



**Crown Law**  
Queensland Government

# **QUEENSLAND FLOOD COMMISSION OF INQUIRY – STATE REPRESENTATION**

## **STATEMENT OF THE HONOURABLE ANNA MARIA BLIGH**

### **VOLUME 1 OF 1**

Crown Solicitor  
50 Ann Street  
BRISBANE Q 4000

Paul Lack

Ph:

Fax

CRS/PRE052/1856/LAP

QUEENSLAND FLOODS  
COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

**STATEMENT OF ANNA MARIA BLIGH**

I, **ANNA MARIA BLIGH**, of c/-100 George Street, Brisbane, in the State of Queensland, Premier and Minister for Reconstruction, do solemnly and sincerely declare that:

**Requirement from the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry**

1. I have seen a copy of the letter dated 1 February 2012 from the Commissioner, Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry ("the Commission") to me requiring a written statement, it is attachment **AMB-01** and it details the topics my statement should cover.
2. I have asked that searches be undertaken in my office and within the Department of the Premier and Cabinet for all documentation relevant to this requirement. I base this statement on those records as well as my recollection of the time.

**My understanding, in the period between 7 January 2011 to 12 January 2011, of which flood operations strategies, referred to in the 'Manual of Operational Procedures for Flood Mitigation at Wivenhoe Dam and Somerset Dam', were used in the operation of Wivenhoe Dam between 7 January 2011 and 12 January 2011 and the times at which each strategy was in use.**

3. For the Commission's records, I attach a copy of my diary, which details travel and meetings conducted during the period nominated. It is marked **AMB-02**.



4. My understanding of the flood operations strategies used in the operation of Wivenhoe Dam during this time was informed by the technical situation reports that were emailed to me by my Director-General and briefings provided at State Disaster Management Group (SDMG) meetings. My main focus of inquiry during this period was the impact of the events and the planning which would need to be implemented to support the emergency response.
5. While I was made aware of the continuing impacts of the changing weather forecast, my understanding and key area of inquiry was the impact of any downstream inundation. Any reference to strategies implemented during this time was provided through the technical situation reports which were distributed during this time to all the Local Government and State Government member agencies. I attach a copy of the technical situation reports that I received at **AMB-03**.
6. I was also briefed verbally at SDMG meetings. I received reports from the Bureau of Meteorology and the Bureau's hydrologists at some of these meetings. Attached at **AMB-04** are copies of the minutes of the SDMG meetings that I attended during the period 24 December 2010 to 21 January 2011.
7. In addition to these documents, I recall that my then Director-General, Mr Ken Smith, advised me on the afternoon of Monday, 10 January 2011, that there was the likelihood of potential severe flooding in Ipswich and Brisbane with inundation levels that could be at the 1974 level of flooding. As a result of this briefing I conducted a media conference with the State Disaster Coordinator, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Mr Ian Stewart, to make this advice public. A copy of the transcript of this media conference is in the bundle marked AMB-06 referred to in paragraph 10.

8. Further, I can recall, that after the briefings at the SDMG meeting held on the morning of Tuesday, 11 January 2011, where the scale of the planned Wivenhoe Dam releases and their downstream impact was outlined in detail, I formed the view that further advice should be sought, by way of a second opinion, on whether or not the proposed releases were appropriate. I instructed my Director-General to engage an independent expert to provide a second opinion on the appropriateness of proposed releases.
9. I understand that this is when my Director-General implemented my requests through the Department of Environment and Resource Management to engage Mr Brian Cooper. Mr Cooper was asked to provide independent expert advice about the release strategy. A copy of Mr Cooper's report is attached at **AMB-05**.
10. During the period of 7 January 2011 and 12 January 2011 there were a number of press conferences held and media releases distributed which describe my knowledge of events as they were unfolding. I attach copies of transcripts and media releases during that period at **AMB – 06**.

**How, if at all, that understanding changed since 12 January 2011 and the reason for the change in understanding**

11. My understanding of the flood operations strategies that were used in the operation of the Wivenhoe Dam has been further informed by the interim report of the Commission delivered in August 2011.

**Whether I am aware of any accounts of the choice and timing of the dam operations strategies employed to manage the flood event that differ from my understanding of the events and if I am, a description of those different accounts and the source of the accounts.**

**When I first became aware of the accounts, if any, referred to in paragraph 3 above.**

12. I am aware of media coverage and alternative views and questions about the operation of the dam which have been raised in the media since the events of January 2011. These questions were being raised in the media as early as 12 January 2011 and it was these questions, along with questions about the flash flooding in the Lockyer valley, which motivated my decision to establish an independent Commission of Inquiry.

**All discussions, correspondence, meetings or briefings I participated in, in relation to the choice and timing of dam operations strategies used in the operation of Wivenhoe Dam between 7 January 2011 and 12 January 2011 and in respect of these identifying any that related to the different accounts, if any, referred to in paragraph 3.**

13. I have attached the relevant documentation that reflects the meetings and briefings at AMB-02, AMB-03 and AMB-04.

14. I had no involvement in the choice or timing of the dam operations strategies used in the operation of the Wivenhoe Dam between 7 January 2011 and 12 January 2011. The documents that I have attached to this statement show that the choices and timing of dam operations were being taken by the operators of the dams, in consultation with Bureau of Meteorology and each of the Local Government Authorities in the catchment areas.

Any decision made, or action taken, by me in relation to the different accounts, if any referred to paragraph 3 above.

15. On 17 January 2011, as the Premier of Queensland, I took to Cabinet a submission to establish the Commission to examine all aspects of the management and response to the floods experienced across the State, including a specific term of reference in relation to the strategies used to operate the Wivenhoe Dam. Attached at **AMB-07** are copies of the Cabinet submission and Cabinet decision.

I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true, and by virtue of the provisions of the *Oaths Act 1867*.

Signed .

Anna Maria Bligh

Taken and declared before me, at Brisbane this <sup>AMB</sup> 5th day of February 2012.

Solicitor/~~Barrister~~/Justice of the  
Peace/~~Commissioner for Declarations~~



Our ref: Doc 1839713

1 February 2012

The Honourable Anna Bligh MP  
Premier and Minister for Reconstruction  
Executive Building  
100 George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4002

#### REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE STATEMENT TO COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

I, Justice Catherine E Holmes, Commissioner of Inquiry, pursuant to section 5(1)(d) of the *Commissions of Inquiry Act 1950* (Qld), require the Honourable Anna Bligh MP to provide a written statement, under oath or affirmation, to the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry, in which she said the Honourable Anna Bligh MP gives an account of:

1. her understanding, in the period between 7 January 2011 to 12 January 2011, of which flood operations strategies, referred to in the 'Manual of Operational Procedures for Flood Mitigation at Wivenhoe Dam and Somerset Dam', were used in the operation of Wivenhoe Dam between 7 January 2011 and 12 January 2011 and the times at which each strategy was in use
2. how, if at all, that understanding changed since 12 January 2011 and the reason for the change in understanding
3. whether she is aware of any accounts of the choice and timing of the dam operations strategies employed to manage the flood event that differ from her understanding of the events and if she is, a description of those different accounts and the source of the accounts
4. when she first became aware of the accounts, if any, referred to in paragraph 3 above
5. all discussions, correspondence, meetings or briefings she participated in, in relation to the choice and timing of dam operations strategies used in the operation of Wivenhoe Dam between 7 January 2011 and 12 January 2011 and in respect of these identifying any that related to the different accounts, if any, referred to in paragraph 3
6. any decision made, or action taken, by her in relation to the different accounts, if any, referred to in paragraph 3 above.

In addressing these matters, the Honourable Anna Bligh MP is to:

- provide all information in her possession and identify the source or sources of that information;
- make commentary and provide opinions she is qualified to give as to the appropriateness of particular actions or decisions and the basis of that commentary or opinion.

All documents relating to the matters set out in the Statement should be included as attachments to the statement.

The statement is to be provided to the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry by 9am Monday, 6 February 2012.

The statement can be provided by post, email or by arranging delivery to the Commission by emailing [info@floodcommission.qld.gov.au](mailto:info@floodcommission.qld.gov.au).

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P. Holmes', is written over a horizontal line.

Commissioner  
Justice C E Holmes



7 January 2011

Friday

January 2011						
M	T	W	T	F	S	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	27	28	29	30
31						

February 2011						
M	T	W	T	F	S	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	27
28						

7	Friday	
	From 2 Jan	To 9 Jan
	Brisbane International Tennis 2-9 Jan	
	Karin Carey on leave 4 -14 Jan inclusive	
	Minister Mulherin on leave 3 - 11 Jan	
5 am	Minister Struthers on leave 3-9 Jan (Acting Boyle)	
	TRAVEL; home to Kedron; Anna Bligh	
	6.00	6.10am MEDIA: Today show; EMQ Kedron; Anna Bligh
	6.20am: AM program interview	6.30am MEDIA: ABC 24 Breakfast show; EMQ Kedron; Anna Bligh
	6.45am: 2GB Radio	TRAVEL; Kedron to office; Anna Bligh
7.00		
8.00	MEDIA TEAM MEETING; Premier's office; Anna Bligh	
	DG/COS MEETING; Premier's office; Anna Bligh	
9.00	9am MEET: Briefing with Treasurer RE: Flooding economic impacts Premier's Boardroom; Anna Bligh	
10.00	PHOTO: Donation Ken Tipping - Campervan & Motorhome Club	
	10.30am PHONE FROM CAR: Michael Gudinski RE: Sound Relief	TRAVEL [Kate VP] office to Kedron; Anna Bligh
11.00	EMQ Meeting [Kate VanP] EMQ, Kedron Anna Bligh	
12 pm	TRAVEL [Kate VP]; Kedron to office; Anna Bligh	
	LUNCH/DESK	
1.00		
2.00	PHONE: Deputy Premier on mobile after 2pm (DP's request)	
	2.45pm - MEET with Minister Robertson; Premier's office; Anna Bligh	PHOTO: Donation from Kuraby Mosque/Muslim Community [M]
3.00		
4.00		
5.00	MEDIA TEAM MEETING; Premier's office; Anna Bligh	
	DG/COS MEETING; Premier's office; Anna Bligh	

# 8 January 2011

Saturday

January 2011

M	T	W	T	F	S	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	27	28	29	30
31						

February 2011

M	T	W	T	F	S	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	27
28						

<b>8</b>	Saturday
From 2 Jan	<b>Brisbane International Tennis 2-9 Jan</b> To 9 Jan
	<b>GMU: Mark Symons</b> To 9 Jan
	<b>Karin Carey on leave 4 -14 Jan inclusive</b>
	<b>Minister Mulherin on leave 3 - 11 Jan</b>
	<b>Minister Struthers on leave 3-9 Jan (Acting Boyle)</b>
	<b>POTENTIAL FLOOD VISIT WITH THE PM; STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL</b>

6 am

7<sup>00</sup>

**DRIVE;** home to GAW; Anna Bligh

8<sup>00</sup>

**8.00am FLIGHT King Air [Kimberley, Mick Slater, Owen Paulson, Sunday Mail]**  
GAW to St George  
Anna Bligh

9<sup>00</sup>

**Ground tour [Prime Minister, Kimberley, Mick Slater, Owen Paulson, Sunday Mail]**  
St George  
Anna Bligh

10<sup>00</sup>

11<sup>00</sup>

**11.30am FLIGHT King Air [Kimberley, Mick Slater, Owen Paulson, Sunday Mail]**  
St George to Miles; Anna Bligh

12 pm

**Ground Tour [Kimberley, Mick Slater, Owen Paulson, Sunday Mail]**  
Miles to Condamine  
Anna Bligh

1<sup>00</sup>

2<sup>00</sup>

**2.15pm FLIGHT - King Air [Kimberley, Mick Slater, Owen Paulson, Sunday Mail]**  
Miles to Brisbane  
Anna Bligh

3<sup>00</sup>

**DRIVE;** GAW to home; Anna Bligh

4<sup>00</sup>

5<sup>00</sup>

6<sup>00</sup>

7<sup>00</sup>



# 9 January 2011

Sunday

January 2011

M	T	W	T	F	S	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	27	28	29	30
31						

February 2011

M	T	W	T	F	S	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	27
28						

9

Sunday

From 2 Jan

Brisbane International Tennis 2-9 Jan

From 8 Jan

GMU: Mark Symons

Karin Carey on leave 4 - 14 Jan inclusive

Minister Mulherin on leave 3 - 11 Jan

Minister Struthers on leave 3-9 Jan (Acting Boyle)

5 am

DRIVE; home to Kedron; Anna Bligh

6 00

6.10am MEDIA: Weekend Sunrise [Mark Symons]; EMQ Kedron; Anna Bligh

DRIVE; Kedron to GAW; Anna Bligh

7 00

7.15am FLIGHT - King Air [Mark Symons, Mick Slater, Owen Paulson]  
Brisbane to Moura  
Anna Bligh

8 00

DRIVE [Mark Symons, Mick Slater, Owen Paulson]  
Moura to Theodore; Anna Bligh

9 00

Ground tour [Mark Symons, Mick Slater, Owen Paulson]  
Theodore  
Anna Bligh

10 00

11 00

DRIVE [Mark Symons, Mick Slater, Owen Paulson]  
Theodore to Moura; Anna Bligh

12 pm

FLIGHT - King Air [Mark Symons, Mick Slater, Owen Paulson]  
Moura to Brisbane  
Anna Bligh

1 00

DRIVE; GAW to home; Anna Bligh

2 00

3 00

4 00

5 00

6 00

DRIVE; Home to Southbank; Anna Bligh

6pm MEDIA: Flood Relief Appeal - Channel 9 [Mark Symons, Stephen Beckett]  
Suncorp Piazza, SOUTHBANK & Call Centre, cnr Pineapple/Cambewarra St, ZILLMERE  
Anna Bligh

7 00

DRIVE (approx 7pm); Southbank to Zillmere; Anna Bligh

8 00

9 00

DRIVE; Zillmere to home; Anna Bligh

## Anna Bligh

---

**Subject:** 6pm MEDIA: Flood Relief Appeal - Channel 9 [Mark Symons, Stephen Beckett]  
**Location:** Suncorp Piazza, SOUTHBANK & Call Centre, cnr Pineapple/Cambewarra St, ZILLMERE  
**Start:** Sun 9/01/2011 6:00 PM  
**End:** Sun 9/01/2011 8:30 PM  
**Recurrence:** (none)  
**Meeting Status:** Meeting organizer  
**Organizer:** Anna Bligh  
**Required Attendees:** Anna Hartley; Belinda Taylor; Brendon Strong; Edmund Burke; Jaxen Wood; Kate van Poelgeest; Kimberley Gardiner; Mark Symons; Megan Saunders; Oskar Bronowicki; Proteus; Clyde Howard; Stephen Beckett; owen.paulson; [REDACTED]  
**Optional Attendees:** PremSecurity1  
**Categories:** Media, Archive

National Fund Raising appeal - Live from 6.30pm at Suncorp Piazza in Southbank.

Hosted by Eddie McGuire, Leila McKinnon and Karl Stefanovic. Performances by Tina Arena, Jessica Mauboy, Altion Childs etc.

