

Note

This statement has been redacted to remove certain personal information and information that is not relevant to the land planning terms of reference.

<i>Name of Witness</i>	Mark Anthony MIDDENDORP
<i>Date of Birth</i>	[REDACTED]
<i>Address and contact details</i>	[REDACTED]
<i>Occupation</i>	Construction Industry
<i>Officer taking statement</i>	Detective Sergeant Stephen Platz
<i>Date taken</i>	05/09/2011

Mark Anthony MIDDENDORP states;


1. I am a 42 year old male presently residing at an address in Bardon. I am involved in the Construction industry and the owner of two commercial premises located at 152 Barooka Road, Rosalie. This building has been in the family since 1973, not long before the 1974 floods. The building was originally purchased by my father and I bought it from him about ten years ago. I believe the building itself was built around the 1920's but I completely renovated it in 2005. It currently has a bottle shop and dry cleaning business operating from the premises. At time of buying the property I was well aware that the building was in a flood plain due to my personal experience of the 1974 floods and many other smaller flash floods events when my father owned the property.

2. I recall in 1974 I was about 5 years of age. At this time my father owned the building and I recall going to the premises at the time of the flood. I was only about 120cm high and I recall walking through the water to get to the shop. The water was up to my thigh when I entered the shop. After helping to move some items out of the shop, in only a short time, the water came to about groin height. It rose very quickly. At its peak height, the water came to just under the awnings of the barbers shop next door. I remember sitting on top of this awning dangling my feet over the edge. This awning is still there today and I would estimate it to be about 2.8m high. I am able to produce some family photographs taken during the 1974 floods at Rosalie.

Exhibit: Photographs of 1974 floods at Rosalie

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3. In addition to my personal experience of flooding in Rosalie I have also studied maps of the area around 1974. These maps indicated that Milton Park, near the Milton State School, was an old Marsh and the area where the Milton tennis courts use to be was a natural creek.
4. On a number of occasions, when my father owned the property, I recall that our shop and surrounding properties were susceptible to flash flooding usually after storms and heavy rain. This was where the gutters would fill up and cover the footpath and water was only about an inch from entering the premises. At this time there was a 150mm step up from the street.

5. In 2005, after having purchased the property, I decided to renovate the building significantly. As I was aware of the flooding issues in Rosalie I in-cooperated a number of flood resistant materials and strategies into the design. One of these was the re-instigation of the 150 mm step up. The step up was no longer present as the once wooden floor had been replaced. In addition, I wanted to replace all the walls and floors with besser bricks and concrete respectively. I also installed a small amount of Humidity Moisture Resistant (HMR) walls in the bottle shop. I then submitted my building application to the Brisbane City Council (BCC) with this step up to prevent flash flooding damage.
6. After lodging the plans I received a reply denying my 150mm step up. I recall speaking to Rod Ridell from Brisbane Certification group, who back then, did all the certification for the council. He told me I could not put the step up that high due to regulations with regards to disabled access. He also reminded me that the area I was in is regarded as a flood plain which I was well aware of. The plans were subsequently modified so that the floor was at footpath height and all the walls and floors were replaced with flood/moisture resistant material.
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8. I recall on an unknown date in 2009 we experienced a significant rain event where we had heavy rain during a storm. At 2.00am on this day I went down to my shop and saw the water rising in the gutters and then onto the footpath outside the shop. The water came up very quickly and

was only millimetres from entering the front door. This event was typical of the flash flooding we have received at Rosalie over the years and is vastly different to what we experienced in 1974 and 2011.

9. On Monday the 10th of January 2011 I was listening to the news and other media reports over concerns of flooding in Brisbane and its surrounds. As a result of these reports I got a feeling something was going to happen in Rosalie.

10. I got up early on Tuesday the 11th day of January 2011 and went out looking for sand bags. I initially couldn't get any as the line ups were ridiculously long. I then decided to pick up sand from Centenary Landscapes and I acquired a large quantity of plastic bags. I returned to the shops and with some help from friends we filled the bags with sand and placed them against my building.

