



QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE
STATEMENT OF WITNESS



Occurrence #: _____
Statement no.: _____ Date: _____

Statement of

Name of witness: **STILES, Mark Leonard**

Date of birth: _____ Age: _____ Occupation: **Police Officer**

Police officer taking statement

Name: **AS ABOVE,**

Rank: _____ Reg. no.: _____

Region/Command/Division: _____ Station: _____

Statement:

Mark Leonard STILES states:-

I am currently an Inspector of Police performing duty at the Counter Terrorism Strategic Policy Branch. I commenced in this position in February 2011. I was the appointed District Officer, Roma District between February 2008 and January 2011. By appointment I was the District Disaster Coordinator for the Roma District.

I joined the Queensland Police Service on 17 January 1979 as a police cadet and served continuously since that time. I have been a commissioned officer at the rank of Inspector since 30 December 2002.

I have approaching 30 years policing experience having in the following areas

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 1981 | FYC – Logan / Beenleigh area |
| 1982 – 1984 | CIB Brisbane support functions (Constable) |
| 1984 – 1988 | Traffic Operations duty from Traffic Branch Brisbane (Const 1/c – Snr Const) |
| 1988 – 1993 | Warwick District – Single Officer Station duty in Uniform and CIB duty. Staff Officer to District officer for short periods. (Snr Const) |

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preparing statement)

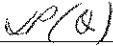
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- 1993 – 1998 Gold Coast District – Shift Supervisor and Team Leader. Broadbeach Station; Gold Coast Break and Enter Task Force; duty as OIC South East Region Forensic Crash and undertook relieving duty as the Staff Officer to the District officer, Gold Coast and Staff Officer to the Operations Coordinator, South East Region. (Sgt)
- 1998 – 2002 Officer in Charge, Cleveland Police Station (Snr Sgt) Also completing relieving duty as Regional Duty Officer, Projects Officer and Divisional Inspector, Wynnum and South Brisbane District.
- 2002-2004 Supervising Inspector, Police Railway Squad.
- 2004 Supervising Inspector, Specialist Services Branch – supervising Public Safety Response Team; Police Dog Squad and Puppy Development Program and Mounted Unit
- 2004 – 2008 Inspector – Operations and then OIC, Special Emergency Response Team. Operational deployments; Statewide Incident Management, National Exercise Umpire (Melbourne / Adelaide)
- 2008 – 2011 Inspector, District Officer – Roma District.
Appointed District Disaster Coordinator (DDC).
DDC work with Maranoa Regional Council and QH as lead agency with respect to preparation and prevention concerning Pandemic Influenza situation.
DDC work with and support Maranoa Regional Council & QFRS with respect to wild fire situation during 2009 and 2010.
DDC and chair of DDMG - Managed record breaking flood of March 2010
DDC and chair of DDMG – Managed flood of Dec 2010 and Jan 2011.

On 8 October 2008 I was appointed as DDC for the Roma Police District. The role and responsibilities of the DDC are outlined in Section 23 of the *Disaster Management Act 2009* (DMA) and I performed duty in line with the requirements of Section 26 of the DMA. In performing the role of DDC, I received training in the role of Executive Officer (XO) to the DDC in 1994 from State Counter Disaster


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Organisation. I successfully completed the XO course and carried out the role of XO to the Gold Coast DDMG during 1993 – 1997 on a relieving capacity.

Since undertaking duty as District Officer in a relieving capacity at Charleville and Roma during February – June 2008 I had completed three awareness sessions with Emergency Management Queensland (EMQ). These sessions encompassed EMQ perspective on Command and Control; establishing the District Disaster Coordination Centre (DDCC) and associated roles within such.

Specific attention was given to the various member agencies ensuring the correct person was placed at the table of DDMG. Attention was given to having the person who had positional and necessary approval authority seated at the DDMG.

Within Southern Region, I participated in two desk top exercises focusing on the provisions of the DMA. This was Exercise MEDUSA that focused on a Pandemic Influenza scenario. The second exercise was Exercise EREBUS that focused on multiagency chemical spill run through the ERMERGO management tool.

During August 2009 additional information sessions were delivered by QPS and EMQ in relation to the changes of roles and responsibilities to the DMA. Sessions were delivered by EMQ and QPS staff on impacts to DDC and DDMG.

In addition in my role of DDC, along with the EMQ XO provided orientation training for new members of the DDMG during 2008 and early months of 2009. Extensive consultation took place during 2009 in line with preparation and preparedness for Pandemic Influenza. Reviews of the Queensland Health (QH) planning and preparedness was undertaken and review the support the DDMG would give QH was examined in detail.