### Premier to travel between Southbank (Suncorp Piazza) and Zillmere Call Centre

#### BASIC RUN-SHEET:

6.00pm – Premier to arrive at Southbank – Suncorp Piazza  
- Briefing by Channel 9  
6.30pm – Telethon commences  
6.35pm - Premier welcomed by Panel  
- Premier to be interviewed by Eddie McGuire  
7.00pm ish – Premier departs Southbank and leaves for Call Centre  
7.30/8.10pm- Leila McKinnon interviews Major General Slater at Southbank  
8.00/8.15pm ish – Live Cross to Premier at Zillmere Call Centre  
8.30pm – Telethon finishes

#### Suncorp Piazza – Southbank

**ONSITE CONTACT:** Lyndall Hall, GM of Marketing, Southbank on [REDACTED]  
Christine Neate, Channel Nine Senior Publicist [REDACTED]

#### Smart Service Qld Call Centre at Zillmere – (Dandiiri Contact Centre)

Ground Floor  
Corner Pineapple and Cambewarra Streets, Zillmere  
Phone: [REDACTED]

**ONSITE CONTACT:** Janet Hewitt, [REDACTED]  
- Dianne Jeans, GM SSQ [REDACTED]



RUNDOWN.DOC

CONFIDENTIAL RUNDOWN (no times)

**RUNDOWN (SHOW #1)**

**DATE: FIRST SHOW**

**EPISODE: 01/11**

**PAGE: 1**

**IN TIME:**

NO	TIME	ITEM	DUR	SRC	AUD
1.		OPENING TITLES	1:30	VTR	SOT
2.		EDDIE WELCOMES & INTRO'S KARL & LEILA		LIVE	LIVE
3.		EDDIE SETS UP & INTRO'S CALL CENTRE		LIVE	LIVE
4.		CALL CENTRE CROSS #1 - ALLISON, NAT & IAN CHAT & THROW BACK TO KARL		LIVE	LIVE
5.		KARL SETS UP REPORTERS * GRAPHIC - 5 WAY BOXES		LIVE VIZ	LIVE VIZ
6.		LEILA GIVES DONATION DETAILS * GRAPHIC - DONATION DETAILS		LIVE VIZ	LIVE VIZ
7.		EDDIE (FAR CAM L SEAT) INTRO'S PREMIER ANNA BLIGH (WITH DONATION DETAIL SUPER NOW ON FOR REMAINDER OF SHOW, ONLY TO BE LOST WHEN SUPERING SOMETHING ELSE)		LIVE VIZ	LIVE VIZ
8.		PREMIER ANNA BLIGH INTERVIEW WITH PANEL (FOUND 2 <sup>ND</sup> CAM L SEAT) * GRAPHIC - "CURRENT UPDATE" (KARL) * O/LAY - "?"		LIVE VIZ VTR	LIVE VIZ F/X
9.		LEILA INTRO'S LIZ HAYES * GRAPHIC - 2 WAY BOXES		LIVE VIZ	LIVE VIZ
10.		LIZ HAYES (SNG EX ST.GEORGE) (THROWS BACK TO EDDIE) * O/LAY - "?"		LIVE VTR	LIVE F/X
11.		EDDIE THANKS LIZ & PREMIER BLIGH (POINTS TO HER GOING TO CALL CENTRE) & INTRO'S DAVID CAMPBELL		LIVE	LIVE
12.		DAVID CAMPBELL PERFORMS "YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALONE"		LIVE	LIVE
13.		EDDIE WALKS IN & THANKS DAVID & THROWS TO		LIVE	LIVE
14.		PLAYOFF - VTR SOT - "CRICKET PLAYERS"		VTR	SOT
COMMERCIAL BREAK # 1					



**RUNDOWN (SHOW #1)**

**DATE: FIRST SHOW**  
**IN TIME:**

**EPISODE: 01/11**

**PAGE: 2**

NO	TIME	ITEM	DUR	SRC	AUD
15.		PLAYON - VTR SOT - "HAYDEN/SEA PATROL"		VTR	SOT
16.		EDDIE WELCOMES BACK & THANKS NEWS LTD FOR SUPPORT & POINTS TO NEWS LTD PAPERS TOMORROW & (LEILA POINTS TO NEWS LTD ONLINE - BLOGS, TWITTER ETC) * GRAPHIC - NEWS WEBSITES		LIVE  VIZ	LIVE  VIZ
17.		EDDIE THROWS TO ALLY IN CALL CENTRE  CALL CENTRE CROSS #2 (ALLY WITH STEPH GILMORE) * NAME SUPER (THEN ALLY THROWS TO NAT, NAT THROWS TO HEALS, HEALS THROWS TO ALLY) ALLY THROWS BACK TO EDDIE		LIVE  LIVE VIZ	LIVE  LIVE VIZ
19.		EDDIE INTRO'S & INTERVIEWS BIG DONATOR #1 (COMM BANK?) (FAR CAM L SEAT) * SUPER - TALLY UPDATE		LIVE VIZ	LIVE VIZ
20.		KARL & LEILA BRIEF CHAT ABOUT ROCKHAMPTON & SETS UP & THROW TO PETER HARVEY  PETER HARVEY (EX SNG ROCKHAMPTON) * O/LAY - "?"		LIVE  LIVE VTR	LIVE  LIVE F/X
22.		LEILA THANKS PETER & KARL SETS UP & THROWS TO MICHAEL USHER		LIVE	LIVE
23.		MICHAEL USHER (EX SNG BUNDABERG) * O/LAY - "?"		LIVE VTR	LIVE F/X
24.		KARL THANKS MICHAEL, EDDIE ACKNOWLEDGES DONATOR IN AUDIENCE & THROWS TO		LIVE	LIVE
25.		PLAYOFF - VTR SOT - "CELEBRITY PACKAGE"		VTR	SOT
COMMERCIAL BREAK # 2					

RUNDOWN (SHOW #1)

DATE: FIRST SHOW

EPISODE: 01/11

PAGE: 3

IN TIME:

NO	TIME	ITEM	DUR	SRC	AUD
26.		PLAYON - VTR SOT - "?"		VTR	SOT
27.		EDDIE SETS UP & INTRO'S TINA ARENA"		LIVE	LIVE
28.		TINA ARENA PERFORMS "I ONLY WANNA BE WITH YOU" EDDIE WALKS IN & THANKS TINA		LIVE	LIVE
29.		KARL & LEILA SET UP CONDAMINE & THROW TO BEN FORDHAM		LIVE	LIVE
30.		BEN FORDHAM (SNG EX CONDAMINE) * O/LAY - "?"		LIVE VTR	LIVE F/X
31.		KARL THANKS BEN, THEN EDDIE THROWS TO ALLY IN CALL CENTRE		LIVE	LIVE
32.		CALL CENTRE CROSS # 3 (ALLY WITH OPPOSITION LEADER) * NAME SUPER ALLY THROWS BACK TO EDDIE		LIVE VIZ	LIVE VIZ
33.		EDDIE INTRO'S PRIME MINISTER JULIA GILLARD		LIVE	LIVE
34.		PRIME MINISTER JULIA GILALRD INTERVIEW WITH PANEL * O/LAY - "?"		LIVE	LIVE
35.		EDDIE THANKS PM & THROWS TO BREAK		LIVE	LIVE
36.		PLAYOFF - VTR SOT - "GENERIC PLAYOFF #1"		VTR	SOT
COMMERCIAL BREAK # 3					

**RUNDOWN (SHOW #1)**

**DATE: FIRST SHOW**

**EPISODE: 01/11**

**PAGE: 4**

**IN TIME:**

NO	TIME	ITEM	DUR	SRC	AUD
37.		PLAYON - VTR SOT - "GENERIC PLAYON #1"		VTR	SOT
38.		EDDIE INTRO'S DARREN LOCKYER & AFL PLAYER (ABLETTT??)		LIVE	LIVE
39.		DARREN LOCKYER & AFL PLAYER INTERVIEW * SUPER - TALLY UPDATE		LIVE VIZ	LIVE VIZ
40.		EDDIE THANKS GUYS, THEN KARL & LEILA SET UP & THROW TO SARAH HARRIS		LIVE	LIVE
41.		SARAH HARRIS (SNG EX EMERALD) * O/LAY - "?"		LIVE VTR	LIVE F/X
42.		LEILA THANKS SARAH & EDDIE INTRO'S & INTERVIEWS BIG DONATOR #2 (HOLDEN??) * SUPER - TALLY UPDATE		LIVE	LIVE
43.		KARL SETS UP & INTRO'S		LIVE	LIVE
44.		TROY CASSAR-DALEY PERFORMS "?"		LIVE	LIVE
45.		EDDIE WALKS IN & THANKS TROY & THROWS TO		LIVE	LIVE
46.		PLAYOFF - VTR SOT - "GENERIC PLAYOFF #2"		VTR	SOT
COMMERCIAL BREAK # 4					

**"FLOOD RELIEF APPEAL - AUSTRALIA UNITES" - DRAFT**

**RUNDOWN (SHOW #1)**

**DATE: FIRST SHOW**

**EPISODE: 01/11**

**PAGE: 5**

**IN TIME:**

NO	TIME	ITEM	DUR	SRC	AUD
47.		PLAYON - VTR SOT - "GENERIC PLAYON #2"		VTR	SOT
48.		EDDIE THROWS TO ALLY IN THE CALL CENTRE		LIVE	LIVE
49.		CALL CENTRE CROSS # 3 (ALLY WITH JOHN BORGHETTI - VIRGIN BLUE CEO) * NAME SUPER ALLY THROWS BACK TO LEILA		LIVE VIZ	LIVE VIZ
50.		LEILA THROWS TO LIZ HAYES		LIVE	LIVE
51.		LIZ HAYES CROSS #2 (SNG EX ST. GEORGE) WITH GUEST		LIVE	LIVE
52.		LEILA THANKS LIZ & EDDIE INTRO'S MAJOR GENERAL MICK SLATER		LIVE	LIVE
53.		MAJOR GENERAL MICK SLATER INTERVIEW WITH PANEL * SUPER * O/LAY - "?"		LIVE VIZ	LIVE VIZ
54.		EDDIE THANKS MAJOR GENERAL MICK & INTRO'S		LIVE	LIVE
55.		JESS MAUBOY PERFORMS "ARE YOU LONESOME TONIGHT?"		LIVE	LIVE
56.		EDDIE WALKS IN & THANKS JESS		LIVE	LIVE
57.		KARL THROWS TO PETER HARVEY		LIVE	LIVE
58.		PETER HARVEY CROSS #2 (WITH BUNNINGS REP)		LIVE	LIVE
59.		KARL THANKS PETER & THROWS TO BREAK		LIVE	LIVE
60.		PLAYOFF - VTR SOT - "CELEBRITY #2 PKG??"		VTR	LSOT
COMMERCIAL BREAK # 5					

**RUNDOWN (SHOW #1)**

**DATE: FIRST SHOW**

**EPISODE: 01/11**

**PAGE: 6**

**IN TIME:**

NO	TIME	ITEM	DUR	SRC	AUD
61.		PLAYON - VTR SOT - "GENERIC PLAYON #3"		SOT	SOT
62.		KARL WELCOMES BACK & THROWS TO BEN FORDHAM		LIVE	LIVE
63.		BEN FORDHAM CROSS #2 (SNG EX CONDOMINE)		LIVE	LIVE
64.		KARL THANKS BEN & LEILA THROWS TO MICHAEL USHER		LIVE	LIVE
65.		MICHAEL USHER CROSS #2 (SNG EX BUNDABERG) WITH GUEST		LIVE	LIVE
66.		LEILA THANKS MICHAEL		LIVE	LIVE
67.		EDDIE INTRO'S & INTERVIEWS BIG DONATOR #3 ???????? * SUPER - TALLY UPDATE		LIVE VIZ	LIVE VIZ
68.		EDDIE THEN THROWS TO ALLY IN CALL CENTRE		LIVE	LIVE
69.		CALL CENTRE CROSS # 4 (ALLY WITH HEAD OF SES) * NAME SUPER ALLY THROWS BACK TO EDDIE		LIVE VIZ	LIVE VIZ
70.		EDDIE THROWS TO BREAK		LIVE	LIVE
71.		PLAYOFF - VTR SOT - "GENERIC PLAYOFF #3"		VTR	SOT
COMMERCIAL BREAK # 6					



**RUNDOWN (SHOW #1)**

**DATE: FIRST SHOW**

**EPISODE: 01/11**

**PAGE: 7**

**IN TIME:**

NO	TIME	ITEM	DUR	SRC	AUD
72.		PLAYON - VTR SOT - "GENERIC PLAYON #4"		VTR	SOT
73.		EDDIE SETS UP & INTRO'S KASEY CHAMBERS		LIVE	LIVE
74.		KASEY CHAMBERS PERFORMS "?"		LIVE	LIVE
75.		EDDIE WALKS IN & THANKS KASEY		LIVE	LIVE
76.		KARL THROWS TO SARAH HARRIS		LIVE	LIVE
77.		SARAH HARRIS CROSS #2 (SNG EX EMERALD)		LIVE	LIVE
78.		KARL THANKS SARAH & LEILA THROWS TO PETER HARVEY		LIVE	LIVE
79.		PETER HARVEY CROSS #3 (SNG EX ROCKHAMPTON) WITH WIN METEOROLOGIST PETER BYRNE * NAME SUPER * O/LAY - "?"		LIVE VIZ VTR	LIVE VIZ F/X
80.		LEILA THANKS PETER, EDDIE INTRO'S DR GINO PECORARO & PETER YEO		LIVE	LIVE
81.		DR GINO PECORARO & PETER YEO INTERVIEW WITH PANEL * NAME SUPERS		LIVE	LIVE
82.		EDDIE THANKS DR GINO & PETER & THROWS TO		LIVE	LIVE
83.		PLAYOFF - VTR SOT - "GENERIC PLAYOFF #4"		VTR	SOT
COMMERCIAL BREAK # 7					

**RUNDOWN (SHOW #1)**

**DATE: FIRST SHOW**

**EPISODE: 01/11**

**PAGE: 8**

**IN TIME:**

NO	TIME	ITEM	DUR	SRC	AUD
84.		PLAYON - VTR SOT - "GENERIC PLAYON #5"		VTR	SOT
85.		EDDIE WELCOMES BACK & INTRO'S & INTERVIEWS SCOTT THOMPSON (EDITOR SUNDAY MAIL) * SUPER - TALLY UPDATE		LIVE VIZ	LIVE VIZ
86.		KARL THANKS NEWS LTD FOR SUPPORT & POINTS TO NEWS LTD PAPERS TOMORROW & (LEILA POINTS TO NEWS LTD ONLINE -BLOGS, TWITTER ETC) * GRAPHIC - NEWS WEBSITES		LIVE VIZ	LIVE VIZ
87.		EDDIE THROWS TO ALLY IN THE CALL CENTRE		LIVE	LIVE
88.		CALL CENTRE CROSS # 5 (ALLY WITH DOMINO'S REP) * NAME SUPER ALLY THROWS BACK TO EDDIE		LIVE VIZ	LIVE VIZ
89.		EDDIE THANKS SUNCORP PIAZZA AT SOUTHBANK FOR PROVIDING THE VENUE & THROWS TO BREAK		LIVE	LIVE
90.		PLAYOFF - VTR SOT "GENERIC PLAYOFF #5"		VTR	SOT

