

<i>Name of Witness</i>	Juleia Nicole MURRAY
<i>Date of Birth</i>	[REDACTED]
<i>Address and contact details</i>	[REDACTED]
<i>Occupation</i>	Access Consultant
<i>Officer taking statement</i>	Detective Sergeant Glen Catchpole
<i>Date taken</i>	20/04/2011

I, Juleia Nicole MURRAY states;

1. I am [REDACTED] years of age, an Access Consultant by occupation and reside at [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I have lived at this address since the 1st June 2004. My house is a two storey, four bedroom brick house that backs onto Burpengary Creek and is located within a flood zone.
2. At the time of purchasing the property in 2004 we carried out flood searches through our Solicitor Paul PATTISON, with the result being that Council had no records of flooding in the area, despite backing onto Burpengary Creek. Accordingly we purchased the property in good faith.
3. Approximately six months after moving into the address, our then neighbours at 15 Dale Street gave us photographs of flooding that occurred in our street in approximately 1991.
4. In the seven years we have lived at this address we have experienced four floods, the worst being on 11th January 2011 when flood waters entered our house by 1.2 metres.

Witness Signature [REDACTED]

Page Number 1 of 6

Signature of officer [REDACTED]

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5. Those four floods occurred in April 2009, May 2009, October 2010 and January 2011. The creek has threatened to flood us on other occasions as well. By that I mean that any time we receive sustained rain for more than 24 hours we become concerned.
6. We now have concerns for the viability and sustainability of the address as a residential property. This concern is in part due to the increased development upstream which adds to the flow of stormwater and overland flow runoff. Further there has been development downstream which jointly causes a strain on the capacity of the current water systems, creeks and rivers to cope. It allows the normally free-flowing Burpengary Creek to become swelled and ultimately flood Dale Street, and the numerous houses in Dale Street.
7. Our neighbours advised us to monitor the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) web site when it rains persistently for more than one day to check the levels of Burpengary Creek. According to the BOM website, minor flooding occurs at 8.80 metres, moderate flooding at 9.70 metres and major flooding at 10.50 metres.
8. Of the four times that we have been flooded, twice we were away from our home when it occurred and were unable to access our property due to flooding. It is now the case that wherever we may be when significant rain falls we are constantly concerned about the possible creek rise and potential for flooding. This has damaged our sense of security at home and affects our efficiency and productivity at work.


Witness Signature
Page Number 2 of 6

Signature of officer

9. For example, on Sunday night of the 9th January 2011, I was away from home and my partner was overseas. I was informed by my neighbour that whilst the creek was yet to flood, it would not be long before this would occur. I raced home and was helped by family and friends to lift our possessions to higher ground. I was unable sleep most of that night worried about any impending flood and how I would cope by myself.
10. The next morning I was due to return to work after the Christmas holidays but was forced to advise work I could not attend due to being on flood alert. At 7.00am the level of Burpengary Creek was 8.6 metres. I did not know if the creek would continue to rise or fall. By the evening the threat of flooding appeared to have abated.
11. At 6.00am on Tuesday the 11th January 2011 there was no sign of flood waters in the street. I could not afford another day off work, and was on a train by 7.00am heading to my workplace at Spring Hill. At 9.00am I received a text message from my neighbour saying the street was flooding. Because my father lived only 15 minutes away from our house, I contacted him, but he was prevented from accessing our house and property by rising flood waters.
12. At 11.35am I received a text message from authorities warning of severe flooding in the Burpengary area.
13. I had already left work, but due to train delays I did not arrive at Burpengary until 1.00pm. By this time the whole of our street was under water and I could only watch from afar. I received text messages from our neighbours who were trapped in their house.

14. By 6.00pm my father and I were able to wade in fast flowing knee deep water to our house. I was devastated by what I saw. The double brick fence was knocked over, the six foot timber side fence that had been replaced only six months previous due to flood damage was again knocked down.
15. All the items under our house that we had not been able to move had been piled in a corner by the force of the fast flowing water. Our pool table had been flipped over, the fridge had been knocked over and the laundry tub had been wrenched from the wall. Many other items were covered in mud, or strewn across the lawn, and we later discovered that a number of items had been washed away.
16. It appears to me by the frequency of the flooding in Dale Street, Burpengary that this street should not have been zoned for residential development. I understand from my neighbours that the properties in Dale Street, Burpengary were developed prior to any flood planning, or checking of the area for flood risk which is surprising considering the proximity to Burpengary Creek. Further, there appears to have been no preparations to alleviate any suspected flooding as construction was allowed on these properties
17. Such information should have been apparent to the local council at the time. Available on the BOM website is information about what is described as 'significant floods' as recorded at the Burpengary (Dale Street) river height station. It records the following events: February 1972 – 11.15 metres; January 1974 – not recorded; April 1989 – 10.81 metres; December 1991 – 10.45 metres; April 2009 – 10.19 metres; May 2009 – 10.79 metres; February 2010 – 8.34 metres & October 2010 – 9.74 metres.

Witness Signature: 

Signature of officer 

18. By contrast surrounding streets of Pamela and Patricia Streets appear to have been developed with flooding in mind because property levels on these streets were raised to reduce the risk of flooding.

19. There does not appear to be any Voluntary Home Purchase Scheme offered by the Moreton Bay Regional Council, as there is in the Brisbane City Council (BCC) area. The BCC scheme stipulates four criteria for eligibility:

1. The home is predicted to flood once every two years. This means that the home must be within the extent of a predicted two year average recurrence interval (ARI) flood event.
2. The property must be in a residential zone.
3. Floodwaters must inundate the residential dwelling on the property
4. There is no other solution to stop the property flooding, such as the installation of pipes

20. It is apparent that our property would meet such criteria should the Moreton Bay Regional Council adopt such a scheme. With respect to criteria four mentioned above we were advised by Counsellor Whiting that various alternatives had been examined by the Council, but all were cost prohibitive.

21. I would raise in summary the following concerns.

22. Firstly, the Moreton Bay Regional Council failed to provide adequate information about flood mapping in the area. I cannot say if this is due to poor or inadequate records keeping on their part, or a failure to report

Witness Signature

Page Number 5 of 6

Signature of officer

matters when searches are conducted. Clearly the information should have been available since the BOM had the information.

23. Secondly, the early warning system in place is inadequate, and by the time warnings are received, it is already too late to conduct any meaningful preparations.

24. Thirdly, if the Moreton Bay Regional Council cannot provide adequate flood mitigation, then they should implement a scheme similar to the Brisbane City Council's 'Voluntary Home Purchase Scheme.'

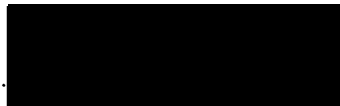


Juleia Nicole MURRAY

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 20/4/11 and contained in the pages numbered 1 to 6 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 NUNDAHthis.....22.....day of April.....2011.

Witness Signature..... Signature of officer

