Matters concerning the operation of Wivenhoe and Somerset Dams

Tuesday, 29 March 2011 at 10.00am

At level 30, 400 George Street, Brisbane, Qld

Interview conducted by: Ms Lisa Hendy and Ms Susan Hedge

Private interview of John Lawrence Ruffini pursuant to sections of the Act
MS HENDY: We might have another break. I don't know if you want to have a longer break to eat and then we can keep going.
A. No, it's right. Keep going.

MS HENDY: We'll just have another break for 10 minutes. So what time is it now, Susan?

MS HEDGE: It's currently 10 past, nine past on my watch.

MS HENDY: So we'll just start again at 20 past.

SHORT ADJOURNMENT

MS HENDY: This is an interview with John Ruffini just continuing at 12.20 and just for the purposes of the reporter I just note Mr Jeff rolls has left the interview. Everyone else who was here earlier is still here.

Q. John, I was just going to - unless you've got anything else you want to say on the topics we've been discussing I'll just now move on to the actual event summary and the event log to run through that?
A. Sure. As I said I mean - I guess the only thing I'd say there's a fair bit of misinformation out there, so it just sort of - and I haven't gone through an exercise of going in detail about this is wrong, that's wrong, this is different and whatever, rather it's focussing on saying our view about - this is why we think it's the way it is but there is just no need for this - there is a lot of stuff out there that isn't - that is just not right.

Q. First of all, I might just ask you about the actual - the January '11 flood event report on the operation of Somerset dam and Wivenhoe dam dated 2 March 2011?
A. Sure.

Q. And about the process of compiling that. Was that primarily written by John Tibaldi?
A. The way it worked, the process was that John - John did a lot of the writing legwork. Rob and Terry did a lot of the modelling, reporting side of things, and I kind of reviewed the critical bits and pieces as needed. I wasn't able to put in as much time as the other guys unfortunately because I had - one of the group's I manage out at Rocklea that site was flooded so there was quite a bit of - and I
had to do quite a bit of work because we had to get the
repaired stations up and running, so there was a bit -
initially I had to sort of deal with that for a little bit
of time with it, so I didn't quite spend as much time.
They had - some of the other Seqwater staff assisting and
just the --

Q. The background information?
A. Background, like putting tables together and they had
some people help them formatting and that sort of thing as
well but for the critical bits of the report which is like
going through - going through the flood event summary
stuff, I've been through pretty well, and through the
compliance with the manual stuff, we've been through that
pretty well, and I've been through the main body of the
text with it. The appendices, not as much. I've been
through what I could with them but I didn't - you know,
there well could be little errors and things like that
there. It's a big document.

Q. We'll just start moving through the flood event
summary?
A. Okay.

Q. So just starting at period 1 of 20 on page 10?
A. Yes.

Q. You're the duty engineer that was called back early
from holidays to assist with the management of the event,
is that you?
A. No, that was Terry. Terry was the on call duty
engineer during the period and Terry came back and started
off the event. Where is it? There's a roster.

Q. I have seen it somewhere?
A. There's a roster there which sort of goes through
exactly who was on.

Q. When?
A. Who was on where. It tended to - yes, it tended to be
- I think - I'd have to look it up exactly which one I was
first on with, but yes.

Q. Sure. And you were - later in the event I was just
curious about why you were rostered on with Rob Ayre given
that you and he seem to be the most senior. Is there some
reason for that?