**COMMERCIAL BREAK # 8**

**RUNDOWN (SHOW #1)**

**DATE: FIRST SHOW**

**EPISODE: 01/11**

**PAGE: 9**

**IN TIME:**

NO	TIME	ITEM	DUR	SRC	AUD
91.		PLAYON - VTR SOT "GENERIC PLAYON #6"		VTR	SOT
92.		EDDIE INTRO'S LEE KERNAGHAN		LIVE	LIVE
93.		LEE KERNAGHAN PERFORMS "?"		LIVE	LIVE
94.		EDDIE WALKS IN & THANKS LEE		LIVE	LIVE
95.		KARL THROWS TO LIZ HAYES		LIVE	LIVE
96.		LIZ HAYES CROSS #3 (SNG EX ST.GEORGE)		LIVE	LIVE
97.		KARL THANKS LIZ & LEILA THROWS TO PETER HARVEY		LIVE	LIVE
98.		PETER HARVEY CROSS #4 (SNG EX ROCKHAMPTON) WITH 9 NEWS REPORTER SYLVIA JEFFREYS * NAME SUPER * O/LAY - "?"		LIVE VIZ VTR	LIVE LIVE VIZ F/X
99.		LEILA GOODNIGHTS PETER & EDDIE INTRO'S & INTERVIEWS BIG DONATOR #4 (DJ'S) * SUPER - TALLY UPDATE		LIVE VIZ	LIVE VIZ
100.		EDDIE THROWS TO BREAK		LIVE	LIVE
101.		PLAYOFF - VTR SOT "GENERIC PLAYOFF #6"		VTR	SOT

**COMMERCIAL BREAK # 9**

**RUNDOWN (SHOW #1)**

**DATE: FIRST SHOW**

**EPISODE: 01/11**

**PAGE: 10**

**IN TIME:**

NO	TIME	ITEM	DUR	SRC	AUD
102.		PLAYON - VTR SOT "GENERIC PLAYOFF #7"		VTR	SOT
103.		EDDIE WELCOMES BACK & INTRO'S & INTERVIEWS MIKE SOPINSKI (SUNCORP INSURANCE)		LIVE	LIVE
104.		KARL THROWS TO SARAH HARRIS		LIVE	LIVE
105.		SARAH HARRIS CROSS # 3 (SNG EX EMERALD) WITH 9 REPRTER DARREN CURTIS? * NAME SUPER		LIVE VIZ	LIVE VIZ
106.		KARL GOODNIGHTS SARAH & LEILA THROWS TO MICHAEL USHER		LIVE	LIVE
107.		MICHAEL USHER CROSS #3 (SNG EX BUNDABERG)		LIVE	LIVE
108.		LEILA GOODNIGHTS MICHAEL & KARL THROWS TO BEN FORDHAM		LIVE	LIVE
109.		BEN FORDHAM CROSS #3 (SNG EX CONDOMINE)		LIVE	LIVE
110.		KARL GOODNIGHTS BEN, & EDDIE THROWS TO ALLY IN THE CALL CENTRE		LIVE	LIVE
111.		CALL CENTRE CROSS # 6 (ALLY WITH PREMIER ANNA BLIGH & MICHAEL GUDINSKI) * NAME SUPER ALLY THROWS BACK TO EDDIE		LIVE VIZ	LIVE VIZ
112.		EDDIE THANKS ALLY FOR THE NIGHT & THROWS TO BREAK		LIVE	LIVE
113.		PLAYOFF - VTR SOT "GENERIC PLAYOFF # 7"		VTR	SOT
COMMERCIAL BREAK # 10					

**RUNDOWN (SHOW #1)**

**DATE:** FIRST SHOW

**EPISODE:** 01/11

**PAGE:** 11

**IN TIME:**

NO	TIME	ITEM	DUR	SRC	AUD
114.		PLAYON - VTR SOT "GENERIC PLAYON #8"		VTR	SOT
115.		EDDIE WELCOMES BACK & PANEL READ OUT THANK YOU'S		LIVE	LIVE
116.		EDDIE GIVES FINAL TOTAL * SUPER - TALLY UPDATE		LIVE VIZ	LIVE VIZ
117.		PANEL SAY GOODNIGHT & EDDIE INTRO'S ALTYIAN CHILDS		LIVE	LIVE
118.		ALTYIAN CHILDS PERFORMS "NEVER TEAR US APART"		LIVE	LIVE
119.		*VTR SOT - "9 LOGO"		VTR	F/X
COMMERCIAL BREAK # 11					



# 10 January 2011

Monday

January 2011

M	T	W	T	F	S	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	27	28	29	30
31						

February 2011

M	T	W	T	F	S	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	27
28						

10

Monday

Karin Carey on leave 4 - 14 Jan inclusive

Minister Mulherin on leave 3 - 11 Jan



7 am

7.25am: MEDIA Triple M "The Cage"

Phone in; Anna Bligh

8 00

DG/COS/ACOS MEETING

Premier's office; Anna Bligh

PRE-CABINET BRIEFING [Major General Mick Slater, Ken Smith]

Premier's office; Anna Bligh

8.15am MEDIA: ABC radio breakfast program

from office; Anna Bligh

9 00

Flood Recovery Cabinet Committee Meeting

Queensland Room

Anna Bligh

10 00

11 00

POST CABINET BRIEFING

Premier's office



12 pm

LUNCH/DESK

1 00

MEET: Deputy Premier

Premier's office

2 00

Anna Bligh

3 00

PHONE: Paul Bell, President LGAQ [REDACTED]

PHONE: USA Ambassador Jeffrey Bleich - [REDACTED]

Premier's office

4 00

PRESS CONFERENCE:

Executive Building downstairs; Anna Bligh

POSSIBLE TELEPHONE CALL TO HON BOB HAWKE

HOME [REDACTED]

DG/COS MEETING

Premier's office; Anna Bligh

MEDIA TEAM MEETING

Premier's office; Anna Bligh

5 00

DRIVE

office to EMQ Kedron

6 00

BRIEFINGS / EMERGENCY MEETINGS

EMQ Kedron

7 00

8 00

9 00

10 00

EMERGENCY PRESS CONFERENCE with Police Commissioner

EMQ Kedron

Anna Bligh



## Anna Bligh

**Subject:** Flood Recovery Cabinet Committee Meeting  
**Location:** Queensland Room  
**Start:** Mon 10/01/2011 9:00 AM  
**End:** Mon 10/01/2011 11:00 AM  
**Recurrence:** (none)  
**Meeting Status:** Meeting organizer  
**Organizer:** Anna Bligh  
**Required Attendees:** Stephen Beckett; ken.smith [REDACTED]  
**Categories:** Cabinet, Caucus, Com Cabinet, Archive

MEMBERS	
The Honourable Anna Bligh MP	Premier and Minister for the Arts (Chair)
The Honourable Paul Lucas MP	Deputy Premier and Minister for Health
The Honourable Andrew Fraser MP	Treasurer and Minister for Employment and Economic Development
The Honourable Robert Swarten MP	Minister for Public Works and Information and Communication Technology
The Honourable Neil Roberts MP	Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services
Senator the Hon Joe Ludwig	Senator for Queensland, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and Minister Assisting the Attorney General on Queensland Floods Recovery
OFFICIALS	
Major General Mick Slater DSC, AM, CSC	Queensland Flood Recovery Taskforce Head
Mr Ken Smith	Director-General, Department of the Premier and Cabinet, State Disaster Management Group (Chair)
Mr Gerard Bradley	Under Treasurer, Department of Treasury
Mr Mal Grierson	Director-General, Department of Public Works
Commissioner Bob Atkinson APM	Commissioner of Police
Mr Jim McGowan	Director-General, Department of Community Safety
Mr Bruce Grady	State Recovery Coordinator, Associate Director-General
Mr Stephen Beckett	Acting Chief of Staff



AGENDA plus  
Attendees 100111.d.



# Queensland Government

Department of the Premier and Cabinet

## SECRET

### FLOOD RECOVERY CABINET COMMITTEE (FRCC)

**9am – 11am**

**Queensland Room – Level 13, Executive Building  
100 George Street, Brisbane**

**Monday, 10 January 2011**

<b>MEMBERS</b>	
The Honourable Anna Bligh MP	Premier and Minister for the Arts (Chair)
The Honourable Paul Lucas MP	Deputy Premier and Minister for Health
The Honourable Andrew Fraser MP	Treasurer and Minister for Employment and Economic Development
The Honourable Robert Swarten MP	Minister for Public Works and Information and Communication Technology
The Honourable Neil Roberts MP	Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services
Senator the Honourable Joe Ludwig	Senator for Queensland, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and Minister Assisting the Attorney General on Queensland Floods Recovery

<b>OFFICIALS</b>	
Major General Mick Slater DSC, AM, CSC	Queensland Flood Recovery Taskforce Head
Mr Ken Smith	Director-General, Department of the Premier and Cabinet, State Disaster Management Group (Chair)
Mr Gerard Bradley	Under Treasurer, Department of Treasury
Mr Mal Grierson	Director-General, Department of Public Works
Commissioner Bob Atkinson APM	Commissioner of Police
Mr Jim McGowan	Director-General, Department of Community Safety
Mr Bruce Grady	State Recovery Coordinator, Associate Director-General
Mr Stephen Beckett	Acting Chief of Staff, Office of the Premier





## **AGENDA**

---

<b>Order</b>	<b>Title</b>
--------------	--------------

---

1	Update from the Flood Recovery Taskforce Head (Major General Slater)
---	--

---

2	Development/implementation of the Recovery Roadmap (Major General Slater)
---	---

---

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| a | Community support, Health and Well-being |
| b | Community Engagement and Involvement     |
| c | Housing Recovery                         |
| d | Road Reconstruction and Transport        |
| e | Economic Recovery and Transport          |
| f | Environmental impacts                    |
- 

3	Fiscal issues – As required (Treasurer)
---	---

---

4	Status of the Relief appeal collection/distribution (Premier)
---	---

---

5	Other Matters
---	---------------

---

## Anna Bligh

---

**Subject:** EMERGENCY PRESS CONFERENCE with Police Commissioner  
**Location:** EMQ Kedron

**Start:** Mon 10/01/2011 9:30 PM  
**End:** Mon 10/01/2011 11:00 PM

**Recurrence:** (none)

**Meeting Status:** Meeting organizer

**Organizer:** Anna Bligh  
**Required Attendees:** Anna Hartley; Belinda Taylor; Brendon Strong; Edmund Burke; Jaxen Wood; Kate van Poelgeest; Kimberley Gardiner; Mark Symons; Megan Saunders; Oskar Bronowicki

**Categories:** Media, Archive



TRANSCRIPT -  
MIER ANNA BLIGH

## Brooke Ford

---

**From:** Sheila King [Sheila.King [REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Monday, 10 January 2011 12:30 PM  
**To:** Brooke Ford  
**Subject:** RE: Wivenhoe Dam release strategy

**Categories:** Archive

Ta muchly

kind regards

**Sheila King**

*A/Principal Executive Assistant  
Office of the Director-General  
Department of the Premier and Cabinet  
Telephone [REDACTED]  
Facsimile ([REDACTED])  
Email: sheila.king [REDACTED]*

[www.towardQ2.qld.gov.au](http://www.towardQ2.qld.gov.au)

**From:** Brooke Ford [mailto:Brooke.Ford [REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Monday, 10 January 2011 12:19 PM  
**To:** Lance McCallum  
**Cc:** Sheila King; Stephen Beckett  
**Subject:** FW: Wivenhoe Dam release strategy  
**Importance:** High

Hi Lance,

I understand the Premier now will not be joining this teleconference, however Ken Smith will be. I've on forwarded this information to Ken's PA.

Thanks,  
Brooke

**From:** Lance McCallum  
**Sent:** Monday, 10 January 2011 11:52 AM  
**To:** Brooke Ford  
**Cc:** Stephen Beckett; Tim Watts; Geoff Stead  
**Subject:** FW: Wivenhoe Dam release strategy  
**Importance:** High

Brooke

As discussed with Stephen, below is the details for a teleconference at 12.30pm today to discuss Wivenhoe Dam levels that the Premier wishes to participate in.

Invited participants are  
WGM  
SEQWater  
BCC  
Ipswich Council

Somerset Council  
BoM

Thanks, Lance.

**From:** Barry Dennien [mailto:Barry.Dennien@somerset.gov.au]  
**Sent:** Monday, 10 January 2011 11:46 AM  
**To:** Lance McCallum  
**Subject:** FW: Wivenhoe Dam release strategy  
**Importance:** High

Lance

As discussed

Barry

Dear CEOs

This teleconference at 12.30pm today is to update you on the current Wivenhoe flood release strategy.

In preparation for this meeting we are intending to send out a Technical Report closer to 12.30pm that will detail the strategy.

Dial in details are:

Phone: [REDACTED]

Pin: [REDACTED]

If you wish to contact me regarding this teleconference, please phone my office on [REDACTED] or mobile [REDACTED]

Carl and Rob,

Attached is the Technical Situation Report drafted by Seqwater following consultation with BoM and Councils.

Key points are:

- There is continuing heavy rainfall in catchments. Total inflows over the event will be at least 1,500,000 ML and probably above 2,100,000 ML.
- As a result, Wivenhoe Dam is above 140% of capacity and Somerset is above 150%, with both rising fast.
- As specified in the approved Operational Procedures, the primary objective is now to minimizing the risk of urban inundation (release strategy W2). This involves larger releases now, minimizing the risk of even larger releases later (were the flood compartment to reach high levels).
- Consistent with this release strategy, dam releases have increased to 2,000 cubic metres per second (172,000 ML/day). It is expected to increase to 2,600 cubic metres per second by midday tomorrow.
- As specified in the approved Operational Manual, we are targeting maximum flow in the Brisbane River of 3,500 cumecs at Moggill. This is the levels above which urban inundation begins.
- For comparison, flows would be up to 12,000 cumecs without the dams.

Seqwater has previously had verbal conversations with Council staff regarding impacts. However, given the significance of this event, and consistent with the draft protocol, we are seeking formal Council input to this version. This advice would relate to the impact of releases, based on the type of scenario analysis that you described this morning.

Our preference would be to finalise the report, including your input, before or at the 12.30 teleconference with Council CEOs and the BoM. This timing means that it can underpin all media messaging this afternoon.



I appreciate your assistance. Please call me if I can be of any assistance.

Regards,  
Dan

**Daniel Spiller**  
Director, Operations  
**SEQ Water Grid Manager**

Phone: [REDACTED] | Fax: [REDACTED] | Mobile: [REDACTED]

Email: [daniel.spiller@seqwater.qld.gov.au](mailto:daniel.spiller@seqwater.qld.gov.au)

Visit: Level 15, 53 Albert Street Brisbane

Post: PO Box 16205, City East QLD 4002

ABN: 14783 317 630

Please consider the environment before printing this email. It takes 10 litres of water to make one sheet of A4 paper.

#### Disclaimer

This email, together with any attachments, is intended for the named recipient(s) only; and may contain privileged and confidential information. You understand that any privilege or confidentiality attached to this message is not waived, lost or destroyed because you have received this message in error. If received in error, you are asked to inform the sender as quickly as possible and delete this email and any copies of this from your computer system network.

If you are not an intended recipient of this email, you must not copy, distribute or take any action(s) that relies on it; any form of disclosure, modification, distribution and/or publication of this email is also prohibited. While all care has been taken, the SEQ Water Grid Manager disclaims all liability for loss or damage to person or property arising from this message being infected by a computer virus or other contamination. Unless stated otherwise, this email represents only the views of the sender and not the views of the SEQ Water Grid Manager and/or the Queensland Government.

---

This email, together with any attachments, is intended for the named recipient(s) only; and may contain privileged and confidential information. You understand that any privilege or confidentiality attached to this message is not waived, lost or destroyed because you have received this message in error. If received in error, you are asked to inform the sender as quickly as possible and delete this email and any copies of this from your computer system network. If you are not an intended recipient of this email, you must not copy, distribute or take any action(s) that relies on it; any form of disclosure, modification, distribution and/or publication of this email is also prohibited.

While all care has been taken, the SEQ Water Grid Manager disclaims all liability for loss or damage to person or property arising from this message being infected by a computer virus or other contamination. Unless stated otherwise, this email represents only the views of the sender and not the views of the SEQ Water Grid Manager and/or the Queensland Government.