A further meeting was two DDMG meetings were conducted in late 2009 and early 2010 in line with the requirements of DMA.

During February 2010 a rainfall event occurred at Roma whereby the Maranoa Regional Council (MRC) Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) was activated for flooding within Roma and immediate surrounds. I attended as a guest of the LDMG meetings and supported this group in my role of DDC with advice and guidance concerning preparation and preparedness.

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During March 2010 wide spread flooding occurred across south west Queensland, particularly causing wide spread and record breaking flooding across the entire Roma Police District. During this period the MRC and the Balonne Shire Council (BSC) LDMG were activated. The Roma DDMG was activated and had interface with the State District Coordination Centre (SDCC) on an ongoing basis.

During the period the MRC LDMG, BSC LDMG and Roma DDMG operated over a period of about 5 weeks before transitioning into Recovery mode where the DDC was a seat at the Roma Recovery Group meeting.

During this period the flood arrangements as outlined in both MRC and BSC Disaster Management Plan were overviewed and assessed in terms of operability and success. Likewise the Roma DDMG plans were also assessed in the similar manner.

All parties conducted through debriefing sessions with all agencies and reflected upon the successes and areas that required further attention and were addressed by responsible agencies. In short planning was undertaken on a daily basis at LDMG level with interaction back to the DDMG with necessary requests for assistance (RFA) being managed locally or referred to SDCC.

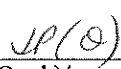
The success of the Roma DDMG was based on the considerations and planning at DDMG level and agency level were in broad terms addressing questions of

- What are we planning for tomorrow?
- What are we planning for in 5 days?
- What will we need for next week?
- What will we need next month?

The Roma Police District is unique in terms of DDC functions and local government authority boundaries due to a number of police divisions falling within the Roma Police District, but falling outside the span of control of the Roma DDC. The Taroom Police Division is within the Banana Shire and therefore under the control of the Gladstone DDC. The Wandoan Police Division, Dulacca Police Division and Miles Police Division are within the Western Downs Shire Council Areas, hence under the control of the Dalby DDC. The Condamine Township is within the Miles Police Division situation was managed by the Dalby DDC for disaster operations and


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managed by the Roma District Officer for policing operations. This anomaly occurred at Taroom also, Gladstone DDC managed the flood response but operational policing issues were managed by the Roma District officer. All District Officers / DDC's are aware of this issue and worked within the legislative anomaly and worked in a collegiate manner to achieve positive outcomes for the communities. I remained as the DDC from the beginning of the event in December 2010 and relinquished control and command as the DDC on 23rd January 2011 when Inspector Roger Whyte commenced as the District Officer, Roma District.

This appointment meant that Inspector Whyte was now the DDC onwards.

In response to the written requirement of the Qld Floods Commission of Inquiry dated 28 February 2011, I provide the following information:

The preparation and planning undertaken by the District Disaster Coordinator and the District Disaster Management Group in advance of and/or in relation to the 2010/2011 floods.

As part of preparations for the impending flood event I then accessed and reviewed the document prepared by the Bureau of Meteorology titled, *South West Queensland Floods – March 2010*. This document outlined river and creek heights, automated monitoring station information and record flood height levels through out the Roma District. The document allowed me to view the neighbouring Districts, river heights and flood levels. This document allowed me to enhance my situational awareness of the impending events compared to previous record flood levels.

In addition I made a series of phone calls to CEO of the BSC and MRC in relation to their preparations and impacts on the communities in mid December. The discussions focused on the current conditions, current LDMG arrangements and proposed activities of the Council in response to possible conditions. These discussions were very dependant on the amount and flow of water that was to come to the respective communities. In short they were about preparation and community engagement. I was satisfied with the activities of both groups in terms of preparation strategies undertaken.

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The flood situation within the Roma District commenced for me as the DDC on or about the 3rd December 2010 where general rain fall caused an amount of localised flooding across the north eastern areas of the Taroom, Wandoan and Injune areas. There was water lying in the general Roma township area. I had conducted some inspections of water levels personally on 3 December 2010 with the newly appointed Executive Officer (XO) Sergeant Russell McKee. These daily inspections continued on daily basis each day until my transfer away from the District on 21 January 2011.

I continued to have interaction with various Officers' in Charge across the Roma District by telephone contact and in person regarding flood waters in various divisions. I also undertook consultation with a smaller reference group of DDMG participants, advising and briefing on possible impacts of water and that thought should be given to resources, staff and contingency plans.

