

QUEENSLAND FLOODS  
COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

**STATEMENT OF RONALD (RON) KEITH GUPPY**

I, **RONALD (RON) KEITH GUPPY**, of c/- 400 George Street Brisbane in the State of Queensland, Project Manager, Department of Environment and Resource Management, state on oath:

**Requirement from Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry**

- I. I have seen a copy of a letter dated 21 April 2011 from the Commissioner, Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry to me requiring a sworn statement which is attachment **RKG-01** and which details the topics my statement should cover.

**Item 1: A description of my current employment with the Department of Environment and Resource Management, my role, qualifications, training and experience relevant to my work at that Department.**

2. I am employed as the Project Manger (Dam Safety) in the Dam Safety work team in the Office of the Water Supply Regulator work unit in the Water and Ecosystem Outcomes division of the Department of Environment and Resource Management. A copy of the Position Description for my current position which details my roles and responsibilities is attachment **RKG-02**. This position is a contract role, however I am a permanent public servant and my substantive role is Principal Engineer, Dam Safety, which is a PO5 position. A copy of my curriculum vitae is attachment **RKG-03**.
3. I hold a Bachelor of Engineering (Civil) from the University of Queensland. I am a Registered Professional Engineer and I undertake training in continuing education requirements to maintain my registration.
4. My immediate supervisor is Peter Allen, Director, Dam Safety. I am aware that Peter Allen has been required to provide a statement to Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry and I have seen a copy of his statement.
5. I am aware that I am listed as a departmental contact for the Flood Operations Centre however I would expect that the Flood Operations Centre would contact Peter Allen in the first instance. I was on leave during the period of the floods and I did not have any contact with the Flood Operations Centre or involvement in any departmental decision making regarding the operation of the Manuals during the floods.

**Item 2: A description of my role in the amendment or revision of the Manual of Operational Procedures for Flood Mitigation at Wivenhoe and Somerset Dams ('the Wivenhoe/Somerset Manual') and the Manual of Operational Procedures for Flood Mitigation at North Pine Dam ('the North Pine Manual')**

## General

6. I do not have any role in the formal legislative approval of the Manuals as I do not have the delegated responsibility for approval under the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008* ('Water Supply Act') or previously under the *Water Act 2000* ('Water Act').
7. I was generally aware of the existence of the Manuals prior to 2000 but I had no involvement in their amendment or revision. In around 2000 upon the commencement of the Water Act I became involved in generally assisting with revision. This involvement was always under the supervision of my immediate supervisor, Peter Allen, or someone acting in his position. Prior to John Tibaldi commencing with Seqwater (in about 1998) I was often the initial point of contact. However, subsequent to that time Peter Allen became his initial contact
8. My involvement with the revision of the Manuals involved reading drafts prepared by Queensland Bulk Water Authority *trading as* Seqwater ('Seqwater') reviewing the content, providing comments and attending review meetings. This involvement was under the supervision of my immediate supervisor who was also present at meetings. In addition, I provided recommendations about approval of Revisions 5 and 6 of the Wivenhoe and Somerset Manual and Revision 4 of the North Pine Dam Manual (see Previous Manuals section below).

## North Pine Dam (Revision 5)

9. Revision 5 - A draft manual was originally distributed on 12 January 2010 by John Tibaldi (Seqwater) and some preliminary comments were made by me and Khanh (Ken) Nguyen in e-mails dated 13 and 15 January 2010 respectively – see Attachment **RKG-04**.
10. I made comments on the draft Manual on or about 13 and 14 January 2010 – see Attachment **RKG-05**.
11. I believe the one and only meeting with SEQWater was on 11 June 2010 following which a request to approve a submitted manual was received on 16 July 2010. I provided comments on that version of the Manual to Peter Allen – see Attachment **RKG-06**. Following discussions with Peter Allen a request for further changes was made - see Attachments **RKG-07** and **RKG-08**.
12. A further draft Manual (copy of this Manual is not attached) with request for approval was received from Peter Borrows by letter dated 13 August 2010. – see Attachment **RKG-09**. This ultimately became the approved manual.
13. On 24 November 2010 I sent an email to Peter Allen as a prompt for getting approval of the manual –see Attachment **RKG-10**.
14. I subsequently sent an e-mail to John Tibaldi on 17 December 2010 advising him of the approval notice appearing in that day's gazette – see Attachment **RKG-11**.