---

This email is intended only for the addressee. Its use is limited to that intended by the author at the time and it is not to be distributed without the author's consent.

Unless otherwise stated, the State of Queensland accepts no liability for the contents of this email except where subsequently confirmed in writing. The opinions expressed in this email are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of the State of Queensland. This email is confidential and may be subject to a claim of legal privilege.

If you have received this email in error, please notify the author and delete this message immediately.

---

## **Anna Bligh**

---

**From:** Megan Saunders  
**Sent:** Monday, 10 January 2011 10:10 AM  
**To:** Anna Bligh; Nicole Scurrah; Stephen Beckett; 'Ken Smith'; Premiers Office - Media Unit  
**Subject:** Latest SEQ water dam update from Robbos office FYI

### **HIB - SEQ dam/water update**

Between 100mm to 300mm of rainfall has fallen in the Wivenhoe and Somerset dam catchments over the past 24 hours. Rainfall of similar magnitudes is expected over the next 12 to 24 hours.

At this time, including forecast rainfall, total inflows will exceed 1,000,000 ML and may approach 1,500,000 ML - in the order of the 1974 flood volume.

Upstream levels at Wivenhoe are rising quickly as a result of this significant heavy rainfall. The objective for dam operations will be to minimise the impact of urban flooding in areas downstream of the dam.

Gate Releases of around 150,000 megalitres a day are underway and could be increased over the next 24 hours depending on dam levels.

The controlled release will minimise risk of flooding to Brisbane. Wivenhoe Dam is working how it was intended by stopping floodwaters flowing down the Brisbane River and allowing controlled releases.

If the Dam had been allowed to fill as advocated by the LNP, the threat to Brisbane today would be much greater.

Somerset, North Pine, Leslie Harrison and Hinze dams are also all releasing water.

Councils and police are being kept informed.

Recreation areas are mostly closed or difficult to access. Visitors to dam areas are urged to use caution and follow instructions of authorities and signs in the area.

To maintain water quality, the Tugun desalination plant is operating at 33%.

## Brooke Ford

---

**Subject:** Canceled: TELECONFERENCE: RE Wivenhoe Dam / BOM [Ken Smith, Stephen Beckett]  
**Location:** Premier's office  
**Start:** Mon 10/01/2011 12:30 PM  
**End:** Mon 10/01/2011 1:30 PM  
**Show Time As:** Free  
**Recurrence:** (none)  
**Meeting Status:** Not yet responded  
**Organizer:** Anna Bligh  
**Required Attendees:** Stephen Beckett; ken.smith [REDACTED]  
**Importance:** High

\*\*\*Premier now not joining this teleconference\*\*\*

Teleconference for update on current Wivenhoe flood release strategy – will send out a technical report prior to meeting.

### PREMIER TO DIAL IN:

**Phone:** [REDACTED]

**Pin:** [REDACTED]

### Invited participants are

WGM  
SEQWater  
BCC  
Ipswich Council  
Somerset Council  
BoM

### Key points are:

- There is continuing heavy rainfall in catchments. Total inflows over the event will be at least 1,500,000 ML and probably above 2,100,000 ML.
- As a result, Wivenhoe Dam is above 140% of capacity and Somerset is above 150%, with both rising fast.
- As specified in the approved Operational Procedures, the primary objective is now to minimizing the risk of urban inundation (release strategy W2). This involves larger releases now, minimizing the risk of even larger releases later (were the flood compartment to reach high levels).
- Consistent with this release strategy, dam releases have increased to 2,000 cubic metres per second (172,000 ML/day). It is expected to increase to 2,600 cubic metres per second by midday tomorrow.
- As specified in the approved Operational Manual, we are targeting maximum flow in the Brisbane River of 3,500 cumecs at Moggill. This is the levels above which urban inundation begins.
- For comparison, flows would be up to 12,000 cumecs without the dams.



Technical Situation  
Report W37...



## Brooke Ford

---

**From:** Brooke Ford  
**Sent:** Monday, 10 January 2011 12:19 PM  
**To:** Lance McCallum  
**Cc:** 'Sheila King'; Stephen Beckett  
**Subject:** FW: Wivenhoe Dam release strategy  
**Attachments:** Technical Situation Report W37.docx

**Importance:** High

Hi Lance,

I understand the Premier now will not be joining this teleconference, however Ken Smith will be. I've on forwarded this information to Ken's PA.

Thanks,  
Brooke

**From:** Lance McCallum  
**Sent:** Monday, 10 January 2011 11:52 AM  
**To:** Brooke Ford  
**Cc:** Stephen Beckett; Tim Watts; Geoff Stead  
**Subject:** FW: Wivenhoe Dam release strategy  
**Importance:** High

Brooke

As discussed with Stephen, below is the details for a teleconference at 12.30pm today to discuss Wivenhoe Dam levels that the Premier wishes to participate in.

Invited participants are  
WGM  
SEQWater  
BCC  
Ipswich Council  
Somerset Council  
BoM

Thanks, Lance.

**From:** Barry Dennien [mailto:Barry.Dennien@  
**Sent:** Monday, 10 January 2011 11:46 AM  
**To:** Lance McCallum  
**Subject:** FW: Wivenhoe Dam release strategy  
**Importance:** High

Lance

As discussed

Barry

Dear CEOs

This teleconference at 12.30pm today is to update you on the current Wivenhoe flood release strategy.



In preparation for this meeting we are intending to send out a Technical Report closer to 12.30pm that will detail the strategy.

Dial in details are:

Phone: [REDACTED]

Pin: [REDACTED]

If you wish to contact me regarding this teleconference, please phone my office on [REDACTED] or mobile [REDACTED]

Carl and Rob,

Attached is the Technical Situation Report drafted by Seqwater following consultation with BoM and Councils.

Key points are:

- There is continuing heavy rainfall in catchments. Total inflows over the event will be at least 1,500,000 ML and probably above 2,100,000 ML.
- As a result, Wivenhoe Dam is above 140% of capacity and Somerset is above 150%, with both rising fast.
- As specified in the approved Operational Procedures, the primary objective is now to minimizing the risk of urban inundation (release strategy W2). This involves larger releases now, minimizing the risk of even larger releases later (were the flood compartment to reach high levels).
- Consistent with this release strategy, dam releases have increased to 2,000 cubic metres per second (172,000 ML/day). It is expected to increase to 2,600 cubic metres per second by midday tomorrow.
- As specified in the approved Operational Manual, we are targeting maximum flow in the Brisbane River of 3,500 cumecs at Moggill. This is the levels above which urban inundation begins.
- For comparison, flows would be up to 12,000 cumecs without the dams.

Seqwater has previously had verbal conversations with Council staff regarding impacts. However, given the significance of this event, and consistent with the draft protocol, we are seeking formal Council input to this version. This advice would relate to the impact of releases, based on the type of scenario analysis that you described this morning.

Our preference would be to finalise the report, including your input, before or at the 12.30 teleconference with Council CEOs and the BoM. This timing means that it can underpin all media messaging this afternoon.

I appreciate your assistance. Please call me if I can be of any assistance.

Regards,

Dan

**Daniel Spiller**

Director, Operations

**SEQ Water Grid Manager**

Phone: [REDACTED] | Fax: [REDACTED] | Mobile: [REDACTED]

Email: [daniel.spiller@seqwater.com.au](mailto:daniel.spiller@seqwater.com.au)

Visit: Level 15, 53 Albert Street Brisbane

Post: PO Box 16205, City East QLD 4002

ABN: 14783 317 630

Please consider the environment before printing this email. It takes 10 litres of water to make one sheet of A4 paper.

**Disclaimer**

This email, together with any attachments, is intended for the named recipient(s) only; and may contain privileged and confidential information. You understand that any privilege or confidentiality attached to this message is not waived, lost or destroyed because you have received this message in error. If received in error, you are asked to inform the sender as quickly as possible and delete this email and any copies of this from your computer system network.

If not an intended recipient of this email, you must not copy, distribute or take any action(s) that relies on it; any form of disclosure, modification, distribution and/or publication of this email is also prohibited. While all care has been taken, the SEQ Water Grid Manager disclaims all liability for loss or damage to person or property arising from this message being infected by a computer virus or other contamination. Unless stated otherwise, this email represents only the views of the sender and not the views of the SEQ Water Grid Manager and/or the Queensland Government.

---

This email, together with any attachments, is intended for the named recipient(s) only, and may contain privileged and confidential information. You understand that any privilege or confidentiality attached to this message is not waived, lost or destroyed because you have received this message in error. If received in error, you are asked to inform the sender as quickly as possible and delete this email and any copies of this from your computer system network. If not an intended recipient of this email, you must not copy, distribute or take any action(s) that relies on it; any form of disclosure, modification, distribution and/or publication of this email is also prohibited. While all care has been taken, the SEQ Water Grid Manager disclaims all liability for loss or damage to person or property arising from this message being infected by a computer virus or other contamination. Unless stated otherwise, this email represents only the views of the sender and not the views of the SEQ Water Grid Manager and/or the Queensland Government.

## Anna Bligh

---

**From:** Kimberley Gardiner  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 11 January 2011 1:03 AM  
**To:** ministers; [REDACTED] Parliamentary Secretaries; Premiers Office; Media Advisors; Principal Advisors  
**Cc:** 'Paulson, Owen CAPT - ARMY'  
**Subject:** TRANSCRIPT - PREMIER ANNA BLIGH - JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE 10PM MONDAY 10 JANUARY 2011

**TRANSCRIPT  
JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE  
EMQ, KEDRON  
10PM MONDAY  
10 JANUARY 2011**

**PREMIER ANNA BLIGH:** The flood crisis in Queensland has deepened, seriously over the past several hours. We now have serious flooding return to the southwest of our state and return with a vengeance.

'I can take you through some of the incidents we're managing overnight.

We're now seeing the waters peaking in the town of Dalby higher than they did in the previous event in Dalby. Two evacuation centres have been set up in the last few hours and we now have 165 people out of their homes and in evacuation centres in the town of Dalby.

Similarly in Chinchilla, we now have the river rising very quickly and we anticipate it will be at 7 metres by early tomorrow morning. By way of contrast on the 28<sup>th</sup> of December it peaked at 7.25. It will continue to rise above 7 metres throughout the rest of tomorrow. Again, evacuations are occurring in Chinchilla at the moment; 30 homes have already been evacuated. These are the same 30 homes that were evacuated some 10 or 11 days ago and there are further evacuations occurring.

The town of Condamine is now on serious watch. The river at Condamine is also rising very quickly and is now at about 9 metres. But models are showing that it could by the end of this week get to the 14 and 15 metre mark which is the point at which we triggered evacuation of the whole town some eight or nine days ago.

So across Dalby, Chinchilla and Condamine and we also have reports tonight, we are monitoring very closely at Wandarrarra, we are seeing new peaks and new flood records being set overnight and evacuations occurring.

But by far the most critical incident that we are managing this evening is the incident that started this afternoon in Toowoomba and has been making its way with a very large body of water down the Toowoomba range and into the Lockyer Valley.

What we saw in Toowoomba was the water rise at lightning speed. Mother Nature has unleashed something shocking on the Toowoomba region and we've seen it move very quickly down the range. The river in Gatton this afternoon, over the course of the afternoon, has risen nine metres.

I can confirm, tragically, that we have now got confirmation of four deaths arising out of this incident. A woman and a male child deceased in the Toowoomba CBD with no other missing persons reported at this stage in the Toowoomba CBD. At Murphy's Creek in Toowoomba we have confirmed the death of one man and a male child both of whom believed to have been washed away from a house.

We are unable to reach some 30 people in the town of Grantham. They have gathered together in a primary school at Grantham. They are completely isolated by fast moving floodwaters. We have unconfirmed reports out of Grantham that have us holding very grave fears for the safety of a number of people in the Grantham Township. The waters are however starting to recede at Grantham and emergency workers are trying to get into that town tonight to make sure those people are safe and to confirm some of those reports.



We also have further reports of another six people missing in and around the Withcott area. We believe we are looking for at least three young pedestrians and 2 vehicles that were seen to be washed away.

We also have numerous people who have been stranded on rooftops as the water has moved in very quickly. There have to date been 43 rescues of people from rooftops in the Withcott Valley by EMQ helicopters. Unfortunately heavy fog and weather have now grounded those helicopters but we do have one helicopter with night vision on standby ready to go in if we see any clearance in that weather at any point overnight. We do believe we still have a large number of people stranded on those rooftops. I should say that as fast as that water has been moving up, as its moving way down the Valley we're also seeing those waters going down. So we do hold very grave fears for those confirmed stranded on rooftops although there have been 43 very dramatic rooftop rescues by helicopter and emergency services personnel in the last few hours.

We have now set up a major incident room here in Brisbane's CBD in relation to this issue. I should say we also have a number of roads cut, the Warrego Highway cut in a number of places. This will mean, and we'll have to reassess it tomorrow, but with the Bruce Highway cut and the Western route now cut we will see significant supply issues into Central and Northern Queensland.

So, in total, all possible resources, including ADF resources, will be activated at first light tomorrow to begin further search and rescue. We will be getting out at first light to continue the search for those that have been notified as missing and to continue the rescue efforts of those that have been stranded on rooftops.

What we have here in Queensland tonight is a very grim and desperate situation. There are many Queenslanders tonight in critical and dire circumstances; emergency workers out facing risky situations and many people facing a very terrifying night. I think we can all say that our thoughts are with them over the coming hours and we pray and hope they'll be safe when first light comes tomorrow morning.

I will invite the Commissioner of Police to make some comments. This is now a very large Police operation; there are many emergency services personnel deployed right across the southwest and into the Lockyer Valley region. As I said, a desperate and grim situation being managed tonight by our emergency people.

**POLICE COMMISSIONER, BOB ATKINSON:** Thank you Premier. The Premier has summed that up comprehensively. This has been a terrible day, a terrible day. Early reports indicate that what hit Toowoomba could perhaps best be described as an inland instant tsunami with a massive wall of water that has gone straight down through the Lockyer Valley. And as the Premier said, whilst we have confirmed advice of four people deceased, we have grave concerns for the safety of others at Grantham and Withcott. We're doing all we can tonight but again, as the Premier indicated, we won't have a full appreciation of this until at least first light. Happy to take any questions

**JOURNALIST:** Grantham and Withcott, 30 people isolated, do we know where they are?

**POLICE COMMISSIONER:** Yes, very difficult set of circumstances. The weather is atrocious, communications are bad and they are cut off. What we believe is that 30 people are together in the primary school. We think that about another dozen or so are at a private residence but that's yet to be confirmed. We're not in a position yet to know precise numbers or identities of people missing but the circumstances are such that we have grave concerns for the safety of people in the Grantham area generally.

**JOURNALIST:** Premier, have you asked the question as to why there wasn't more warning?

**PREMIER:** Clearly, as the Commissioner said, all indications at this stage are that the event that started in Toowoomba can only be described as a complete freak of nature. An extraordinary deluge that almost came out of nowhere, in an otherwise very heavy rainfall deluge. Obviously, we'll be working with the weather Bureau to understand this event more carefully tomorrow but right now we are concerned for the safety of many people in this area who are stranded in desperate and dangerous circumstances and for our emergency services and police who are out at the frontline in some of the most unsafe conditions. This is without doubt our darkest hour of the last fortnight.

