

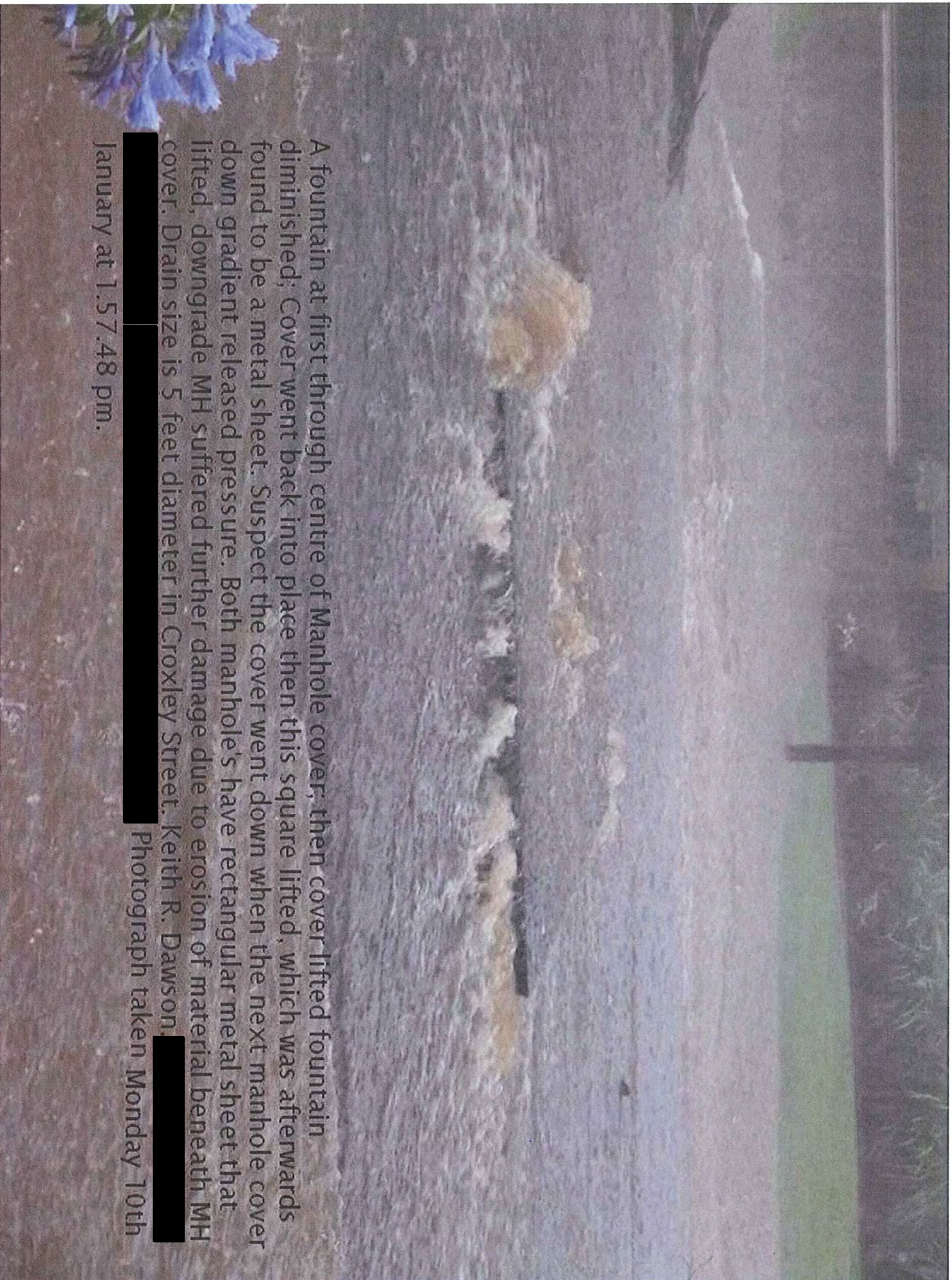
[REDACTED]

From: Keith Dawson [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 8 March 2011 3:24 PM
To: Info Flood Commission
Subject: Lockyer Valley Flood 2011

Dear Madam and Sir,

My name is Keith R. Dawson, a retired Mine & Engineering Surveyor, [REDACTED]. In the UK I was employed by Saltash, Cornwall, and Axminster, Devon Councils. Before Emigrating in 1972 one of my last jobs for Axminster was to investigate the reasons behind the 1972 floods in the Stockland Area, which I found was due to the hay harvest which was washed against fences making temporary dams which eventually gave way, each succeeding dam making things worse, the torrents of water often re-using old watercourses that had been covered up over the years. The rainfall of January was most unusual, I observed from the above address, quite heavy rainfall, not unusual, it was being shown on the internet weather radar as yellow tinged with brown, leaving the radar on I observed through the lounge window when the rain increased to a un-before seen intensity, dashing to my computer room for camera and a look at the radar which was still showing the same, on return to the window to photograph, the manhole in the road outside erupted with a fountain of water, which disappeared to what is seen in the accompanying photo when I guess the pressure was released by the adjoining lower manhole being lifted. After the rain had stopped the intense rain lasting for less than 15 minutes but the heavy rain continuing for about a further 15 minutes, I contacted the retirement village manager to tell him of the road damage; I was then told that the sewer, really a storm water drain only, is five feet in diameter. This information caused thought that the filling of this drain was evidence of the rain intensity since it is less than 200metres long, calculations could be done. The Retirement Village was initially built by the RAAF as Accommodation for the Helicopter Stores that was here in Toowoomba before moving to Oakey. The why's and wherefores of putting in such a drain I do not know. The radar continued to indicate Yellow from near Esk to Toowoomba and a little to the west. It was a relatively narrow band of intense rain the width not covering the whole of Toowoomba; the the south east on the range did not get it neither did the Abattoir on the north west of the Town. Should the radar have indicated the intense rain or was it too narrow? The accompanying photo was taken from outside when the intense rain was easing, I have other photos from inside the house, not much good but since they are timed this may be of use.

In regard to the use of Helicopters; why were the Army Helicopters at Oakey not in use the day of the rain; they are only 20 minutes flying time away yet there was that one helicopter at Grantham & Murphy's Creek. Who can call them out? If you have to contact Canberra it is no good. I would have thought the Rescue Helicopter could have requested Army Help by their own radio



A fountain at first through centre of Manhole cover; then cover lifted fountain diminished; Cover went back into place then this square lifted, which was afterwards found to be a metal sheet. Suspect the cover went down when the next manhole cover down gradient released pressure. Both manhole's have rectangular metal sheet that lifted, downgrade MH suffered further damage due to erosion of material beneath MH cover. Drain size is 5 feet diameter in Croxley Street. Keith R. Dawson. [REDACTED]

Photograph taken Monday 10th

January at 1.57.48 pm.

They were noticeable by their absence.