

QUEENSLAND FLOODS COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

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

1
2 MS HENDY: We might have another break. I don't know if
3 you want to have a longer break to eat and then we can keep
4 going.
5 A. No, it's right. Keep going.
6
7 MS HENDY: We'll just have another break for 10 minutes.
8 So what time is it now, Susan?
9
10 MS HEDGE: It's currently 10 past, nine past on my watch.
11
12 MS HENDY: So we'll just start again at 20 past.
13
14 **SHORT ADJOURNMENT**
15
16 MS HENDY: This is an interview with John Ruffini just
17 continuing at 12.20 and just for the purposes of the
18 reporter I just note Mr Jeff rolls has left the interview.
19 Everyone else who was here earlier is still here.
20
21 Q. John, I was just going to - unless you've got anything
22 else you want to say on the topics we've been discussing
23 I'll just now move on to the actual event summary and the
24 event log to run through that?
25 A. Sure. As I said I mean - I guess the only thing I'd
26 say there's a fair bit of misinformation out there, so it
27 just sort of - and I haven't gone through an exercise of
28 going in detail about this is wrong, that's wrong, this is
29 different and whatever, rather it's focussing on saying our
30 view about - this is why we think it's the way it is but
31 there is just no need for this - there is a lot of stuff
32 out there that isn't - that is just not right.
33
34 Q. First of all, I might just ask you about the actual -
35 the January '11 flood event report on the operation of
36 Somerset dam and Wivenhoe dam dated 2 March 2011?
37 A. Sure.
38
39 Q. And about the process of compiling that. Was that
40 primarily written by John Tibaldi?
41 A. The way it worked, the process was that John - John
42 did a lot of the writing legwork. Rob and Terry did a lot
43 of the modelling, reporting side of things, and I kind of
44 reviewed the critical bits and pieces as needed. I wasn't
45 able to put in as much time as the other guys unfortunately
46 because I had - one of the group's I manage out at Rocklea
47 that site was flooded so there was quite a bit of - and I

1 had to do quite a bit of work because we had to get the
2 repaired stations up and running, so there was a bit -
3 initially I had to sort of deal with that for a little bit
4 of time with it, so I didn't quite spend as much time.
5 They had - some of the other Seqwater staff assisting and
6 just the --
7

8 Q. The background information?

9 A. Background, like putting tables together and they had
10 some people help them formatting and that sort of thing as
11 well but for the critical bits of the report which is like
12 going through - going through the flood event summary
13 stuff, I've been through pretty well, and through the
14 compliance with the manual stuff, we've been through that
15 pretty well, and I've been through the main body of the
16 text with it. The appendices, not as much. I've been
17 through what I could with them but I didn't - you know,
18 there well could be little errors and things like that
19 there. It's a big document.
20

21 Q. We'll just start moving through the flood event
22 summary?

23 A. Okay.

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

25 A. Yes.
26
27

28 Q. You're the duty engineer that was called back early
29 from holidays to assist with the management of the event,
30 is that you?

31 A. No, that was Terry. Terry was the on call duty
32 engineer during the period and Terry came back and started
33 off the event. Where is it? There's a roster.
34

35 Q. I have seen it somewhere?

36 A. There's a roster there which sort of goes through
37 exactly who was on.
38

39 Q. When?

40 A. Who was on where. It tended to - yes, it tended to be
41 - I think - I'd have to look it up exactly which one I was
42 first on with, but yes.
43

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