**JOURNALIST:** What are communications like with those areas?

**POLICE COMMISSIONER:** Very difficult but we're doing all we can in that regard and certainly in all of those places that the Premier mentioned can I say to you that in Chinchilla, Condamine, Dalby, Withcott, Grantham, Gatton, Toowoomba itself; everything possible is being done tonight to...for example in Toowoomba a number of vehicles were swept away and many of you, not all of you would have seen the footage and I doubt that in the history of Toowoomba anything like that has ever happened in Toowoomba, it's quite extraordinary. So every vehicle that was swept away, no matter what the circumstances, of where that vehicle is, we're endeavouring to get into those vehicles and see if there is anyone trapped inside. So we're doing all we can tonight but it's just impossible to complete this tonight and only tomorrow will we know the full extent of this in that area.

**JOURNALIST:** And is part of that, and I know you mentioned the fog, but is part of that, is the water still raging?

**POLICE COMMISSIONER:** As the Premier indicated, fortunately its dropping almost as rapidly as it accelerated in the first place. But we're tracking the movement at the moment its heading towards Lowood and that area, ultimately it will join up with the Brisbane River. We think somewhere in between six and 12 hours time, then about 12 hours after that we think it'll probably reach Moggill. The Bureau of Meteorology are working with us to do modelling in terms of what that is likely to mean and we hope to have those results in the next three to four hours.

**PREMIER:** Effectively what we've seen is a wall of water, in some places up to eight metres at a time, coming down that Valley. So as it moves through, the water is dropping reasonably quickly behind it but leaving a trail of destruction and leaving people isolated. This will affect the modelling I talked about this afternoon for Ipswich and Brisbane, more likely implications for Brisbane but that is still being worked through. As we said, the meeting tonight has been connecting with all of the local disaster committees that have now activated or re-activated in every one of these areas. There is a disaster co-ordination centre being established in Toowoomba and a major Police incidence room here in Brisbane to manage this.

**JOURNALIST:** And have you been warned of any more rainfall for the region?

**PREMIER:** Yes, we're expecting significant new rainfall. If you look at the BOM site, you'll see a very significant storm cell moving across. So the rescue operations have been seriously hampered by rainfall. What we're also seeing in Chinchilla, Dalby and Condamine further rain that's complicating the rise of those rivers.

**JOURNALIST:** Premier, are you confident that the resources you have in Queensland are sufficient or will you call on other states?

**PREMIER:** We have deployed every possible asset into the Valley this evening. What is hampering operations is the weather and further resources would not change that. We've already called on helicopters from northern New South Wales and they're stationed here ready to take off at first light. The scale of what is unfolding in the Lockyer Valley and again in the southwest will test our resources and we have plenty of offers of help from other states and we will certainly call on those as we need them.

**JOURNALIST:** Will you be travelling to Toowoomba tomorrow?

**PREMIER:** I will be out in these areas as quickly as possible tomorrow but we'll just have to see what first light brings and we certainly won't be doing anything that would hamper rescue operations; that will be our first priority.

**JOURNALIST:** Premier, can you just clarify that there are 30 people missing?

**PREMIER:** No, we have 30 people isolated at Grantham. But in addition to that we have reports of six missing persons that we are continuing to search for and we have four confirmed deaths. But as I said in the Grantham area, while we know there are 30 people, we have had some other unconfirmed reports potentially of other missing people. So we hold very grave concerns, communications are basically non-existent so we are doing our best to get people in there tonight and we hope to be able to reach those people and get a better assessment of the condition they're in, if there are injuries, whether there are any other safety concerns.

**JOURNALIST:** Will the flood gates to Wivenhoe Dam be closed?



**PREMIER:** No, we'll continue to...at this stage we will continue to plan releases over the next few days. That's absolutely critical to managing the water that's coming into the Wivenhoe catchment. Obviously the modellers will have to look at what the implications of this weather event are and what that might mean for the release strategy but my understanding is that if we closed the gates we would certainly see the dam reach a critical overspill.

**POLICE COMMISSIONER:** Thank you for covering this, as soon as we are able to we will keep you advised of latest developments. That may be during the course of the night but may not be possible until daybreak.

**JOURNALIST:** Just one last one. Are there concerns that more people may (inaudible)

**POLICE COMMISSIONER:** Yes, I think that is what we were trying to indicate. The six that are missing are the six that are definitively known, reported to us. That's one definitely at Grantham and then five at Withcott. They're minimum numbers, absolute minimums. As the Premier indicated there are other less specific reports that cause us to have grave fears and concerns for people at Grantham particularly. We're not in a position to give detail.

**PREMIER:** Partly because they've been isolated. We can't get an official report that we can confirm for you but we've certainly had unconfirmed reports of further missing people in the Grantham area.

Thank you.

**ENDS.**

**Kimberley Gardiner**  
Director, Government Media Unit  
Office of the Premier of Queensland

P [REDACTED]  
M [REDACTED]  
E [kimberley.gardiner@qld.gov.au](mailto:kimberley.gardiner@qld.gov.au) [REDACTED]

**Anna Bligh**

---

**From:** Stephen Beckett  
**Sent:** Monday, 10 January 2011 6:24 PM  
**To:** Caucus Members; Ministers; Principal Advisors; Senior Media Advisors; Policy Advisors  
**Subject:** IMPACTS OF WIVENHOE RELEASES ON LOCAL SUBURBS

## **IMPACTS OF WIVENHOE RELEASES ON LOCAL SUBURBS**

Built in response to the 1974 floods, Wivenhoe Dam's key role is to protect Brisbane City and other communities downstream from major flooding.

Wivenhoe Dam is currently holding back flood waters equivalent to about two times the volume of Sydney Harbour. Without this support from Wivenhoe Dam, current weather patterns would have resulted in huge amounts of water having already inundated large areas of Ipswich, Brisbane and surrounding areas.

Over the past 24 hours, the catchments for Wivenhoe and Somerset dams have received upwards of 300 millimetres of rainfall, seeing dam inflows similar to those experienced in the 1974 floods.

Current inflows into Wivenhoe Dam are approximately 1,032,000 megalitres per day and the dam is now sitting at approximately 153 per cent.

With all five gates open, Wivenhoe Dam is now releasing 170,000 megalitres per day, which is the largest daily release since the dam was built.

The Water Grid operators continue to work closely with relevant local councils and government authorities regarding these controlled releases.

The release of water from Wivenhoe Dam is strictly guided by an established Flood Mitigation Manual.

Wivenhoe Dam controls 50 per cent of the Brisbane catchment, therefore downstream flooding can be heavily influenced by rainfall below the dam.

However, with the forecast for continued rain and the unprecedented releases expected to continue, there will be an impact on property in the Somerset, Brisbane and Ipswich regions.

In Brisbane there is the potential for water entering properties and some households. Affected areas may include low-lying areas of Windsor, Albion, Newstead, Breakfast Creek, Bowen Hills, East Brisbane, River Hills, Oxley Creek, Carindale, Canonvale, Tingalpa, Murarie Bulimba Creek, Hemmant and Rocklea.

Affected roads may include Milton Road, Butterfield Street, Waterloo and Ross Street in Newstead, Sandgate Road at Albion and Windsor's Northey Street.

In Ipswich, the Bremer River is expected to peak Tuesday afternoon, 11 January with a height of 12.7 metres. This peak is primarily due to localised flooding, however the higher levels in the Brisbane River, due to Wivenhoe releases, are impacting the localised flooding as well.

Approximately 300 properties will be affected with some houses experiencing inundation.

Importantly, we must release this water safely to be able to store the expected substantial inflows coming with more severe weather.

**Stephen Beckett | Deputy Chief of Staff**

Office of the Hon Anna Bligh MP

Premier of Queensland & Minister for the Arts



[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]



[Stephen.Beckett@\[REDACTED\]](mailto:Stephen.Beckett@[REDACTED])



Please consider the environment before printing this email



# 11 January 2011

Tuesday

January 2011

M	T	W	T	F	S	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	27	28	29	30
31						

February 2011

M	T	W	T	F	S	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	27
28						

11

Tuesday

Karin Carey on leave 4 -14 Jan inclusive

Minister Mulherin on leave 3 - 11 Jan

5 am

DRIVE; home to Kedron; Anna Bligh

6 00

6.10am MEDIA: Today Show live cross [Kate VP]; EMQ Kedron; Anna Bligh

6.30am MEDIA: AM pre-record [Kate VP];

6.40am MEDIA: Sky news live cross [Kate

6.45am MEDIA CFM Radio in Toowoomba

7 00

7.05am MEDIA 4BC Breakfast Radio; EMQ

8 00

SDMG MEETING

EMQ Kedron

9 00

9.30am PRESS CONFERENCE with Deputy Commissioner; EMQ Kedron; Anna Bligh

10 00

TRAVEL; Kedron to office

11 00

MEETING: David Smith (Office of Minister for Police); Premier's c

11.15am - PHONE Ian Rickuss, Member for Lockyer; Premier's of

12 pm

12.30pm MEETING: Treasurer, Deputy Premier, Min Struthers, Min Roberts  
Premier's office; Anna Bligh

1 00

TRAVEL; office to Kedron; Anna Bligh

PHONE: Brief Governor Penny Wensley; in car in transit

2 00

BRIEFINGS: EMQ  
EMQ Kedron

3 00

3pm PRESS CONFERENCE; EMQ Kedron; Anna Bligh

BRIEFINGS  
EMQ

4 00

5 00

EXTRAORDINARY SDMG MEETING  
EMQ Kedron  
Anna Bligh

6 00



## Anna Bligh

---

**Subject:** 9.30am PRESS CONFERENCE with Deputy Commissioner  
**Location:** EMQ Kedron  
**Start:** Tue 11/01/2011 9:30 AM  
**End:** Tue 11/01/2011 10:00 AM  
**Recurrence:** (none)  
**Meeting Status:** Meeting organizer  
**Organizer:** Anna Bligh  
**Required Attendees:** Anna Hartley; Belinda Taylor; Brendon Strong; Edmund Burke; Jaxen Wood; Kate van Poelgeest; Kimberley Gardiner; Mark Symons; Megan Saunders; Oskar Bronowicki  
**Categories:** Media, Archive



PRESS CONF AM 11  
01 11.doc

PRESS CONFERENCE  
TUESDAY 11 JANUARY 2011 0930am  
INTV: PREMIER ANNA BLIGH; IAN STEWART, DEPUTY POLICE COMMISSIONER  
RE: FLOOD CRISIS; TOOWOOMBA, LOCKYER VALLEY

**TRANSCRIPT  
PRESS CONFERENCE  
TUESDAY 11 JANUARY 2011 0930  
INTV: PREMIER ANNA BLIGH; IAN STEWART, DEPUTY POLICE  
COMMISSIONER  
RE: FLOOD CRISIS; TOOWOOMBA, LOCKYER VALLEY**

Bligh:

Good morning. As you know, Queensland's flood crisis deepened overnight and the situation continues to worsen today. We are seeing between 80 and 100 mm fall into the catchment around the Toowoomba and Lockyer Valley and into the Wivenhoe system and then into the south-west into towns like Dalby, Chinchilla and others. What this current bad weather is doing is hampering our search and rescue efforts, particularly into that Lockyer Valley area where we know we have people stranded in dire and critical circumstances. The constant rainfall also means that our modelling is seeing factors constantly change. And some of the predictions that I will talk to you about in a few moments need to be understood as of now and they will depend on continued rainfall. We have a grim and desperate situation in the Toowoomba and Lockyer Valley region.

We have eight confirmed deaths at this point but we expect that figure to rise and potentially quite dramatically. We have 72 people as of an hour ago who are unaccounted for and we fully expect (inaudible) may see that figure rise as well. We are hoping and praying that many of those 72 people have gone to safety overnight and will be found safe and (inaudible). But given the circumstances we hold very grave concerns for many of those people who are unaccounted for in this region. Many of the people who are stranded or unaccounted for are families and young children and some of those who have lost their lives overnight are young children including a mother and two children in a vehicle.

We have specialist teams who are all on standby in the region. The SERT team, the Queensland Police SERT team have been deployed overnight. We have specialist swift water rescue teams on standby. We also have additional fire and rescue teams. We are finding it very difficult to get these teams out and deployed because of the weather and the constantly changing water system. They are however, as I said, ready to deploy into that region as soon as we see any of this weather lift. We are also seeing flood levels rise in river systems right across the south-west, not only Dalby and Chinchilla evacuating people overnight... We now expect to see Warwick reach a peak equal to or greater than the peak last week by

lunchtime today. Similarly we will see those waters affecting Stanthorpe, Goondiwindi, Texas, Yelarbon, Inglewood and all of those towns in those regions. The Condamine, the town of Condamine is also flooding with waters rapidly rising and we'll be watching that town very, very closely. All vehicles that were damaged in Toowoomba in the CBD yesterday have now been searched by police and I'm relieved to say that we have not found anyone in those vehicles who is deceased or seriously...or anyone at all in those vehicles.

I can confirm that we have had one helicopter be able to get into the air briefly this morning who has confirmed that there appear to be no further people on rooftops in settled areas like Helidon and in the Grantham area however we cannot rule out that there may be people stranded on the rooftops of outlying properties and as soon as we can get helicopters into the air we intend to search those areas for those people.

Into the Wivenhoe system we've now seen because of continued heavy rainfall overnight further revised predictions about the Ipswich and Brisbane areas. Ipswich is now likely to see a flood river, level in the river hit about at least 16 metres. The hydrology reports indicate however that if the rain continues, and the Bureau is advising that it is set to continue, then we are likely to see anywhere up to 18m in the Ipswich river system. By comparison the 1974 flood saw close to 20m in Ipswich. What all of this means for the Wivenhoe catchment is that we will now have to remodel and plan for larger releases out of the Wivenhoe Dam to manage this in-flow. That means that the Brisbane area will now have to reconsider the implications of the water likely to come down out of Wivenhoe and revise up the weather that we are seeing swelling the Brisbane River and this in-stream flows will also increase.

The Brisbane Local Disaster Management Group will meet for the first time this morning at 10am. They will consider further the implications of this new modelling and advise residents accordingly. I say to all residents in the Brisbane, Ipswich and Lockyer Valleys for those of you who can please listen to radio reports. We will be updating people throughout the day. It is a constantly changing situation. I stress that the releases being made from Wivenhoe Dam are not optional. There is no discretion here. This is how this dam operates. We need to make sure that we protect people down this river system by operating the dam safely and appropriately.

Ladies and gentlemen as you will hear from further reports from the Deputy Commissioner of Police this has been a night of extraordinary events. We've seen acts of extraordinary bravery and courage from our emergency workers. We know

they are out there on the frontline desperately trying to begin their search and rescue efforts and we know that we have people stranded and people lost. We are doing our best to protect our emergency workers during this severe weather. We are equally doing our best to get everything that we can into that region to save and rescue people.

There's no doubt that we are now in I think a very different sort of disaster. And what it is doing is testing our emergency response and it will test us as communities and as people. This weather I think is...it might be breaking our hearts at the moment but it will not break our will. What we have out there on the frontline is some of the best trained people in Australia. And they are going to protect these communities and we are going to make sure that we keep everybody that we can as safe as humanly possible. I'd like to ask the Deputy Commissioner to make some comments.

Stewart:

Thank you Premier, good morning everyone. Certainly our focus at the moment is as it always is in response, personal safety. We have a major search and rescue operation underway right throughout the Lockyer Valley. As the Premier said Toowoomba is fairly stable – we don't think that we will see any further deaths out of the Toowoomba CBD. But our search and rescue activities in the Murphys Creek and Grantham area in particular certainly it is expected that we will find further persons deceased in those areas. The numbers we just don't know at this stage.

What I would ask though is one thing – the rain and the weather pattern at the moment is variable, it is hampering our search and rescue operations. Access to the area through roads is very difficult for us. Our helicopter assets are having difficulty because of the rain pattern moving around that area. But the one contributing factor which is getting in our road is onlookers now. And I would stress to people that any diversion of our precious emergency services to deal with simple rubberneckers and onlookers could cost a life. I would ask people to be sensible and if they have no reason to be there stay out and get out of those areas. Thank you.