By the evening of 12th December 2010 the water was commencing to rise more quickly and affect the Taroom, Miles and surrounds. Specifically I spoke with the Mayor, MRC and the Mayor, BSC on 12.12.10 regarding activation, preparedness and activities of the MRC/BSC LDMG – focusing on the Surat, St George and southern community areas. At this time no formal requests for support or other assistance was made.

On 16 December 2010 I reviewed on call arrangements and call out lists for the various members of the Roma DDMG. Once numbers and personnel were checked the call out list was updated and distributed. This was preparatory arrangements for the DDMG ensuring correct contact and availability. This is particularly important due to local conditions where numerous government agencies leave the area for school holidays.

On 20 and 22 December 2010 I visited the Taroom and Wandoan Police Station and made inspections of various areas in the divisions that were affected by flood waters. I liaised with the respective DDC personnel and OIC's of the stations regarding water and preparations.



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On Wednesday 22 December 2010 I participated in a teleconference with the Assistant Commissioner, Chief Superintendent and fellow District Officers of the Southern Regions (SOR) concerning the predicted flood event. Discussions centred on predicted rainfalls and impacts that were forecast. At this meeting a request for situational reports (SITREPS) was requested by the Operations Coordinator, SOR. A sitrep was then completed and sent to the Operations Coordinator, SOR on a basis of by 7am and 6pm daily. This reporting process commenced on 22 December and remained in place until my departure on 21 January 2011.

I again contacted the respective Mayor's on 22 December 2010 highlighting the impending weather and need for vigilance in terms of preparedness and community information sharing. All information and contacts trees were updated at both LDMG and DDMG levels.

On 22 December 2010 I was at St George where I was hosting an OIC conference involving all district staff. I took this opportunity to brief the respective OIC of all police stations within the Roma District as to the impending weather conditions and predicted flood levels. OIC were reminded of their participation in and engagement through their LDMG and the provision of support to the community in such events.

I consulted with the owner / operator of MI Helicopters, Mr Kevin Clarke in relation to possible use of, numbers and availability of the aircraft at his disposal. Mr Clarke has been the provider of air support to the March 2010 floods. The level of support we received from Mr. Clarke and his company was remarkable. I was comfortable that the District was in a strong position to respond to events in a timely and professional manner.

Following the activation of the MRC LDMG I attended their daily meetings as an observer and to maintain my situational awareness to ensure community needs were being addressed. This was being undertaken.



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The actions undertaken by the District Disaster Coordinator and the District Disaster Management group in respect of the 2010/2011 floods in relation to immediate management, response and recovery operations.

As the Roma DDC I experienced relatively few immediate response activities due to the amount of preparation and planning that had taken place by the LDMG at both MRC and BSC. As outlined previously both LDMG had acted in a timely manner and implemented strategies that minimised the need for urgent response and immediate incident management. At this time the MRC LDMG was leaning forward and the BSC LDMG was not activated or leaning forward, but informed. I had maintained my contact with the LDC, Mr. Scott Norman, the CEO of BSC.

The monitoring of flood levels and impact of water was completed in a regulated manner with frequent reporting and maintenance of situational awareness of what was happening in and around the Roma District.

Commencing on 27 December 2010 I participated in the daily 11am teleconference to the State Disaster Crisis Centre (SDCC) and continued with same until 24 January 2011 when I finished my role as DDC. During these conferences the actions that were undertaken were explained and monitored.

NINDIGULLY HOTEL

The actual DDMG had graduated its response, moving to a leaning forward stance between mid December 2010 and actually first met on 2 January 2011. During this period of 'leaning forward' a serious issue arose surrounding the holding a function at the Nindigully Hotel on 31.12.10. It was planned that there was to be a celebration at the "Gully Pub" with approximately 800 patrons camped on the rivers banks of the river at Nindigully (Moonie River). During the daily SDCC teleconferences, including report from BOM Hydrology and Forecasts, it was apparent that the water levels were rising across the South West that resulted in the DDMG AND me having serious concerns as to safety of patrons. ON 29 December 2010 I then undertook a series of teleconferences with the local police OIC, Mayor/CEO of the BSC, Chief Superintendent, SOR and senior officers at the SDCC regarding the event at the Nindigully Hotel proceeding.



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I had outlined my concerns were centred on the ability to conduct rescues in the location should waters rise and flood the event. I was aware that road and water transport was not a viable option. I was aware that at night there was no ability to conduct helicopter operations. There was no ability to conduct any interdiction with a view of saving lives.

I was satisfied that under the provisions of Section 64 of the DMA there was a likelihood that it would become necessary to exercise powers under the Act to prevent or minimise loss of human life; illness or injury to humans and prevent property loss or damage. I was satisfied and completed and forwarded the signed Declaration of Disaster situation by DDC for Ministerial approval.

