Phone: ██████████   ██████████
                                     NSW 2620

Queensland Floods Commission of Enquiry
GPO Box 1738
Brisbane QLD 4001

1. PROPOSAL FOR EMERGENCY INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC
2. CONCEPT FOR EMERGENCY USE OF PRIVATE VESSELS

To the Commissioners:

PROPOSAL

During the recent floods it was obviously difficult to keep the public informed in a fast-moving emergency situation. I hope the attached Proposal for a simple, reliable and rapid means of dissemination of emergency information to the public may be of use to the Queensland Government and the Emergency Services. As indicated in the Attachment, it does not rely upon the internet, mains electricity supply, computers, phone lines or mobile phone towers, but only requires a battery radio and a widely available map. The essence of the proposal is to have a regional alpha-numeric map printed in every copy of each region's Yellow Pages. The map will therefore be readily available in every household, shop and business, and may be copied or torn from the Yellow Pages when required.

The enclosed example is taken from the current Canberra Region Yellow Pages, and is primarily aimed at a bush fire emergency. However when I devised the system my intention was that it should be of use in other emergencies such as flood. In an entirely fictitious example, the message could then be:

"REFER TO THE HANDYMAP IN THE BRISBANE REGION YELLOW PAGES DIRECTORY FOR AN EMERGENCY FLOOD REPORT.
FOLLOWING HEAVY RAINFALL THERE IS SEVERE FLOODING IN SQUARES DELTA 9 AND ECHO 9. EVERYONE IN THESE AREAS SHOULD EVACUATE TO HIGHER GROUND. SAFEST EVACUATION AREAS ARE IN SQUARES DELTA 10 AND 11 AND SQUARE ECHO 10.
RESIDENTS IN SQUARES FOXTROT 8, 9 AND 10 SHOULD PREPARE FOR FLOODING WITHIN ONE HOUR AND IMPLEMENT THEIR FLOOD EMERGENCY PLAN........" followed by further information such as Squares to avoid.

The size of the Squares may be adapted for a region, with country areas using squares of greater area. People living on the boundary of two or more regions would have easy access to the other Regions' Yellow Pages.

This does not replace other emergency information systems, but provides a supplementary, reliable, easily comprehensible and rapid means of communication.

CONCEPT

On a separate matter, the damage caused by the cyclone to yachts and other craft as shown by film of Mission Beach gave rise to a possible concept. Given perhaps 30 hours warning of the potential impact point of a cyclone on the coast, owners of yachts and other small craft could be advised to proceed along the coast to a safer shelter. Assume that most of the craft would be capable of at least 10 knots and that one knot is about 1.8Km distance travelled. In 30 hours the craft could be over 500Km away from the cyclone impact point. If the owners chose to stay ashore, or were unable to operate their vessels, then volunteer yachtsmen from further afield could be called in to move the vessels. I assume that insurance companies would be prepared in those circumstances to insure the vessels for the duration of the emergency, provided the crew were qualified, rather than pay for the damage to craft remaining in the cyclone zone.

A possible bonus could be to have the vessels, especially the larger craft, loaded with emergency supplies of food, water, tarpaulins etc for the eventual return trip after the cyclone has passed. In many cases this would allow an early delivery of emergency supplies to some of the smaller coastal settlements such as Mission Beach, especially where land access has been made impassable by the cyclone.

SUMMARY

I first presented the Yellow Pages/Handymap system as my gift to the ACT. I have been assured by the ACT Minister for Emergency Services that as the originator, I am free to offer the system to other authorities.

I now offer the system as a gift to Queensland, with the sole request that I be kept in touch should the system be adopted either in its original or a modified form.

The concept for yachts and small craft potentially in danger from a cyclone is intended as much to provide early delivery of emergency supplies to small coastal communities as it is to remove the craft to a place of safety. It is very much a basic concept arising from forty years of Naval Service.

I hope that both offerings, but particularly the Yellow Pages/Handymap system, successfully pass through the filters of your staff.