ENDS  
BS

Produced by the Government Media Monitoring Unit
--



## Anna Bligh

---

**Subject:** 3pm PRESS CONFERENCE  
**Location:** EMQ Kedron  
**Start:** Tue 11/01/2011 3:00 PM  
**End:** Tue 11/01/2011 3:30 PM  
**Recurrence:** (none)  
**Meeting Status:** Meeting organizer  
**Organizer:** Anna Bligh  
**Required Attendees:** Anna Hartley; Belinda Taylor; Brendon Strong; Edmund Burke; Jaxen Wood; Kate van Poelgeest; Kimberley Gardiner; Mark Symons; Megan Saunders; Oskar Bronowicki  
**Categories:** Media, Archive

### PRESS CONFERENCE

TUESDAY 11 JANUARY 2011 3PM

NTV: PREMIER ANNA BLIGH; IAN STEWART, DEPUTY POLICE COMMISSIONER; BRUCE GRADY, EMQ

RE: SEQ FLOOD EMERGENCY



PRESS



TRANSCRIPT:

CONFERENCE II 11 01 11 PREMIER ANNA BLIGH

**TRANSCRIPT  
PRESS CONFERENCE  
TUESDAY 11 JANUARY 2011 3PM  
INTV: PREMIER ANNA BLIGH; IAN STEWART, DEPUTY POLICE  
COMMISSIONER; BRUCE GRADY, EMQ  
RE: SEQ FLOOD EMERGENCY**

Bligh:

...has been revised down to 66. Thankfully we found five people safe but we have confirmed one further death. That brings the total death toll in this incident to nine. Tragically the police believe that that will climb and could be almost more than double that number. We continue to hold very grave fears for the people who are missing. To everyone who has lost a loved one, you are in our thoughts and the thoughts of all Queenslanders and Australians. We know that you are going through just a horridness of circumstances. The majority of those who are missing are missing from the Murphys Creek, Grantham and Withcott areas. In Grantham and Withcott we have police and search and rescue teams on the ground undertaking search and rescue activities. We do have police on the ground in Murphys Creek but they have been unable to continue their search and rescue because the weather has significantly worsened in Murphys Creek.

In Forest Hill which is a town of between three and four hundred people between Laidley and Gatton we have seen dramatic scenes this afternoon with 300 people being airlifted and evacuated to Gatton. They are being evacuated on Black Hawk helicopters. We have, my last report was 126 people remaining on the ground still to be airlifted out of Forest Hill. So almost all of Forest Hill being evacuated, some 300 people. In relation to the Brisbane and Ipswich area and the Wivenhoe Catchment, I'm afraid we have some very bad news this afternoon. Ipswich and Brisbane are now facing their greatest threat and their toughest test in more than 35 years. The latest advice that I have in relation to the inflows in the Wivenhoe is that we can expect overnight tonight in Brisbane to see flood levels reach about three metres. By Wednesday high tide, tomorrow afternoon at about three o'clock we will see it at 4.5m and the current predictions indicate that the river will continue to rise into Thursday with flood levels expected higher than the 1974 peak. The flood reached a peak of 5.45m in 1975.

Our current modelling shows that with continued rain into Thursday we will see the levels of the river reach higher than that. In Ipswich we expect to see overnight with continued heavy rainfall in the region that by midnight tonight the river levels in Ipswich will reach around the 18 to 19 metre mark and

peaking some time during Wednesday at around 21 to 22 metres. By comparison the 1974 peak was 20.6 metres. So in both Ipswich and in Brisbane we are anticipating the flood levels across the areas of '74 levels and above. As I said the situation continues to deteriorate and I have to say that I understand that for many, many people in Ipswich and in Brisbane, particularly those who endured the 1974 flood that we are now in a very frightening experience. Can I appeal to everybody that it's times like this where we all need to make an effort to stay calm, to be patient and to stick together. Now is a time to be checking on neighbours, on elderly people in your neighbourhood, to be checking on family and friends.

If you live on high ground in Brisbane now is a time to be reaching out to friends and offering help and offering where necessary a bed for the night over the coming two to three days. For those who are living in some of the lower lying areas and the identified suburbs, now is the time to be making whatever preparations you can and I would encourage you to be overly cautious. It's better to be inconvenienced and find that your preparations were not necessary than the alternative. For those who are unlikely to be directly affected, I think the entire city of Brisbane, the Ipswich region and most of the south-east needs to prepare ourselves for enormous disruption. We will anticipate that we're starting to see it now, that over the next couple of days we will see workplaces closed and unreachable, we will see major shopping centres closed, flooded and cut off. People need to be taking preparations and keeping off the roads as much as possible.

An evacuation strategy is being prepared and an evacuation centre is being activated at the showgrounds at the RNA. This centre can take up to 3,000 people and bedding and provisions are being provided into that centre this afternoon. Given the emerging information and I know that there's been other data in the public arena earlier this afternoon, you get a sense I think of just how quickly this is changing, how rapidly the rainfall that continues into the Lockyer Valley and into the Wivenhoe catchment, how quickly that is changing the modelling.

Given the seriousness of the situation and given how quickly the data is changing, we will now hold two- hourly media conferences and those media conferences will be attended by either myself, the minister, the commissioner or deputy commissioner of police. We'll be holding those press conferences throughout this evening and two-hourly tomorrow and more frequently if necessary if further data comes to hand. I might turn to Ian Stewart, the deputy commissioner, to make some further comments. But can I just acknowledge we are facing one of our toughest ever tests. We will only pass this

test if we are calm, if we are patient with each other, if we're patient holding on phone lines and if we listen carefully to the instructions we're being given. Now is not a time for panic, it is a time for us to stick together, to reach out to each other, and to listen to the advice from our emergency workers. Ian.

Stewart: Thank you Premier. As you are aware earlier today a statewide disaster declaration was made by the Premier and our minister for the lower half of the state. That includes obviously all of the Brisbane, Greater Brisbane area. We would hope that police, emergency workers don't have to use any of those powers because as the Premier said this is not the time to baulk when you are asked to leave or asked to support emergency workers in the way that we will help prepare the city for this certain, certain flood event which will hit us over the next couple of days. I think one of the really key messages is that this is the information with the best information we have at the moment. It is a changing and a moving feast. We would hope that we don't have to revise these figures up but that is a real possibility depending on the inflows into the dam area and the rain systems that are currently above the Wivenhoe Dam catchment. So by giving you regular updates we hope to prepare the city and the surrounding areas including obviously Ipswich for what is going to be a significant emergency for our community of Queensland.

Journalist: Premier, Michael Usher from Channel 9 (inaudible) equipped to handle this. Have you got the resources? (inaudible) cut off. Can you get the emergency services to them to help them?

Bligh: We are bringing additional personnel to the task over the next couple of days to Ipswich and Brisbane. These are the sorts of events that our emergency staff prepare for on a regular basis. You've seen them out there doing an extraordinary job in places like Rockhampton and Emerald. They are up to this task but they will need your cooperation. If you are asked to leave your property please do not make the job harder for our emergency workers. They will not ask you to do this unless it is absolutely necessary.

Journalist: Are you now talking...the sort of numbers that you're talking about is this beyond what has ever been planned for?

Bligh: This is an extreme event. The emergency services plan for these sort of events on a regular basis. They hope never to have to put those plans into place but they are ready and prepared to do so when we get confirmation as we have in the last half hour of this sort of an event. I might invite Bruce Grady from Emergency Management Queensland to give you a bit more



detail about the sort of preparation and training that's led up to this sort of ability.

Journalist: And could we address also (inaudible) number of homes that might be affected in the Brisbane area. There were talks of six and half thousand homes being flooded – do we know whether that's on the money or not?

Grady: The number of homes is currently being assessed by Brisbane City Council. They have the plans for that. I think the sorts of numbers you're talking about are at the lower end. There's (?) certainly be a lot more properties than that affected; whether the water gets over their floorboards or not you know is the work that the Brisbane City Council is currently doing. In terms of preparations we do plan for devastating events. We've run scenarios as little as six to eight weeks ago where that was based on numbers around the flood in 1890 which was bigger than '74. So it's always difficult to deal with these things because they unfold so rapidly but the plans are in place, we're confident that people know their roles, their responsibilities and what to do. Now there's...as deputy commissioner Stewart said, it's time for the community to come together and for us to all pull in the same direction... you know, the emergency services can't do this job by themselves and they need the cooperation of the community to make an effective response.

Journalist: (inaudible) deaths now and that is heart-breaking but you're' saying that might double?

Bligh: Yes, I invite the deputy commissioner to make some further comments. But police obviously have a number of reports which they are seeking to absolutely confirm and on the basis of that they believe that these numbers could double or even a little higher on that on current known information. So I do think we need to brace ourselves for a significant death toll here and as I've said earlier there are a number of children involved in this incident so it is a heart-breaking toll already from these waters and a very powerful reminder to us all, particularly people here in Brisbane and Ipswich. As these waters make their way through our streets, keep your children away from parks, gutters, drains. Keep your older children from jumping into waters and take extra care driving on our roads.

Stewart: Thanks Premier. Earlier this morning we had 72 people unaccounted for in the Lockyer area. Predominantly Grantham and the Murphys Creek areas. We have been able to trace five of those, sorry, six of those people so we're down to 66 who we are still working on and whilst that's, you know, a wonderful outcome we have grave concerns particularly in the Murphys

Creek area where because of this, the very severe weather events that are still occurring there the safety of our officers and the ability for them to go in to check isolated houses and also the creek area has been, it's become very difficult for us.

Journalist: Can you get them in or is it just too hard and too risky right now?

Stewart: It's too risky and we've had to hold back our staff with the planning at the moment being more for tomorrow morning when we hope that the weather will have abated enough to make it safe. I mean the creeks are still overflowing – it's still flooding in that area. It is a very, very high risk for our people.

Journalist: (inaudible) are there stranded people that you just can't get to that you're aware are stuck on roofs or in buildings?

Stewart: We don't believe so but we can't absolutely discount that. Obviously we've been checking a range of other areas in the Lockyer Valley throughout the day, the areas that are more safe for our people to operate in and at Grantham that is one of the areas that we have been able to enter some of the homes. But there are still places in Grantham because of the flooding, the continued flooding we haven't been able to check in some of the houses that have been damaged or destroyed.

Journalist: What about that operation at Forest Hill which is quite extraordinary – getting three hundred people out (inaudible)

Stewart: Absolutely. As I believe right at this moment we are still taking people out of Forest Hill. And that was caused by the fact that the waters rose there quite suddenly this morning and it was felt the best way to manage their safety was to actually evacuate them.

Journalist: What is the situation with (inaudible)

Stewart: At Grantham where we had people earlier today, Grantham actually has a safe area. There is an area that's above the water and we're quite, in fact I think there's about 60 people currently in that safe area. We're quite happy for them to stay and they're quite happy to be there.

Journalist: There's rumours going around that you're evacuating the evacuation (inaudible)

Stewart: Well, we're hoping not but that will depend on services as well. I mean water, sewerage, power, all of those issues are going to be critical in the next few days. We are hoping that once this rain event abates and we hope that that will happen over the

next 24 hours, that's what we're being told, we're hoping that people will be able to access that area by road. The difficulty we're then going to have of course is that if more bodies are located in any of these areas it becomes a crime scene and we have to then go in with a full investigation process. So this is not going to be fixed tonight or tomorrow or the next day and all of this time is then taken up in terms of the onflow of the water down through Ipswich and Brisbane which we have to manage as well.

Journalist: (inaudible) disaster zone (inaudible) get more powers with this?

Stewart: That's exactly right and that is the only time that we...sorry, that's the only reason that the declaration is made, to provide us special powers to forcibly evacuate people if necessary in the best interests of their safety and the community as a whole.

Bligh: And also just to add to that Sue it also provides with other powers to do whatever is necessary for safety, for example, in the evacuation at Theodore last week emergency service workers chainsawed down electricity poles and didn't have to seek authority to do so so the powers are quite extraordinary, they are there so that emergency workers can bulldoze buildings to get things out of the way if they need to. Can I just make another comment – we've all watched over the last couple of weeks as water gradually rose in rivers affecting Emerald, Rockhampton, St George for example. In all of those events if you all think back, rain had actually stopped in the catchment area and so we could predict with a degree of precision what was happening.

The difference here and why it's moving so rapidly is we are seeing extraordinarily heavy rainfalls continuing into the catchment area and the bureau indicated this afternoon that they expect that rain to continue for at least the next six to twelve hours. We're starting to see a couple of small breaks every now and then which indicates it might be starting to break up but heavy rainfalls for the next six to twelve hours is partly (inaudible) into the catchment not so much here in Brisbane but in the catchment. That is what is driving some of the rapid change in this modelling and the dramatically deteriorating situation.

Journalist: (inaudible)

Bligh: (inaudible)

Stewart: Certainly in the main. We have strategic planning cells with us embedded with us in our areas that are planning and managing all of this process. But the major thing that the military is

providing is the heavy lift air assets. We've also used their vehicles, they're very unique vehicles, to try and get into very difficult terrain. So that's been part of it and we've borrowed extra vehicles, 4WDs in particular from them. That is the best support that they can provide us at the moment.

Journalist: (inaudible) personnel at this stage?

Stewart: Well we have a large number of their personnel but mainly in the planning and logistics stage.

Journalist: Premier really just finally for people (inaudible) anxious (inaudible) what do you say right now who are listening to you just wanting to know exactly what to do?

Bligh: To the people here in the south-east who are facing an anxious time in the next day or two days in Brisbane and in Ipswich, I understand that you may be very frightened by what is happening around you. What we need now is calm and I am here to reassure you that our emergency response is doing everything it can to keep you updated, to protect your homes and your properties and your neighbourhoods. But we do have a very serious natural disaster on our doorstep and we will all have to work together. Our commitment to you is that we will provide you with information as regularly as we get it. As soon as we know it we'll be telling it to you and to that end we'll be here every two hours to update. Sometimes there won't be much to say that's new but other times there might be quite dramatic information. So people should certainly be listening to media and I thank the media for the job they're doing today to make sure people know what's happening. Okay, thank you.

ENDS  
BS

Produced by the Government Media Monitoring Unit
--



## Anna Bligh

---

**From:** Jaxen Wood  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 12 January 2011 8:02 AM  
**To:** Ministers; Parliamentary Secretaries; Caucus Members  
**Cc:** Media Advisors; Principal Advisors; Premiers Office  
**Subject:** TRANSCRIPT: PREMIER ANNA BLIGH JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE 11 JANUARY 2011

**EXECUTIVE BUILDING, BRISBANE**  
**3:00PM TUESDAY**

**PREMIER ANNA BLIGH:** The situation across Queensland's south east continues to deteriorate. In relation to the Lockyer Valley, I can now confirm that the number of people unaccounted for or missing has been revised down to 66. Thankfully we found five people safe but we have confirmed one further death. That brings the total death toll in this incident to nine. Tragically the police believe that that will climb and could be almost more than double that number. We continue to hold very grave fears for the people who are missing. To everyone who has lost a loved one, you are in our thoughts and the thoughts of all Queenslanders and Australians. We know that you are going through just horrendous circumstances. The majority of those who are missing are missing from the Murphys Creek, Grantham and Withcott areas. In Grantham and Withcott we have police and search and rescue teams on the ground undertaking search and rescue activities. We do have police on the ground in Murphys Creek but they have been unable to continue their search and rescue because the weather has significantly worsened in Murphys Creek.

