## **Note**

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

Name of Witness	Kenneth Graham SMITH
Date of Birth	
Address and contact details	
Occupation	Retired / Volunteer duties
Officer taking statement	Detective Sergeant Stephen Platz
Date taken	04/08/2011

## Kenneth Graham SMITH states:

1. I am a year old married male presently residing at 'The Village' retirement complex located at 15 Cansdale Street, Yeronga with my wife Helen Isabel SMITH. We have resided at this complex since 20 August 2009and we live in a three bedroom apartment located on The Village is a multi-storey self contained retirement complex that comprises of three main buildings. There are two buildings that house approximately 100 people in each and there is a third aged care facility currently being built. The facility is located approximately 500 metres south of the Brisbane River and we are surrounded by sporting fields, factories and residential development. I am able to produce a brochure package of 'The Village' which outlines its facilities, floor plans and other details.

**Exhibit:** The Village at Yeronga Brochure Package.

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2. My wife and I first considered buying into the complex in late 2008 after visiting a sales office that was advertising the development. We were provided brochures and floor plans about the complex. Once we decided purchasing a unit I recall speaking to a representative of the developer about the potential for flooding at the site. I was reassured that because of the construction of Wivenhoe dam it would provide sufficient flood mitigation and flooding would not be an issue. I cannot remember who this person was. Due to the fact that we purchased a unit on which was well above any previous flooding, I was not overly concerned and left this issue at that. At the time of purchase we utilised the services of a solicitor, Denise Maxwell of Suite 17, "The Village", 419 Fairfield Road, Yeronga. We were not informed of any flood related issues by this solicitor.

3.

4.

- 5. On Tuesday the 11<sup>th</sup> day of January 2011 all the residents of the complex were asked to attend a meeting by the management. This meeting related to the potentiality of flooding and evacuation due to the excessive rainfall we had been experiencing. During this meeting the management received a phonecall from the Police who instructed that all residents should be evacuated from the building due to the likelihood of flooding.
- 6. The management told residents that they should return to their rooms and retrieve only their medication and some clothes and begin evacuation. The evacuation was very stressful for residents and it did not proceed as efficiently as planned. No one knew where to form up and though we did have a fire drill two weeks ago, it

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wasn't sufficient due to the unique circumstances of the flood evacuation. We were all eventually transported to the Yeronga evacuation centre and later we were picked up by our daughter who took us to her house.

7. The following day the complex got flooded. The Brisbane River rose above its banks and broke just north of the complex. This flooded all the surrounding low lying parks and residential areas. Subsequently the entire underground basement and about one metre of the ground floor of the complex was flooded. All electrical switchboards and other essential infra-structure were destroyed in the floods. We were able to return to our units, briefly, about a fortnight later but they were unliveable as there was no power operating in the complex. It wasn't until the 14<sup>th</sup> of March 2011 they we could move back in permanently. I am able to produce some aerial photographs that I obtained of the flooding to our complex.

Exhibit: Aerial photographs of 'The Village' at Yeronga during January 2011 floods.

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8. As a result of the flooding in the basement our documents and other stored items within our secure cage was destroyed or severely damaged. This included all our files, shelving and some furniture.



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9. Since the floods I have conducted some research on areas flooded by the Brisbane River, including our development. Of particular concern are those developments built on plots that were previously affected by the 1974 flood and below the 1-100 year flood level. My concern, in particular, is the potentially misleading '1-100' term used for land planning. I prepared a detailed submission on this issue and other areas that I think would help in future planning concerning development in flood plains. I forwarded this to the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry. I am able to produce this document.

**Exhibit:** 

Submission to Queensland Floods Commission of

Inquiry

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10. Since the flood the owner of the complex have changed the building heights of the proposed development. Instead of building the basement below ground, as in our building, the parking and other infrastructure is now on ground level.

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11. In addition to my proposals in my submission I would also like to suggest that the evacuation plan be modified to suit flood evacuation. Due to the nature of flooding a designated 'form up point' may not be practical, so alternate ones need to be identified. Furthermore, more practices drills are required and there needs to be floor wardens which was lacking in the January evacuation. I would also like to add that the management did their best during the flood event and generally provided an excellent service.

K.G.SMITH

## **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 04/08/2011 and contained in the pages numbered 1 to 5 is true to the best of my knowledge and belief; and
- 1 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 ... Brisbane... this. 1.242... day of SEPTEM18501