Best wishes,

James M. Sandison
15 April 2011

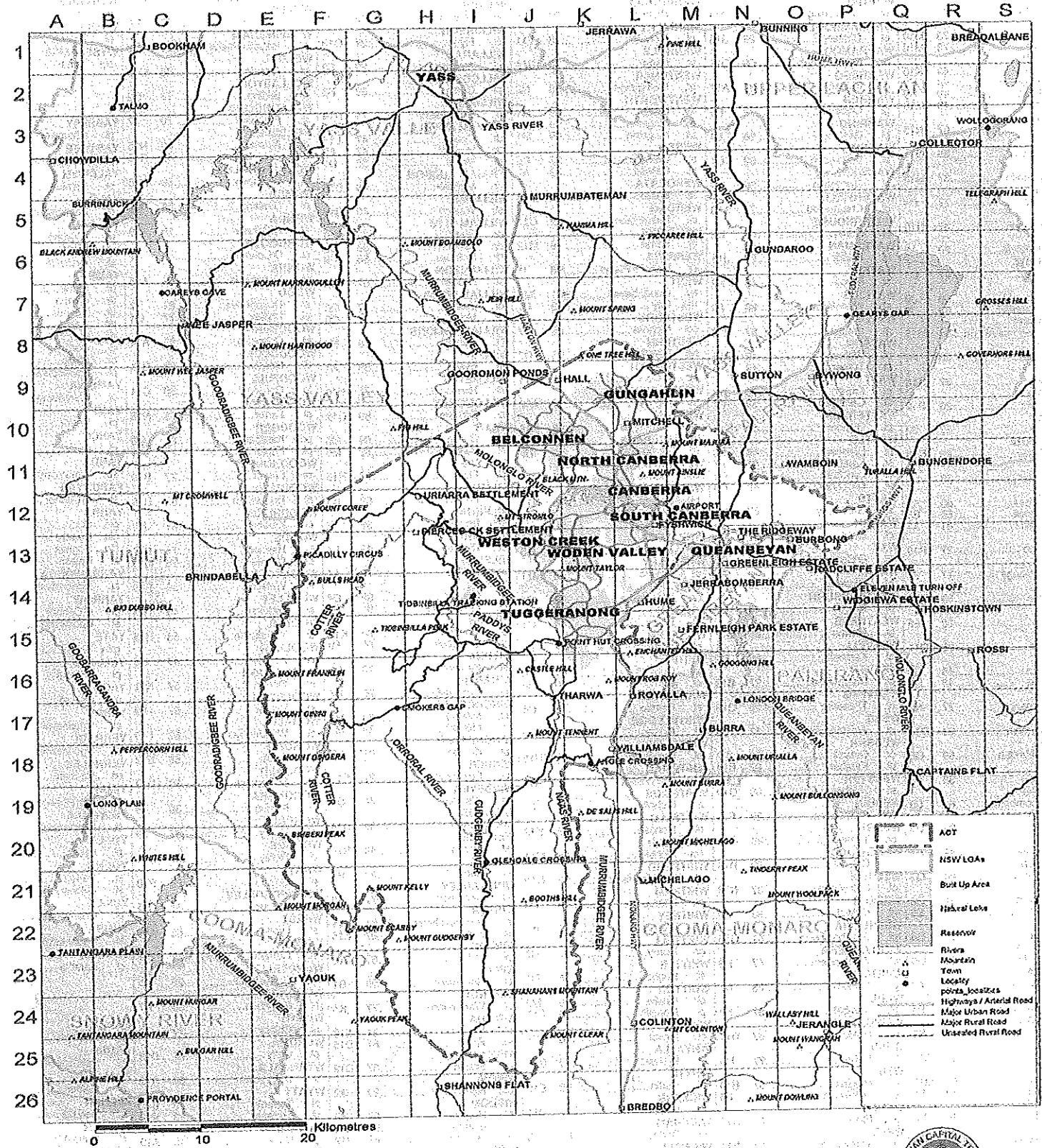Phone: ██████████ 　　　 ██████████

BURRA,
NSW 2620, AUSTRALIA

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY AWARENESS SYSTEM

1. I originally devised this system in 1994, after the 1994 Sydney bushfires, because other methods of keeping the public informed during a wide area emergency, by media interviews, by urgent media releases, and by media reporters at the scene are all inadequate. This was demonstrated during the Sydney bushfires, the 1996 south-east Queensland floods, the 2003 Canberra bushfires, and the more recent Victorian fires. The internet is valuable, but not all of the community will have access to the internet during an emergency, and perhaps should not be peering at a computer when other, more urgent tasks such as assembling precious items and documents, dressing in safer clothes, or evacuating should take precedence.

2. The way to prepare the community for bushfire, and to avoid last minute panic, is to keep the community continuously informed with reasonable accuracy in a manner that is simple and easy to comprehend.

3. As a member of the ACT Bush Fire Council from 1990 until 2000, I first proposed my system in 1994, and several times subsequently, but it was not taken up until after the 2003 Canberra area bushfires had demonstrated the need for a better back-up information system, and when the new Emergency Services Authority (ESA) was formed.