11. At about 1.00pm Peter MATIC our local BCC member came down to the Rosalie shops. Also with him was Geraldine NAPP, the BCC member for Ashgrove. I saw Geraldine NAPP was holding a piece of paper and was referring to this when she said told our group that Rosalie was going to flood to 1974 levels.

12. She said: 'These people are going to have to sand bag the front of the shops to stop this. We have to organise some more sand bags and get them down here'.

13. This was the first I heard that the floods were going to be as high as the 1974 levels. As I was here during the 1974 floods I knew exactly how high they would get.

14.I replied to Geraldine and said: 'You can sand bag as much as you want but it's not going to do anything'

15.She said: 'The 1974 level is here at 900 mm or one metre'.

16.I said: 'That's not right. The 1974 level is up there near the awning'.

17.She said: 'I'm from the council I should know'.

18.One of the shopkeepers interjected and said: 'You should listen to him. Come and look at this photo'. The shopkeeper was referring to a photograph of the 1974 flood water to the awning of the shop.

19.Geraldine NAPP walked away. Peter MATIC looked at the photograph and said something and wished me luck. He then left.

20.A short time later I went to see Ainsley at Flute (one of the shops) to see if he needed a hand. At this time Geraldine NAPP came up to me and said; 'No amount of sand bagging is going to stop this?'

21.I replied: 'No it is not'.

22. I respected her for this as she more or less admitted she was wrong. The point that I wish to make is that not even the councillors were aware of 1974 flood levels. The level she was working on was the Q100 level which I think is a misleading term.

23. During this day I went around informing other shop owners with regards to the coming floods and that they should start moving stock. Some of the business owners did not believe me when I informed them of the possible height and were under the assumption that they were high enough.
24. At around 11.00pm Milton Park started to flood and I could see the water surging out of the drains. By 2.00am on the 12th day of January 2011 the water covered the park and up until 156 Barooka Road. At this time water was filling up Nash Street but it was not all one body of water. By 3.00am, however, the two bodies of water met which flooded Barooka Road and Nash Street.
25. On Wednesday the 12th day of January 2011 the flood waters had joined at both locations and water started to enter the building at 5.00am. The water continued to increase until its full peak around Wednesday afternoon at around 1.8 metres.
26. Once the floods subsided I made an assessment of the building. As the walls were better brick they were not affected and just required cleaning. This also applied to the concrete floor which was also unaffected. The HMR walls I had in the bottle shop were damaged beyond repair as they can only take a certain amount of moisture. I subsequently cut out the HMR walls and replaced them. I did not make an insurance claim and I had the building up and running within two weeks after the flood. I took photographs of the flooding at Rosalie and I am able to produce these.

Exhibit: **Series of photographs taken during 2011 floods at Rosalie.**

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27. My main issue is that the council and general public are not aware of what the term 1 / 100 means. It is misleading and there is no standardisation of what it means. This is exemplified by a plaque on the car park walls of the building at the corner of Nash and Elizabeth Street. It indicates a mark of what the developers thought was the 1974 level but in fact is just the 1/100 level. They were building under the assumption they were above the 1974 but in fact they were not.

28. As a result of my experience concerning these issues I would like to make the following suggestions;

- Clarification of the Q100 flood level amongst the government and general public. The term is misleading and I believe it has resulted in poor decisions by developers and owners.
- Back flow devices on the drains however this may not be effective during every flood event. I believe that the flooding in Rosalie, Milton and Auchenflower is a result of development over a natural water way that runs from Mount Cootha to the river. The areas mentioned are in the middle of this waterway and the storm water infrastructure that was built to take this water is insufficient. There needs to be further investigation of the current drain network in this area.
- All mains power boards and other essential infrastructure should be placed above flood levels. Most of this infrastructure in Rosalie is located in the car parks which is usually the lowest point.

- Better clarification of river heights during a time of flood. During the 2011 event it was not clear where the reported 8.5 metre flood height was estimated at and whether this affected by the tides. It needs to be something that the general public can understand so that informed decisions can be made.

M.MIDDENDORP

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 05/09/2011 and contained in the pages numbered 1 to 8 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.
..... SigSignature 15th.. day of.....September 2011

Witness Signature
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Signature of officer