and it would edge it's way towards us.
18. Most of the houses at the lower end of Zorzan Drive experienced this flooding and our neighbours and ourselves went to the local SES for assistance with sandbagging.
19. The SES came out and made an inspection and declared the flood as contaminated because it had covered underground septic tanks and the contents had leached into the water.
20. Due to the large amount of assistance that was required from SES from all over Bundaberg we had to do our own sandbagging with other neighbours.
21. We and other neighbours again contacted the Bundaberg City Council for assistance with the drainage problems and after they were advised that the SES had declared the water contaminated, they eventually sent representatives to our area to make an inspection.
22. Prior to the council starting their assistance we had spoken with the local member Robert MESSENGER and aired our concerns with him. MESSENGER visited our properties on a couple of occasions and I recall on one occasion whilst he was inspecting the property the ground was so soaked top and bottom that he sunk into the ground which was like quicksand.
23. This has also happened to my daughter whilst walking in the back yard of our property she also sunk into the yard and had to be assisted out of the sink hole by the SES.
24. The council then started to fix the drainage by cutting a temporary drain between our properties and the Forrest as well as laying a pipe across Colvins Road near the intersection with Zorzan Drive.

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25. The idea of this works was to direct the water away from the estate towards Tantitha Road and then through cane farms and eventually to Tantitha Creek.
26. I feel that the drainage done so far has not effectively redirected the water away from the lower end of the estate and more work is required by the council to rectify the problem.
27. The majority of Zorzan Drive does not have proper drainage and I feel that at the time the estate was being developed and approved by the Council they should have insisted that the developer provide proper drainage in the estate before building approvals were granted.
28. Since living at the property I have spoken with a former resident of the area and he informed me that this area had been known as the swamp prior to development.
29. Since the floods I have dug a drain between along the boundary of my neighbours at number [REDACTED] Zorzan Drive to allow the water to run back towards the drain at the back fence.
30. We feel that our property has been devalued because of these drainage issues. Our neighbour at number [REDACTED] Zorzan Drive has been trying to sell their property for the last two years but has been unable to do so. However other houses in the higher areas of Zorzan Drive have been sold.

Witness Signature [REDACTED]
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I am able to produce a series of photos graphs depicting the flooding and drainage issues I have spoken about.

Tendered and Marked exhibit number.

We don't have any insurance issues with the recent floods as we did not have any damage caused to our house.

G.D.J.MCLEOD

Justices Act 1886

I acknowledge by virtue of section 110A(5)(c)(ii) of the Justices Act 1886 that:

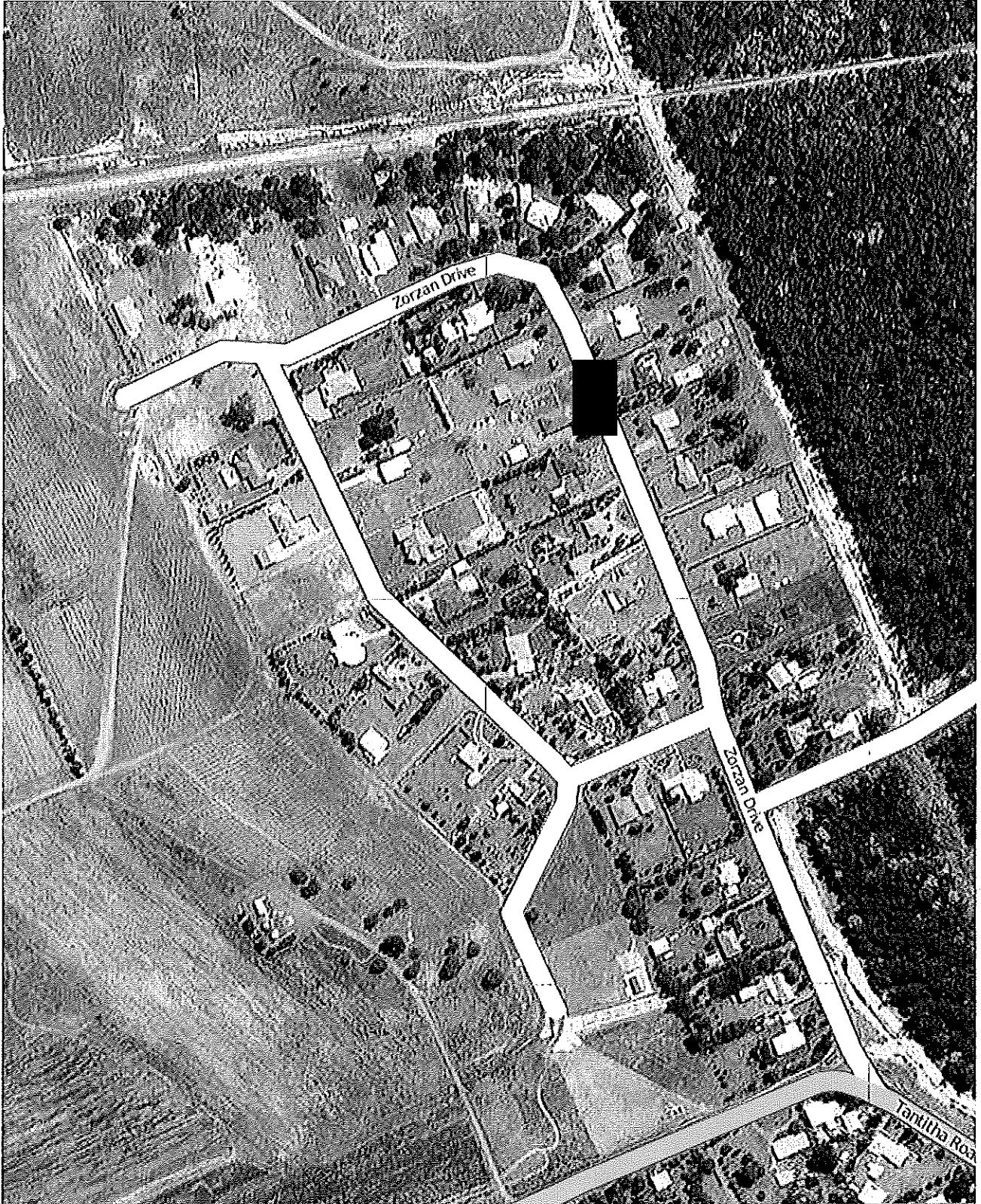
- (1) This written statement by me dated 29/9/2011... and contained in the pages numbered 1 to ...5... is true to the best of my knowledge and belief; and
- (2) I make this statement knowing that, if it were admitted as evidence, I may be liable to prosecution for stating in it anything that I know is false.

.....Signature

Signed at Bundaberg.....this.....29th.day of.....September.....2011

Witness Signature..... Signature of officer
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