I then completed an email to SDCC seeking support and utilization of powers granted to the DDC under the DMA and the halting of the event. The matter was then considered by a number of personnel, including the QPS and I was given a written response outlining that my understanding of the DMA, intent of legislation was correct and proposed course of action was lawful and reasonable; importantly and defensible.

Subsequently upon my application the Minister approved and signed off on the declaration for a Declaration for a Disaster Situation on the afternoon of 31.12.10.

I then telephoned and forwarded a written response to Mr Steve Burns, Nindigully Hotel regarding the event he had organised being postponed. I discussed the matter with him and provided a written response, including entitlement to Compensation under section 119 of the DMA.

I again contacted BURNS once I was satisfied the threat had passed and advised that my previous direction under Section 77 of the DMA was no finalised and he could return to normal business. I also advised this outcome via email, mobile telephone and land line telephone.

I would highlight that if faced with the same circumstances I would make the same decision again in line with the responsibilities I have under section 64 of the DMA concerning life and property.

The DDMG then met on a total of 11 occasions in a formal capacity where minutes were recorded and the emerging flood issues were addressed. The minutes of such



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meetings have been forwarded and supplied to the flood inquiry with additional details being given in the next segment of this document.

The actions undertaken by the District Disaster Coordinator and the District Disaster Management Group in respect of the 2010/2011 floods in relation to resourcing, coordination and deployment of personnel and equipment.

During the deliberations of the DDMG, Roma the following issues were addressed.

On 2 January 2011 additional resources were positioned at Surat, including additional council staffing and physical resources as coordinated by MRC LDMG, additional 3 police officers, swift water rescue staff from QFRS, 16KVA GenSet to enable alternate power if required for essential services, additional SES staff and an additional flood boat.

On 3 January 2011 the Roma DDMG considered and facilitated, in consultations with the RMC / BSC LDMG and discussions with the SDCC the delivery and establishment of a temporary field hospital at St George, additional senior officer from QFRS and swift water rescue staff, additional 6 QPS staff to supplement and permit 24/7 rostering at St George, additional staff 2+2 from Brisbane Water Police and Boating and Fisheries to permit proactive patrolling and community engagement on various waterways, but principally the Balonne River, St George.

Consideration and discussion on the movement of HiCare patient's from the St George Nursing home and St George Hospital in consultation with HEOC and SDCC. Additional discussions centred on ways DDMG could support LDMG BSC concerning movement of grape pickers and community members in spirit of the legislation and safety. Movement of QH and HiCare patients in bulk numbers was forwarded to SDCC for action and coordination.

On 4 January 2011 triggers points for action were discussed that impact on DDMG controls. A RFA was completed and forwarded to the SD CC as part of forward planning for additional power generation capacity to be sourced and located at St George. Additional planning was undertaken by each agency and forecasts were made to commence prolonged activity by agencies and agency would manage own staffing with requests for movements to be driven through DDMG. Consensus on same following discussions on impacts of various levels will have on staff ability to complete jobs.

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On 5 January 2011 DDMG reviewed uplift of QH patients, alternate power arrangements, precautions re essential services, sourcing and positioning of JetA1 fuel and AVGAS for aircraft now and future along with diesel fuel for BSC shire equipment used in flood operations. Agencies provided a SITREP on their staffing projections and arrangements. DDC reinforced RFA process and protocols, including flight operations and the need for effective use of aircraft and need for efficiency also. Information to hand regarding pending arrival of two ADF rotary wing assets to support flood operations as a result of top down SDCC arrangements. Subsequently meet with and formalise arrangements with ADF staff including Helicopter staff, CO and XO from squadron and accompanying liaison officers who accompanied them.

On 6 January 2011 discussions took place regarding resupply issues at District level and the reducing windows of opportunity for road transport. Discussions about use of and predicted use of QFRS Habitate and encouragement from SDCC to use same. Discussed and agreed for same to be deployed to St George as a precaution. QFRS and ADF assisting in this regard. Additional discussions re additional sandbags being sourced and supplied to St George, ADF support to deliver same via Hercules aircraft. Discussions again on this issue of organisations staffing, rotations and fatigue management. Additional discussions on the issue of transition from response to recovery and engage with Dept of Communities re commencing recovery operations. Discuss the issue with Mr Jim McKenzie (DoCs), chair Recovery Committee about transition and their preparedness considering as the flood moves slowly south we would transition to recovery whilst BSC was still in response mode. Review and discussions on these matters.

