

<i>Name of Witness</i>	Philip Thomas FITZGERALD
<i>Date of Birth</i>	[REDACTED]
<i>Address and contact details</i>	[REDACTED]
<i>Occupation</i>	Unemployed
<i>Officer taking statement</i>	Detective Sergeant Glen CATCHPOLE
<i>Date taken</i>	13/05/2011

I, Philip Thomas FITZGERALD states;

1. I am [REDACTED] years of age and reside at [REDACTED] I also own a property at [REDACTED] I have owned this property since about July 2010. This unit went totally under water in the January 2011 flood.
2. My unit is a low set in a complex with others. On the Tuesday night the 11th January my unit started to go under water, by Wednesday the 12th it was totally under. I had my unit rented out at the time. The people who were renting it were away at the time, they were in Turkey on holidays. They came back after the flood was over. They lost all their possessions and their car. They haven't been able to return to the unit. I lost everything inside the unit, the unit now is just a shell, the wooden frame and the roof is all that is left. I have to totally rebuild the unit inside. I can't afford to rebuild the unit, the income I use to receive from the rent I use to use as my living expenses. I am trying to get a job, but at [REDACTED] years of age it is very difficult.
3. I have not been instructed by our local council or any government agency on evacuation plans for our area in case of a natural disaster. I do not know who my local disaster co-ordinator is.

Witness Signature [REDACTED]
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Signature of officer [REDACTED]

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4. I did not receive any warning prior to the flood event alerting me of an impending severe weather event. In my opinion I consider that in the event of a future incident the best method of warning people is by the media. I also consider that the forecasts provided by the Weather Bureau were not really adequate; they didn't go into enough detail.
5. In relation to preparation in our area for the flood we were not prepared. We had no warning; I believed that the Wivenhoe Dam when it was built would stop any future flooding in my area.
6. I was not assisted in the preparation for the flood by any Federal/State/Local Government Agencies. I also did not receive any assistance from the Emergency Services.
7. Volunteers and members from church groups came and assisted me in cleaning out the unit and removing all the rubbish. We had a lot of help shortly after the flood, but after a few weeks and the media left, the help died out.
8. I am unable to get a Government grant because they have classified my unit as an investment so it is not covered by the terms of the grant, even though that it is mainly my source of income.
9. My unit was not covered by any insurance; I discovered after the flood that the Body Corporate didn't have the units covered for flood. So I have no insurance to cover the rebuilding of my unit. I thought that the Body Corporate would have had flood insurance.

10. In my opinion the Council should cover people for flood insurance if they allow people to build in areas that are known to flood.

[Redacted]

P T FITZGERALD

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

- (1) This written statement by me dated 13/05/11 and contained in the pages numbered 1 to 3 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.

[Redacted]

.....Signature

Signed atthis...13th.....day of.....May.....2011....

Witness Signature..... Signature of officer
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[Redacted]