**Item 3: An account, verbatim where possible, of all meetings, conversations or communications I participated in regarding the seventh revision of the Wivenhoe/Somerset Manual in 2009 (including attaching any emails, documents or other material relevant to those meetings, conversations or communications).**

15. There were three (3) different episodes in relation to Revision 7 of the Wivenhoe/Somerset Manual (Manual). They were in 2006, 2007 and 2009.

#### **Episode 1 – 2006**

16. On 15 March 2006 – the draft 2006 Manual was received from Geoff Hales (consultant working for SEQWater) for comment. The draft 2006 Manual is Attachment **RKG-12**.
17. On 27 March 2006 – comment on draft manual was provided to Geoff Hales. This is Attachment **RKG-13**. The e-mail where the draft 2006 Manual was sent to me is an e-mail in **RKG-12**.
18. 18 April 2006 – response was received from Rob Ayre, senior flood operations engineer, SunWater. The comments included in my email of 27 March 2006 are shown in the attachment to the e-mail in bold italic font. It is stated in the response to my first query that SEQWater were to reconsider the Somerset – Wivenhoe Dams interaction curve which is also included. The e-mail, response and interaction curve are Attachment **RKG-14**.

#### **Episode 2 – 2007**

19. On 26 June 2007 – another draft was received from Barton Maher, SEQWater. The draft 2007 Manual is Attachment **RKG-15**.
20. On 13 September 2007 – I sent an e-mail to Peter Allen with my comments on the draft 2007 Manual which is Attachment **RKG-16**. The e-mail where the draft Manual was forwarded to me is an e-mail in Attachment **RKG-15**.
21. Other than the above e-mail of 13 September 2007, I don't recall any action ensuing from receipt of this draft 2007 Manual.

#### **Episode 3 -2009**

22. During 2009 contact about the update of the Manual was principally between John Tibaldi (SEQWater) and Peter Allen (DERM). I did not receive meeting requests/documentation from SEQWater and used entries in Peter Allen's Outlook Calendar for viewing the various drafts.
23. To the best of my knowledge the meetings between DERM, SEQWater and the Flood Operations Engineers regarding Revision 7 occurred on 14 August 2009, 14 September 2009, 7 October 2009, 15 October 2009 and 6 November 2009. I did attend most of these meetings at Peter Allen's invitation. At these meetings John Tibaldi, or another SEQWater officer would record the changes to be made to the draft under discussion. I kept no records of the meetings.

24. I prepared some notes for consideration for inclusion in a consolidated DERM response to a particular draft. This is Attachment **RKG-17**. The response sent to SEQWater was included in Peter Allen's e-mail of 13 October 2009 which is Attachments **RKG-18** and **RKG-19**.

25. Revision 7 of the Manual was approved by Peter Allen on 22 December 2009. I obtained approval from Mr John McKenna who at that time was Acting Director, Dam Safety (Water Supply) for the publication of the approval of the Manual (see Attachments **RKG-20** and **RKG-21**). I then arranged for publication of the gazettal notice which occurred on 22 January 2010 (see Attachment **RKG-22**). A draft of the letter from John McKenna to Peter Borrows dated 28 January 2000 (sic) advising of the publication of the gazettal notice is Attachment **RKG-23**.

### Previous Manuals

26. I have searched for and located the following: -

Wivenhoe and Somerset Dams

- Revision 4 – draft copy of Manual with various proposed amendments – see Attachment **RKG-24**
- Revision 5 – draft copy of Manual with various proposed amendments and copy of the draft memo of recommendation for approval from me to Peter Allen dated 26 October 2004 – see Attachments **RKG-25** and **RKG-26**.
- Revision 6 - copy of draft memo recommendation for approval from me to Peter Allen dated 24 January 2005 – see Attachment **RKG-27**.

North Pine Dam

- Revision 3 – draft copy of Manual with various proposed amendments – see Attachment **RKG-28**.
- Revision 4 - copy of draft memo of recommendation for approval from me to Peter Allen dated 11 September 2007 – see Attachment **RKG-29**

I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true, and by virtue of the provisions of the *Oaths Act 1867*.

Signed

Ronald (Ron) Keith Gluppy

Taken and declared before me, at Brisbane this 4<sup>th</sup> day of May 2011

Solicitor/Barrister/Justice of the  
Peace/Commissioner for Declarations