On 7 January 2011 the DDMG considered similar matters as previously mentioned in this statement and disclosed in minutes sourced and supplied to the Commission. Additional matters were considered at this meeting included the formal visit of Ms Gillard, Prime Minister to the St George community on 8 January 2011 and the briefing to be conducted by me as DDC on behalf of the DDMG.

On 9 January 2011 the DDMG considered similar matters as previously mentioned in this statement and disclosed in minutes sourced and supplied to the Commission. Again staff rotations, support mechanisms and air operations considered. Peak flood period had been monitored and did not reach expected peaks. MRC now in recovery mode entirely.


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On 10 January 2011 the DDMG considered similar matters as previously mentioned in this statement and disclosed in minutes sourced and supplied to the Commission. Operations now are scaling back, with staffing levels being reviewed by all agencies with the flood peak having passed. Communities were now increasing their response to the situation with more staff being placed into St George and smaller communities to ensure necessary support is given.

On 11 January 2011 the DDMG considered similar matters as previously mentioned in this statement and disclosed in minutes sourced and supplied to the Commission. In particular attention was focused on the issue of resupply with firm direction given to EMQ representative that resupply was a EMQ issue and DDMG wanted support in this area. DDMG accessed all store managers regarding resupply, DDMG also contacted the suppliers in NSW to hasten support and advise of alternate delivery routes.

On 12 January 2011 the DDMG considered similar matters as previously mentioned in this statement and disclosed in minutes sourced and supplied to the Commission. Resupply continued to be the focus of meetings of the DDMG and the emerging issues of the response phase closing across the DDMG areas and a move to the recovery phase. Mr Jim McKenzie, DoCs provided briefings as the status of their activities and the activities of the LDMG and Councils regarding the operation of their respective Recovery Committee.

It is noted that the time taken to prepare for and participate in the state-wide teleconference with SDCC was time consuming and onerous at times where upwards of 3 hours was spent on line. This has an impact in smaller districts where there are limited numbers and office holders in terms of being taken away from other business.

On 17 January 2011 I was contacted by SDCC and an offer for assistance was made to supply the EMQ Helicopter (R510 Townsville Bell 412) to the flood response. I advised that the matter was generous and kind offer, but there was no real operational need for such an aircraft. I consulted with the LDMG at BSC and consulted with SOR management regarding this issue. I consulted with the chair of SDCC regarding same. I was alter advised that the aircraft was being supplied from Townsville to St George, with a staffing component of 10 staff to permit 24/7

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operations. Subsequently a number of RFA were submitted in line with requirements given regarding staffing, accommodation and associated matters. I had other conversations with the base manager, Brisbane from EMQ and the aircraft.

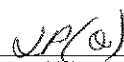
On 18 January 2011 the aircraft and staff were removed to return to Townsville.

It is important to highlight that there may have been some overlap with role and responsibilities at a more strategic level. I was not privy to strategic arrangements and make comment as there was an impact at the operational and tactical levels. I noted that similar or the same information was being requested by the SDCC and again by the POC at varying times of the night and day, despite being provided previously. This particularly related to movements of support staff in and out of the area of operations. Particularly frustrating was being advised by SDCC that at the DDMG level we had to prepare and forward RFA for assistance that was not asked for locally, but assumed and arranged at the strategic level.

Fortunately sound arrangements were in place at DDMG level whereby short notice and no notice meetings that had been called or arranged externally to the DDMG or DDC were able to be met. The flexibility of the HI Helicopter service is noted and appreciated with respect to transport of the DDC and Deputy DDC to St George, 210kms south of Roma during this event. This was particularly appreciated during the visit of the Deputy Premier and the visit by the Prime Minister on 8.1.11

It is worth noting that the QPS and QFRS personnel appeared to have the most liberal policy in terms of staffing commitment and rotations. In general these staff attended and worked on a Friday to Friday turn around. Other agencies appeared to have a less robust resilience policy with turn around of staff in 2 and 3 days cycles. Whilst not critical of agency policy, it becomes problematic for rotations and transport of staff. Linked to this is the reoccurring orientation to the situation and apparent lack of continuity.


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Measures taken by the District Disaster Coordinator and the District Disaster Management Group to manage, maintain or reinstate the supply of essential services (water, power and communications) during the 2010/2011 floods.

The issues of water, power and communications was not an issue that required action by the Roma DDMG. These issues were discussed at the Roma DDMG in a precautionary manner. In addition feedback was given to the DDMG on these issues by both LDMG. The DDMG was aware of the precautions and preparation undertaken by both LDMG in these areas. This included prepositioning of generators and power plants, prepositioning of radio repeaters, water tankers and the like.

Whilst such were prepositioned the majority, if not all were not required during this event.