In Forest Hill which is a town of between three and four hundred people between Laidley and Gatton we have seen dramatic scenes this afternoon with 300 people being airlifted and evacuated to Gatton. They are being evacuated on Black Hawk helicopters. We have, my last report was 126 people remaining on the ground still to be airlifted out of Forest Hill. So almost all of Forest Hill being evacuated, some 300 people. In relation to the Brisbane and Ipswich area and the Wivenhoe Catchment, I'm afraid we have some very bad news this afternoon. Ipswich and Brisbane are now facing their greatest threat and their toughest test in more than 35 years. The latest advice that I have in relation to the inflows in the Wivenhoe is that we can expect overnight tonight in Brisbane to see flood levels reach about three metres. By Wednesday high tide, tomorrow afternoon at about three o'clock we will see it at 4.5m and the current predictions indicate that the river will continue to rise into Thursday with flood levels expected higher than the 1974 peak. The flood reached a peak of 5.45m in 1975.

Our current modelling shows that with continued rain into Thursday we will see the levels of the river reach higher than that. In Ipswich we expect to see overnight with continued heavy rainfall in the region that by midnight tonight the river levels in Ipswich will reach around the 18 to 19 metre mark and peaking some time during Wednesday at around 21 to 22 metres. By comparison the 1974 peak was 20.6 metres. So in both Ipswich and in Brisbane we are anticipating the flood levels across the areas of '74 levels and above. As I said the situation continues to deteriorate and I have to say that I understand that for many, many people in Ipswich and in Brisbane, particularly those who endured the 1974 flood that we are now in a very frightening experience. Can I appeal to everybody that it's times like this where we all need to make an effort to stay calm, to be patient and to stick together. Now is a time to be checking on neighbours, on elderly people in your neighbourhood, to be checking on family and friends.

If you live on high ground in Brisbane now is a time to be reaching out to friends and offering help and offering where necessary a bed for the night over the coming two to three days. For those who are living in some of the lower lying areas and the identified suburbs, now is the time to be making whatever preparations you can and I would encourage you to be overly cautious. It's better to be inconvenienced and find that your preparations were not necessary than the alternative. For those who are unlikely to be directly affected, I think the entire city of Brisbane, the Ipswich region and most of the south-east needs to prepare ourselves for enormous disruption. We will anticipate that we're starting to see it now, that over the next couple of days we will see workplaces closed and unreachable, we will see major shopping centres closed, flooded and cut off. People need to be taking preparations and keeping off the roads as much as possible.

An evacuation strategy is being prepared and an evacuation centre is being activated at the showgrounds at the RNA. This centre can take up to 3,000 people and bedding and provisions are being provided into that centre this afternoon. Given the emerging information and I know that there's been other data in the public arena earlier this afternoon, you get a sense I think of just how quickly this is changing, how rapidly the rainfall that continues into the Lockyer Valley and into the Wivenhoe catchment, how quickly that is changing the modelling.

Given the seriousness of the situation and given how quickly the data is changing, we will now hold two- hourly media conferences and those media conferences will be attended by either myself, the minister, the commissioner or deputy commissioner of police. We'll be holding those press conferences throughout this evening and two-hourly tomorrow and more frequently if necessary if further data comes to hand. I might turn to Ian Stewart, the deputy commissioner, to make some further comments. But can I just acknowledge we are facing one of our toughest ever tests. We will only pass this test if we are calm, if we are patient with each other, if we're patient holding on phone lines and if we listen carefully to the instructions we're being given. Now is not a time for panic, it is a time for us to stick together, to reach out to each other, and to listen to the advice from our emergency workers. Ian.

**IAN STEWART:**

Thank you Premier. As you were aware earlier today a statewide disaster declaration was made by the Premier and our minister for the lower half of the state. That includes obviously all of the Brisbane, Greater Brisbane area. We would hope that police, emergency workers don't have to use any of those powers because as the Premier said this is not the time to baulk when you are asked to leave or asked to support emergency workers in the way that we will help prepare the city for this certain, certain flood event which will hit us over the next couple of days. I think one of the really key messages is that this is the information with the best information we have at the moment. It is a changing and a moving feast. We would hope that we don't have to revise these figures up but that is a real possibility depending on the inflows into the dam area and the rain systems that are currently above the Wivenhoe Dam catchment. So by giving you regular updates we hope to prepare the city and the surrounding areas including obviously Ipswich for what is going to be a significant emergency for our community of Queensland.

**JOURNALIST:**

Premier, Michael Usher from Channel 9, what you're talking about is overwhelming. Are you equipped to handle this. Have you got the resources? Many people you're talking about are cut off. Can you get the emergency services to them to help them?

**PREMIER:**

We are bringing additional personnel to the task over the next couple of days to Ipswich and Brisbane. These are the sorts of events that our emergency staff prepare for on a regular basis. You've seen them out there doing an extraordinary job in places like Rockhampton and Emerald. They are up to this task but they will need your cooperation. If you are asked to leave your property please do not make the job harder for our emergency workers. They will not ask you to do this unless it is absolutely necessary.

**JOURNALIST:**

Are you now talking...the sort of numbers that you're talking about is this beyond what has ever been planned for?

**PREMIER:**

This is an extreme event. The emergency services plan for these sort of events on a regular basis. They hope never to have to put those plans into place but they are ready and prepared to do so when we get confirmation as we have in the last half hour of this sort of an event. I might invite Bruce Grady from Emergency Management Queensland to give you a bit more detail about the sort of preparation and training that's led up to this sort of ability.

**JOURNALIST:**

And could we address also in there the number of homes that might be affected in the Brisbane area. There were talks of six and half thousand homes being flooded – do we know whether that's on the money or not?

**BRUCE GRADY:**

The number of homes is currently being assessed by Brisbane City Council. They have the plans for that. I think the sorts of numbers you're talking about are at the lower end. There's certainly be a lot more properties than that affected; whether the water gets over their floorboards or not you know is the work that the Brisbane City Council is currently doing. In terms of preparations we do plan for devastating events. We've run scenarios as little as six to eight weeks ago where that was based on numbers around the flood in 1890 which was bigger than '74. So it's always difficult to deal with these things because they unfold so

rapidly but the plans are in place, we're confident that people know their roles, their responsibilities and what to do. Now there's... as deputy commissioner Stewart said, it's time for the community to come together and for us to all pull in the same direction... you know, the emergency services can't do this job by themselves and they need the cooperation of the community to make an effective response.

**JOURNALIST:** Because on that point Premier we're talking about 9 confirmed deaths now and that is heart-breaking but you're saying that might double?

**PREMIER:** Yes, I invite the deputy commissioner to make some further comments. But police obviously have a number of reports which they are seeking to absolutely confirm and on the basis of that they believe that these numbers could double or even a little higher on that on current known information. So I do think we need to brace ourselves for a significant death toll here and as I've said earlier there are a number of children involved in this incident so it is a heart-breaking toll already from these waters and a very powerful reminder to us all, particularly people here in Brisbane and Ipswich. As these waters make their way through our streets, keep your children away from parks, gutters, drains. Keep your older children from jumping into waters and take extra care driving on our roads.

**STEWART:** Thanks Premier. Earlier this morning we had 72 people unaccounted for in the Lockyer area. Predominantly Grantham and the Murphys Creek areas. We have been able to trace five of those, sorry, six of those people so we're down to 66 who we are still working on and whilst that's, you know, a wonderful outcome we have grave concerns particularly in the Murphys Creek area where because of this, the very severe weather events that are still occurring there the safety of our officers and the ability for them to go in to check isolated houses and also the creek area has been, it's become very difficult for us.

**JOURNALIST:** Can you get them in or is it just too hard and too risky right now?

**STEWART:** It's too risky and we've had to hold back our staff with the planning at the moment being more for tomorrow morning when we hope that the weather will have abated enough to make it safe. I mean the creeks are still overflowing – it's still flooding in that area. It is a very, very high risk for our people.

**JOURNALIST:** In any of these areas, are there stranded people that you just can't get to that you're aware are stuck on roofs or in buildings?

**STEWART:** We don't believe so but we can't absolutely discount that. Obviously we've been checking a range of other areas in the Lockyer Valley throughout the day, the areas that are more safe for our people to operate in and at Grantham that is one of the areas that we have been able to enter some of the homes. But there are still places in Grantham because of the flooding, the continued flooding we haven't been able to check in some of the houses that have been damaged or destroyed.

**JOURNALIST:** What about that operation at Forest Hill which is quite extraordinary – getting three hundred people out, mostly airlifted. Is that still going?

**STEWART:** Absolutely. As I believe right at this moment we are still taking people out of Forest Hill. And that was caused by the fact that the waters rose there quite suddenly this morning and it was felt the best way to manage their safety was to actually evacuate them.

**JOURNALIST:** What is the situation with the school at Grantham?

**STEWART:** At Grantham where we had people earlier today, Grantham actually has a safe area. There is an area that's above the water and we're quite, in fact I think there's about 60 people currently in that safe area. We're quite happy for them to stay and they're quite happy to be there.

**JOURNALIST:** There's rumours going around that they don't have to evacuate from the evacuation area.

**STEWART:** Well, we're hoping not but that will depend on services as well. I mean water, sewerage, power, all of those issues are going to be critical in the next few days. We are hoping that once this rain event abates and we hope that that will happen over the next 24 hours, that's what we're being told, we're hoping that people will be able to access that area by road. The difficulty we're then going to have of course is that if more bodies are located in any of these



areas it becomes a crime scene and we have to then go in with a full investigation process. So this is not going to be fixed tonight or tomorrow or the next day and all of this time is then taken up in terms of the onflow of the water down through Ipswich and Brisbane which we have to manage as well.

**JOURNALIST:** What does the declaration disaster zone mean for police and emergency services? Do you get more powers with this?

**STEWART:** That's exactly right and that is the only time that we... sorry, that's the only reason that the declaration is made, to provide us special powers to forcibly evacuate people if necessary in the best interests of their safety and the community as a whole.

**PREMIER:** And also just to add to that Sue it also provides with other powers to do whatever is necessary for safety, for example, in the evacuation at Theodore last week emergency service workers chainsawed down electricity poles and didn't have to seek authority to do so so the powers are quite extraordinary, they are there so that emergency workers can bulldoze buildings to get things out of the way if they need to. Can I just make another comment – we've all watched over the last couple of weeks as water gradually rose in rivers affecting Emerald, Rockhampton, St George for example. In all of those events if you all think back, rain had actually stopped in the catchment area and so we could predict with a degree of precision what was happening.

The difference here and why it's moving so rapidly is we are seeing extraordinarily heavy rainfalls continuing into the catchment area and the bureau indicated this afternoon that they expect that rain to continue for at least the next six to twelve hours. We're starting to see a couple of small breaks every now and then which indicates it might be starting to break up but heavy rainfalls for the next six to twelve hours is partly what into the catchment not so much here in Brisbane but in the catchment. That is what is driving some of the rapid change in this modelling and the dramatically deteriorating situation.

**JOURNALIST:** Can you just outline what sort of assistance you're getting from the military at this stage?

**PREMIER:** I might ask Ian to address that.

**STEWART:** Certainly in the main. We have strategic planning cells with us embedded with us in our areas that are planning and managing all of this process. But the major thing that the military is providing is the heavy lift air assets. We've also used their vehicles, they're very unique vehicles, to try and get into very difficult terrain. So that's been part of it and we've borrowed extra vehicles, 4WDs in particular from them. That is the best support that they can provide us at the moment.

**JOURNALIST:** So no personnel at this stage?

**STEWART:** Well we have a large number of their personnel but mainly in the planning and logistics phase.

**JOURNALIST:** Premier really just finally for people who are very naturally feeling quite anxious and frightened out there, you addressed that earlier, what do you say to them right now who are listening to you just wanting to know exactly what to do?

**PREMIER:** To the people here in the south-east who are facing an anxious time in the next day or two days in Brisbane and in Ipswich, I understand that you may be very frightened by what is happening around you. What we need now is calm and I am here to reassure you that our emergency response is doing everything it can to keep you updated, to protect your homes and your properties and your neighbourhoods. But we do have a very serious natural disaster on our doorstep and we will all have to work together. Our commitment to you is that we will provide you with information as regularly as we get it. As soon as we know it we'll be telling it to you and to that end we'll be here every two hours to update. Sometimes there won't be much to say that's new but other times there might be quite dramatic information. So people should certainly be listening to media and I thank the media for the job they're doing today to make sure people know what's happening. Okay, thank you.



# 12 January 2011

Wednesday

January 2011						
M	T	W	T	F	S	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	27	28	29	30
31						

February 2011						
M	T	W	T	F	S	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	27
28						

12

Wednesday

Karin Carey on leave 4 -14 Jan inclusive



5 am

**DRIVE;** Premier's Home to EMQ Kedron; Anna Bligh

**NOTE: DRIVER IS ROB WATTS** [REDACTED]

6 00

**HOLD FOR MEDIA / PRESS CONFERENCE**

EMQ Kedron  
Anna Bligh

**6.00am MEDIA:** Today Show with Karl [img alt="TV icon"/>

**abc 24 BREAKFAST**

**6.30am MEDIA:** TripleM The Cage Radio;

7 00

**7.00am MEDIA AM ABC Radio;** EMQ Kedron [img alt="TV icon"/>

**7.10am MEDIA:** Channel 7 Sunrise show [img alt="TV icon"/>

**Channel 10 News**

8 00

**SDMG MEETING**

EMQ Kedron  
Anna Bligh

9 00

**9.30am PRESS CONFERENCE WITH PM;** EMQ Kedron; Anna Bligh



10 00

**EMERGENCY MEETING with PM, Defence, Mick Slater**

EMQ Kedron  
Anna Bligh

11 00

12 pm

**EMERGENCY PLANNING / MEETINGS**

EMQ Kedron

1 00

**1.30pm PRESS CONFERENCE;** EMQ Kedron; Anna Bligh

2 00

3 00

4 00

**TRAVEL: Channel Ten helicopter**

Kedron to Ipswich & return  
Anna Bligh

5 00

**SDMG MEETING;** EMQ Kedron; Anna Bligh

**5.35pm MEDIA:** Ten news live cross; EMQ Kedron; Anna Bligh

**5.25pm MEDIA:** 7pm Project pre-record; EMQ Kedron; Anna Bligh

6 00

**6.30pm MEDIA:** Channel 7 News live cross; EMQ Kedron; Anna Bligh

**6.00pm MEDIA:** Channel 9 News live cross; EMQ Kedron; Anna Bligh

7 00

8 00

**8.00pm MEDIA:** 7.30 Report live cross; EMQ Kedron; Anna Bligh

## Anna Bligh

---

**Subject:** 6.00am MEDIA: Today Show with Karl Stefanovic  
**Location:** EMQ Kedron

**Start:** Wed 12/01/2011 6:00 AM  
**End:** Wed 12/01/2011 6:10 AM

**Recurrence:** (none)

**Meeting Status:** Meeting organizer

**Organizer:** Anna Bligh

**Required Attendees:** Anna Hartley; Belinda Taylor; Brendon Strong; Edmund Burke; Jaxen Wood; Kate van Poelgeest; Kimberley Gardiner; Mark Symons; Megan Saunders; Oskar Bronowicki

**Categories:** Media



TRANSCRIPT PREMIER TODAY  
VIEW - TODAY SHOW 12 01 11.do..