4. The proposal, now in use by the Australian Capital Territory ESA, was that a purpose-designed, alpha-numeric gridded map of the region be inserted in the Yellow Pages Telephone Directory, to which everyone has (or can easily obtain) access. Visitors listening to car radio can call into the nearest shop, and the public in general may photocopy the map, or remove one from the previous year's Yellow Pages. The only requirements are the map and a battery radio, and of course copies of the map can be available in vehicles. The system does not rely on computer availability, or an electricity supply, mobile phone towers, phone lines or local exchanges, all of which may be damaged or destroyed.

5. The system may also be used to keep the community informed of floods, areas of exotic animal disease to avoid, earthquake, chemical spills, terrorist activity, areas in which to look for missing bushwalkers, etc, and in reverse as a means by which the public can report emergencies. Members of the public should mark the position of their property on the Handymap. Some people may also require adjoining area maps.

6. **It is emphasised that the proposal has no application to operational procedures used by trained members of the Police and Emergency Services although it may be a useful supplement in a fast-moving situation.**

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26

BOOKHAM
TALMO
YASS
YASS RIVER
CHOWDILLA
BURRINJUCK
MURRUMBATEMAN
BLACK ANDREW MOUNTAIN
MOUNT BOAMBOLO
NANIMA HILL
PICCADEE HILL
GUNDAROO
CAREYS CAVE
MOUNT NARRANGULLEN
JEIR HILL
MOUNT SPRING
GEARYS GAP
GROSSES HILL
JASPER
MOUNT HARWOOD
ONE TREE HILL
GOVERNORS HILL
MOUNT HELL JASPER
GOOROMON PONDS
HALL
GUNGAHLIN
SUTTON
WYONG
FISH HILL
BELCONNEN
MITCHELL
MOUNT MARJA
NORTH CANBERRA
MOUNT AINSLIE
WAMBOIN
TUGALLA HILL
BUNGENDORE
MT CROMWELL
URIARRA SETTLEMENT
CANBERRA
MOUNT COREE
MT STROMLO
CANBERRA
AIRPORT
FYSHWICK
SOUTH CANBERRA
THE RIDGEWAY
BURBONG
BRINDABELLA
PICCADILLY CIRCUS
PIERCES CK SETTLEMENT
WESTON CREEK
WODEN VALLEY
QUEANBEYAN
GREENLEIGH ESTATE
RADCLIFFE ESTATE
BULLS HEAD
MOUNT TAYLOR
JERRABOMBERRA
ELEVEN MILE TURN OFF
WIDGIEWA ESTATE
BIG DUBBO HILL
TIDBINBILLA TRACKING STATION
HUME
HOSKINSTOWN
TIDBINBILLA PEAK
PADDYS RIVER
TUGGERANONG
FERNLEIGH PARK ESTATE
MOUNT FRANKLIN
POINT HUT CROSSING
ENCHANTED
GOOGONG HILL
MOUNT ORROROO
CASTLE HILL
MOUNT ROB ROY
ROSSI
MOUNT GINI
THARWA
ROYALLA
LONDON BRIDGE
SMOKERS GAP
MOUNT TENNENT
BURRA
PEPPERCORN HILL
MOUNT ORRORA
WILLIAMSDALE
MOUNT URIALLA
CAPTAINS FLAT
ANGLE CROSSING
LONG PLAIN
MOUNT BURRA
SHEEKI PEAK
DE SALIS HILL
MOUNT BULGONONG
WHITES HILL
MOUNT MICHELAGO
GLENDALE CROSSING
TINDERRY PEAK
MOUNT KELLY
MICHELAGO
BOOTHS HILL
MOUNT HOOLPACK
MOUNT MORGAN
MOUNT SCABBY
MOUNT GUDGENBY
TANTANGARA PLAIN
YAOUK
SHANAHANS MOUNTAIN
MOUNT HARRAR
YAOUK PEAK
COLINTON
WALLACY HILL
JERANGLE
TANTANGARA MOUNTAIN
MOUNT CLEAR
MT COLINTON
MOUNT WANGRAH
BULGAR HILL
ALPINE HILL
SHANNONS FLAT
PROVIDENCE PORTAL
BREDBO
MOUNT DOWLING

Kilometres
0   10   20

Legend:
ACT
NSW LGAs
Built Up Area
Natural Lake
Reservoir
Rivers
Mountain
Town
Locality
points_localities
Highways / Arterial Road
Major Urban Road
Major Rural Road
Unsealed Rural Road

Working in partnership to preserve life, property and the environment in the ACT

ACT Government

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY EMERGENCY SERVICES AUTHORITY