Measures taken by the District Disaster Coordinator and the District Disaster Management Group to inform the community about the 2010/2011 flood events and the response thereto.

During the flood event the Roma DDMG accessed staff from Police Media Unit, Brisbane. Two staff attended and were present during the contentious periods of the flood event. Information was passed to the broader community by way of electronic print media, personal interviews on radio, utilisation of the QPS Face book site and the QPS Twitter site, written information published locally on information boards and bulletins.

The main communities affected by the floods were relatively small communities. Local police, SES and Council/Shire employees were utilised for personal notifications to local residents.

This included door knocks of all the flood affected communities to deliver messages in person advising of impending river heights, evacuation centres and other operational issues.

At the Roma DDMG meetings information was shared in an open and forthright manner in the knowledge that briefings to agencies followed the DDMG meeting.

Of particular interest was the use of the home page of the Balonne Shire Council who also used this site to make public notifications to the community in addition to

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the regular media options. This was widely accepted and appreciated by the community. In addition both Mayors attended all communities in person where flood responses were discussed in persons at community forums.

It is my opinion that the local communities were well informed with informative and timely information about preparedness that had been undertaken by local authorities.

The nature and timings of all communications between the District Disaster Coordinator and/or the District Disaster Management Group and the Local Disaster Management Group and/or the Local Disaster Management Coordinator relative to the 2010/2011 flood events.

As the District Disaster Coordinator I meet frequently, in person with both LDMG. In particular I met with the MRC Mayor, LDC and LDMG frequently during the flood event. In addition I spoke frequently with the Mayor.

With respect to the BSC I flew to St George on a number of occasions to attend the BSC LDMG to attend in person. I also used teleconference that allowed the entire DDMG (at times) and me to phone into the BSC LDMG. In addition I had personal contact with the Mayor and BSC CEO frequently during this event.

LDMG minutes will reflect my attendance in person or by teleconference.

In addition I spoke with the relevant Officer's in Charge of stations who sat on LDMG and various community working groups on a daily basis. With respect the BSC I spoke with the OIC, Snr Sgt Gary Green on a daily basis with respect to LDMG issues and broader policing issues for the southern sector.

I had frequent contact with Snr Const Andrew Pearson (Thallon Stn); Sgt Col Chambers (Dirranbandi Stn) and A/Sgt Dave Thompson (Surat Stn).

During the contact with the LDMG the nature of such contact will be recorded in LDMG documents. In essence I liaised with such groups to ensure preparation, preparedness and community engagement were being followed proactively and precautionary measures with a view to harm/damage minimisation was being followed up.

When more formal delegations attended LDMG meeting I ensured that as DDC I was present to clearly articulate our actions and activity was collegiate and we were working untied, focused and with common aim. In addition to attending BSC and

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MRC LDMG meetings I also attended St George on 6 January 2011 when Deputy Premier Paul Lucas and Deputy Commission Ian Stewart attended for a meeting with the DDC, Mayor and CEO in relation to preparation.

This stemmed from a suggestion of flood height of 15.5m entering St George. This was incorrect information that had originated somewhere at the Brisbane end of operations. It is worth noting that this misunderstanding had a less than desired impact on DDC and BSC LDMG in terms of time, resources and distraction from other tasks at hand.

The nature and timings of all communications between the District Disaster Coordinator and/or the District Disaster Management Group and the State Disaster Management Group and/or the State Disaster Management Coordination Committee and/or the State Disaster Coordinator relative t the 2010/2011 flood events.

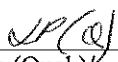
As DDC impact was felt from SDCC when top down RFA were driven centrally and pushed down to DDMG level. This was particularly evident when ADF and all support services were sent to Roma and St George without consultation; large amounts of data are requested by SDCC without technical ability to send same electronically – causing search, capture, defining, copying and forwarding to Brisbane. All of which was based on an incorrect premise.

The Roma DDMG is a relatively small group of personnel at local levels. SDCC had little consideration, from our end at least on the times they would call requesting information. DDC and DDCC staff worked in rough terms 16 – 18 +hrs per day and upwards during difficult times and scaled back during less difficult times. As SDCC worked on a 24/7 basis phone calls for minor and routine matters would occur at any time. Little consideration and limited understanding for ‘user’ end staff was evident.

The requirements to have DDC phoning into state meeting was onerous and repetitive when outside of high risk times or high level responses being required. To spend upwards of 3hrs on teleconference appears access and not optimal use of resources. I concede that in busy and difficult times it was essential and warranted.


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preparing statement)

The availability and provision of services or logistical support within the disaster management hierarchy before and during the 2010/2011 flood events, including an assessment of the adequacy and timeliness thereof.

As the DDC and Chairperson of the DDMG the revision of current arrangements and disaster management resourcing, performance and sufficiency of plans was tested and reviewed post March 2010 floods that devastated that Roma District. As outlined in this statement, the flood of March 2010 was more widespread, had more impact and community impact than the present situation under review.

The outcome of this was rigorous review and modification to work practise.

There was limited support from Emergency Management Queensland, South West Region during this event. Following the modification to the DMA in November 2010 the appointed XO from EMQ changed roles and responsibilities. The shift in essence changed the role of support and training to LDMG as opposed to XO to the DDC / DDMG.

During the current arrangements the local EMQ Area Director was reminded of his responsibilities to the DDMG, in that EMQ where now a taskable chair at the table of the DDMG. The officer had to be reminded to attend meetings and be more firm and robust in his duties, particularly with respect to resupply.

I observed a marked difference in level of support, provisions of advice and activity by EMQ between the current flood event and the event of March 2010.

It is worth noting that the sole officer from EMQ is located at Roma and offers support to the DDC located at Roma and Charleville, assisting these two police districts. Additional support, now more functions response is to be given by EMQ to the six Regional Councils that exist in the Roma and Charleville Police Districts. It is an observation that EMQ staff rotates frequently on and off duty to manage fatigue.



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Any involvement with the Commonwealth Agencies, including by not limited to Emergency Management Australia or the Australian Defence Force, in relation to the provisions of emergency response measure, personnel, equipment or services, including an assessment of the adequacy and timeliness thereof.

The Roma DDMG was supported wonderfully by Commander Paul Moggach and his staff from Nowra Naval base and the Sea King Aircraft. Two Sea King aircraft were supplied, 21/22. 817 Squadron, Royal Australian Navy attended Roma and St George and were self sufficient in terms of staffing, equipment and support resources.

Two officers were supplied at Military Liaison Officer (MLO) for the duration of the deployment of ADF. The Officers were from Aust Army and Aust Navy – both officers provided strong support and information to support DDMG.

Both officers were knowledge, professional and helpful in all aspects of ADF support.

Although not consulted nor briefed on the ADF support being provided, the service that was provided was appreciated and timely.

Royal Australian Air Force assets were also used in the movement of large logistical items such as the QFRS Habitate and support equipment for such. Likewise the transfer and removal of staff into and out of the Roma District was undertaken by military aircraft and QPS aircraft. The aircraft landing at Roma and St George was particularly challenging for the C130 Hercules aircraft.

The aircraft provided proved appropriate and were utilised up to and including their redeployment to Toowoomba to deal with those tragic circumstances.

An assessment of the adequacy of equipment and communication systems in the District during the 2010/2011 flood events.

The Roma District is a small District located in the south west of Queensland comprising 16 stations spread across 124,000 square kilometres. This represents the two local government authorities as previously outlined. In general terms when considering the flood response the District is well supported in terms of specialist


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equipment. Following the March 2010 floods additional flood equipment was supplied to the Roma District for use at SES and LDC level.

Additional flood studies were completed that resulted in accurate flood mapping being generated by the BSC and utilised during the current floods. The information was a valuable planning tool.

I noted that the amount of equipment that was owned by EMQ and appeared during the flood emergency of March 2010 was not sighted during the 2010/2011 floods. The fly away pelican kits of phone, computers and associated peripherals did not appear to support the DDMG on this occasion.

The DDMG was supported by Telstra during the recent event with the provision of 6 emergency phone systems for the great St George area. Great support was provided by Mr Tony Smith of Telstra, Roma.

At the tactical level there were no issues with communications and no on ground operations were found wanting or compromised due to equipment. Likewise there were no identified issues at Operational levels either. Those personnel attending both LDMG and DDMG had the ability to work back into their respective organisations in timely and effective manner.

An observation was the inability of the QPS, DDC and LDMG members to communicate effectively as other government agencies who have utilized handheld devices such as Blackberries and like. These agencies were able to source information, conduct business 'in situ', whilst QPS were delayed by lack of similar equipment. The lack of similar equipment did not hinder operations, rather placed QPS at a disadvantage to other government agencies. This was particularly evident when in the field at the tactical level.

The mobile phone communication network coped well with the demands of the recent event. No loss of communications was experienced at ground level.

An assessment of the adequacy of the community's response in the District during the 2010/2011 flood events.

The broader communities in the BSC and MRC are strong resilient and informed with respect to response to the flooding situation experienced in 2010/11. The community is engaged, heeded warning and information passed to them by QPS, Local Government and other various media agencies. Both local government


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CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: **STILES, Mark Leonard**

authorities demonstrated leadership in planning, information sharing and response in all areas of the latest flood situation. Community preparedness was strong due to information that was shared, and the amount of lead time to the water rising and peaking. Strong sense of belief exists at all levels of community.

The Dirranbandi community is note worthy as similar problems arose during this event as arose during March 2010. The local shop keeper at Dirranbandi did not see the community and civic responsibility of the shop in these times, and sold goods to highest bidders and first in best dressed mentality.

EMQ were specifically directed to negotiate with the store holders to moderate resupply lists, more responsible trading and civic issues with such. EMQ were requested to do with in March 2010 and were again requested to negotiate with the store holder again in January 2011. EMQ were asked to engage with the store holder and manage resupply in line with the EMQ charter and in line with their own resupply policy.

DDC intervened on one resupply to the Dirranbandi community where six tonnes of goods were denied resupply. This was the case as the resupply order had not been checked or vetted PRIOR to order and with the order and delivery being managed by EMQ at SDCC level. DDC prevented alcohol and the like from being delivered by Military Aircraft in this instance.

Overall communities were managed successfully due to their own resilience and preparedness to work with agencies to reach common objectives.

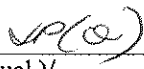
The circumstances of any human fatality within the District, including the measures taken to prevent and/or response to any such fatality, during the 2010/2011 flood events.

Fortunately there were no fatality incidents that were attributable to the flood events.

Particular attention was given to the notification of road closure and reinforcement of not entering flood waters was vigorous during the event.


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preparing statement)

The measures taken within the District to protect private and public property and/or preserve vital infrastructure in connection with the 2010/2011 flood events.

The LDMG for both local authorities were proactive in the field of protection and ensuring continuity of infrastructure in this event. Such a stance was permitted due to the time delay between rains and arrival of flood waters. Sound communicate networks, previous flood reports and data and appropriate planning ensured that the correct equipment and action were located correctly. Critical infrastructure was protected by sandbagging, relocating and prepositioning spare parts prior to water rising. This allows correct protection and prompt remedial response if required.

Appropriate sandbagging took place to protect property and/or limit damage. Those in low lying areas were assisted in relocation of property and undertaking preventative action to minimise harm.

Any special consideration that should be given to the District by reasons of particular regional or geographic differences.

The Roma District has long slow floods that will remain long after the effects of other flash flooding passes. That the local planning groups are aware of our floods are long and slow to abate due to the open flat land. An example is often quoted that Dirranbandi remains isolated for up to 4 – 5 weeks and this is planned for an managed at both DDMG and LDMG level. We are aware of this and plan for same.

Any features of the disaster preparation and planning stages or the disaster response and recovery operations, whin the in the opinion of the District Disaster Coordinator, presented particular difficulty or may require practical or legislative change to improve future disaster management in the District.

Strong consideration is urged to the modification of Section 14 of the Summary Offences Act 2005 with the provision of additional acts and omissions that would constitute 'unregulated high risk activities'. Considerable time and resources are directed to addressing activates such as swimming in flood waters, driving various forms of vessels (jet skis, kayaks, canoes, power boasts – without excuse or lawful purpose) on flood waters, driving into flood waters and similar activity. Further,



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CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: **STILES, Mark Leonard**

consideration should be given to the creation of a particular offence under the provisions of Traffic Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995 to create a more serious offence of drivers disobeying 'road closed', 'road closed flooding' signs during times of flood events.

Accompanying both legislative modifications a practice direction be given to the presiding Justices whereby penalty to be imposed at the upper end of the spectrum rather than bottom end fines and measures. I have raised this measure with the Mayors of both local governments seeking local legislation. Both support same but believe the responsibility rests with State. Considerable time, resources and effort are focused on addressing this issue during flood events. The danger is real and present for emergency services who respond to such acts.

The information contained in this statement is provided on the basis of the knowledge, information and material currently available to me and my interpretation of the information sought by the requirement at this point in time.

Mark Stiles, Inspector of Police.

JP (Q) No. 65

OATHS ACT 1867 (DECLARATION)

IMark Leonard STILES..... do solemnly and sincerely declare that:

- (1) This written statement by me dated 11.3.11 and contained in pages numbered 1 to 22 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 I know to be false.

1867 and I make this solemn declaration/consistently believing the same to be true and by virtue of the provisions of the Oaths Act

.....Signature

Taken and declared before/me at ...Brisbane.....

this.....11th..... day ofMarch.....2011...

Witness

Justice of the Peace (Q) No. 65
Commissioner of Declarations
Other (Please State)

JP (Q)

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Commissioner for Declarations's signature)

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preparing statement)