## **Anna Bligh**

---

**From:** Jaxen Wood  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 12 January 2011 3:54 PM  
**To:** Ministers; Parliamentary Secretaries; Premiers Office; Media Advisors; Principal Advisors  
**Subject:** TRANSCRIPT INTERVIEW – TODAY SHOW - PREMIER ANNA BLIGH - BRISBANE - 12 JANUARY

**E & O E – PROOF ONLY  
TRANSCRIPT  
INTERVIEW – TODAY SHOW  
600AM WEDNESDAY  
12 JANUARY 2011  
BRISBANE**

**KARL STEFANOVIC:** I do in indeed Georgie thank you very much for that, Premier a very good morning to you, a tough morning, just coming here this morning, a lot of businesses doing a lot of sandbagging, can you first of all give us an update on the situation and it's probably best to we work from the West to Brisbane.

**PREMIER ANNA BLIGH:** Sure thank you Karl. I think we've seen the awesome power of water here behind us this morning and we're seeing it right across the region. We've still got serious flooding in places like Dalby, Chinchilla, Warwick, I have to say that's all been managed very well but we do have have numbers of people, more than 500, out of their homes and in evacuation centres.

Coming in to Toowoomba, it's very sad overnight we've seen even further notifications of missing people so the police now have, are searching for more than 90 people...

**STEFANOVIC:** More than 90!

**PREMIER:** So these are people who their families can no longer contact or find them so the Police task this morning, the one good news is the rain has cleared, so we've now got a number of search and rescue teams all ready to deploy into that valley to really start what might be a very gruesome search this morning for bodies and our Police and the Emergency workers there are going to have a very tough day today.

**STEFANOVIC:** Very, very hard day for them. This is the ground zero areas around Grantham, and the base of the ranges. The figure was 79 are you saying, have you got a more accurate reading on that?

**PREMIER:** Yes, the Police have taken more missing persons reports out of that area overnight and we now are above 90. So that might grow a bit as people start to look for neighbours and you know, it's just a heartbreaking task that they're facing.

**STEFANOVIC:** It's grim...that that figure is going up.

**PREMIER:** It is, it's a very grim prospect and as I've said I think there are painful days for some families in that region today and a pretty tough day for emergency and search & rescue teams who will really be able to get in there for the first time and I think they're going to find some devastated, a real devastation.

**STEFANOVIC:** I gather, because of the weather it's, it's actually a very nice day here, the sky is blue, it's very steamy, very hot, I gather that's a plus in so far being able to get in and just assess what has happened there.

**PREMIER:** Well it's a plus not only for our search and rescue teams, but it's also a plus for residents who are preparing for the floods. Everything is just much harder to do when you've got heavy rainfall like we had yesterday, so but it certainly should not be, people should not get any false comfort from it. The damage has been done, this rain is in our river system and it's coming our way. The fact that it's not falling from the sky is nothing, it's no comfort in terms of flood levels and people need to be very, very cautious today.

**STEFANOVIC:** That's one of nature cruel ironies isn't it? Ah, let's, let's talk about Ipswich then, what happening there...

**PREMIER:** I'd just say before we get to Ipswich, Karl. Overnight we've seen some furious flash flooding and river rises in the Lowood area, which is in the Lockyer Valley and we have some families on roof this morning so there are rescue teams out there now, trying to get those families off roofs and are searching to make sure that people are safe. So still a very difficult, volatile situation in the Lockyer Valley that must have been frankly terrifying for those families last night and they were on the roofs around 3am this morning, so pretty tough situations for them and we're thinking of them this morning.

If we come down the river, Ipswich we're seeing our predictions and forecasts pretty accurate. We've over 17 meters in Ipswich now, thousands of people now evacuation centres with more than a thousand in official government evacuation centres, but we're also seeing unofficial centres set up, local church halls, and opening up their doors and feeding people and that's terrific so...

**STEFANOVIC:** Hard to watch though isn't it. I mean looking at those images, a whole range, a whole lot of demographics, the elderly, the sick, also young children going into those facilities, heartbreaking images really.

**REMIER:** They're, everybody is doing the best they can, and I thank particularly the red cross and all our volunteers for doing everything they can to look after people, but there is no fun in an evacuation centre Karl, nobody wants to be there, just looking at those images now, my family evacuated my mum to my house last night and now I'm glad she's in my house, I'd be very, very distressed if she was in an evacuation centre, so I know what people are going through there. What we are also seeing now in just breaking news as I came this morning is the flood really has now started here Brisbane. The Brisbane River has broken its bank in a suburb called Yeronga, along a street called The Corso. Police are on sight, they are doorknocking, the water isn't into residences there yet but it's on its way, it's in a large park, so the Brisbane River has now broken its banks and it really that is the start of the Brisbane River flood.

**STEFANOVIC:** And if it has broken its banks there, does that give you an indication of how severe it's going to be, in the next 24 hours?



**PREMIER:**

Well I think we need, we know already this a serious severe flood. We are in the same territory as 1974 and potentially slightly higher, so I can't stress strongly enough that people have to take this seriously, there is obviously a lot of interest, there are people out here this morning watching this river and what it's doing, and extraordinary things we're seeing float down the river, but you know, as interesting as it is and as novel as it is, it is a dangerous situation. People really need to be heeding all the warning and keeping themselves and their families safe.

**STEFANOVIC:**

This is I think around the Brisbane CBD area last night; we drove through last night around there and Milton, lots of water coming up. Westlake we hear this morning is also a little bit of a problem any other areas of concern and what should people do if they live in those areas?

**PREMIER:**

Well we have a number of people moving out of suburbs like West End in the south Brisbane area yesterday just going to friends, getting to higher ground. We will have suburbs along the Brisbane River, if you are anywhere close to the river you need to start taking or need to be taking precautions, But it's not only on the River we have large creek systems, Breakfast Creek for example, the famous Queensland Breaky Creek near the Brekky Creek Hotel there, that creek goes right up into suburbs like Wilson and it is likely to significantly flood. Kedron Brook Creek all of those creek systems, Bulimba Creek if you are anywhere near them you need to be taking measures. There is one difference '74 and now, a number of differences, firstly we can get information to people with higher degrees of accuracy and we can get it to them in a range of ways. So we have maps in our newspapers this morning, we have maps on websites, the Brisbane city council website; people can get information that they just couldn't get in '74. But I do need to stress again that all of this is predictions and forecasts Brisbane is a vastly different city than it was in 1974. We have people living in places where no one lived then. We have a multi-unit dwellings where once there might have been a vacant lot or an old wooden house, so the way this water will be have when it get here we have some of the best hydrologists predicting, but that's all it is, a predication so if you're anywhere near these areas even if you're not a nominated street don't be out there if don't need to be.

**STEFANOVIC:**

It can change very quickly as you said; you said a number of times that it can change minute by minute, and by the hour. Can you give people a timeframe of how you expect this to play out and timing-wise how far the river will go up.

**PREMIER:**

Right now in Ipswich we are above 17 meters, and we expect it to be 22 meters sometime around lunch time, so 17 to 22 , so that's 5 meters the river will move over the next 6 or 7 hours, that's the time prediction, but that tells you this is a fast moving event. Once that comes down the Brisbane River we would expect to see this river behind us peeking sometime around high tide, in the mid afternoon tomorrow, 2 to 3 o'clock, so we've really got a day and a half for people to be, well many people will start flooding before then but as we start to see the peak, so I would expect to see water into Brisbane homes potentially in significant numbers by this afternoon.

**STEFANOVIC:**

By this afternoon? How many numbers?

**PREMIER:**

Just significant numbers...

**STEFANOVIC:** Hard to tell...

**PREMIER:** It's hard to tell.

**STEFANOVIC:** What happened during the course of the night, that's the area of concern isn't it too? That you start to see the flood waters rising and then you go into night time and electricity will more than likely be cut, you really need, people really need to have their plans in place, well and truly before night.

**PREMIER:** Absolutely, and at this stage the bureau is pretty confident we're not going to see more rainfall, but as I said if people are trying to deal with these situations in dark, at night time in heavy rain, all of that will be disastrous. I do need to stress that people will be inconvenienced today by power shutdowns, electricity and water just do not mix and we would have catastrophic events if we did not systematically and carefully shut down in the right places our electricity to a number of buildings. That will be finalised this morning for the first round of shutdowns, most of that will be in the CBD area, so again people, every employer out there is caring about their staff and many people yesterday were sent home, I don't expect to see them back at work now for days.

**STEFANOVIC:** Cameron Williams is at one of those evacuation centres for us tonight, have you got any planning for more facilities to open up through the course of today and tomorrow?

**PREMIER:** We're working, Brisbane City Council is overseeing, as the councils do in every area, the evacuation centres, they're doing a marvellous job of setting up a massive of evacuation centre at our showgrounds, the RNA showgrounds. That will have a capacity for more than 3000 people. If you just think about what it takes to set up a centre for 3000 people, feeding and kitchen facilities in the next you know they've started that yesterday, they're doing, that will all be in place. They will also start today the process of equipping potentially back up evacuation centres in the event that this gets beyond what we're currently predicting. So I think we're, all the preparations that can be made, are being made and the real challenge for as a community is to , to be in this together, and that means working with our emergency workers, don't make their job harder, if they knock on your door follow they're directions. I've heard report this morning of people disobeying police directions about not going into water over roads, there's no place for that. Our police are stretched; do not stretch them further by disobeying them.

**STEFANOVIC:** Good advice. One final question for you – how are you holding up?

**PREMIER:** Ah I'm fine, I'm just worried about Queenslanders, and we've got people in dire and desperate circumstances, very concerned about those people on roofs. I think we're going to be shocked by what we hear about our search and rescue teams today. So a long hard day today for Queensland, a very anxious wait for people in Ipswich and Brisbane, a lot of hard work sandbagging, preparing, protecting and that's what we're going to focus on.

**STEFANOVIC:** Anna Bligh, always good to talk to you. Thank you very much for updating our audience really appreciates you coming on to talk to us and getting them that information.

**PREMIER:** Thanks Karl, we'll be updating throughout the day, we'll be having two-hourly bulletins, we expect this to be changing right across the region and we let people know what's happening.

**STEFANOVIC:** Alright, appreciate your time. Thank you very much for that.

**PREMIER:** Thank you.

**TRANSCRIPT  
PRESS CONFERENCE  
WEDNESDAY 12 JANUARY 2011  
INTV: Channel 9, TODAY Show  
RE: Qld Floods**

Compere: I do in indeed Georgie thank you very much for that, Premier a very good morning to you, a tough morning, just coming here this morning, a lot of businesses doing a lot of sandbagging, can you first of all give us an update on the situation and it's probably best to we work from the West to Brisbane.

Bligh: Sure thank you Karl. I think we've seen the awesome power of water here behind us this morning and we're seeing it right across the region. We've still got serious flooding in places like Dalby, Chinchilla, Warwick, I have to say that's all been managed very well but we do have have numbers of people, more than 500, out of their homes and in evacuation centres.

Coming in to Toowoomba, it's very sad overnight we've seen even further notifications of missing people so the police now have, are searching for more than 90 people...

Compere: More than 90!

Bligh: So these are people who their families can no longer contact or find them so the Police task this morning, the one good news is the rain has cleared, so we've now got a number of search and rescue teams all ready to deploy into that valley to really start what might be a very gruesome search this morning for bodies and our Police and the Emergency workers there are going to have a very tough day today.

Compere: Very, very hard day for them. This is the ground zero areas around Grantham, and the base of the ranges. The figure was 79 are you saying, have you got a more accurate reading on that?

Bligh: Yes, the Police have taken more missing persons reports out of that area overnight and we now are above 90. So that might grow a bit as people start to look for neighbours and you know, it's just a heartbreaking task that they're facing.

Compere: It's grim...that that figure is going up.

Bligh: It is, it's a very grim prospect and as I've said I think there are painful days for some families in that region today and a pretty tough day for emergency and search & rescue teams who will



really be able to get in there for the first time and I think they're going to find some devastated, a real devastation.

Compere: I gather, because of the weather it's, it's actually a very nice day here, the sky is blue, it's very steamy, very hot, I gather that's a plus in so far being able to get in and just assess what has happened there.

Bligh: Well it's a plus not only for our search and rescue teams, but it's also a plus for residents who are preparing for the floods. Everything is just much harder to do when you've got heavy rainfall like we had yesterday, so but it certainly should not be, people should not get any false comfort from it. The damage has been done, this rain is in our river system and it's coming our way. The fact that it's not falling from the sky is nothing, it's no comfort in terms of flood levels and people need to be very, very cautious today.

Compere: That's one of nature's cruel ironies isn't it? Ah, let's, let's talk about Ipswich then, what's happening there...

Bligh: I'd just say before we get to Ipswich, Karl. Overnight we've seen some furious flash flooding and river rises in the Lowood area, which is in the Lockyer Valley and we have some families on roof this morning so there are rescue teams out there now, trying to get those families off roofs and are searching to make sure that people are safe. So still a very difficult, volatile situation in the Lockyer Valley that must have been frankly terrifying for those families last night and they were on the roofs around 3am this morning, so pretty tough situations for them and we're thinking of them this morning.

If we come down the river, Ipswich we're seeing our predictions and forecasts pretty accurate. We've over 17 meters in Ipswich now, thousands of people now in evacuation centres with more than a thousand in official government evacuation centres, but we're also seeing unofficial centres set up, local church halls, and opening up their doors and feeding people and that's terrific so...

Compere: Hard to watch though isn't it. I mean looking at those images, a whole range, a whole lot of demographics, the elderly, the sick, also young children going into those facilities, heartbreaking images really.

Bligh: They're, everybody is doing the best they can, and I thank particularly the red cross and all our volunteers for doing everything they can to look after people, but there is no fun in an evacuation centre Karl, nobody wants to be there, just looking at those images now, my family evacuated my mum to

my house last night and now I'm glad she's in my house, I'd be very, very distressed if she was in an evacuation centre, so I know what people are going through there. What we are also seeing now in just breaking news as I came this morning is the flood really has now started here Brisbane. The Brisbane River has broken its bank in a suburb called Yeronga, along a street called The Corso. Police are on sight, they are doorknocking, the water isn't into residences there yet but it's on its way, it's in a large park, so the Brisbane River has now broken its banks and it really that is the start of the Brisbane River flood.

Compere: And if it has broken its banks there, does that give you an indication of how severe it's going to be, in the next 24 hours?

Bligh: Well I think we need, we know already this a serious severe flood. We are in the same territory as 1974 and potentially slightly higher, so I can't express strongly enough that people have to take this seriously, there is obviously a lot of interest, there are people out here this morning watching this river and what it's doing, and extraordinary things we're seeing float down the river, but you know, as interesting as it is and as novel as it is, it is a dangerous situation. People really need to be heeding all the warning and keeping themselves and their families safe.

Compere: This is I think around the Brisbane CBD area last night; we drove through last night around there and Milton, lots of water coming up. Westlake we hear this morning is also a little bit of a problem any other areas of concern and what should people do if they live in those areas?

Bligh: Well we have a number of people moving out of suburbs like West End in the south Brisbane area yesterday just going to friends, getting to higher ground. We will have suburbs along the Brisbane River, if you are anywhere close to the river you need to start taking or need to be taking precautions, But it's not only on the River we have large creek systems, Breakfast Creek for example, the famous Qld Brekky Creek Hotel, that creek goes right up into suburbs like Wilson and it is likely to significantly flood. Kedron Brook Creek all of those creek systems, Bulimba Creek if you are anywhere near them you need to be taking measures. There is one difference '74 and now, a number of differences, firstly we can get information to people with higher degrees of accuracy and we can get it to them in a range of ways. So we have maps in our newspapers this morning, we have maps on websites, the Brisbane city council website; people can get information that they just couldn't get in '74. But I do need to stress again that all of this is predictions and forecasts Brisbane is a vastly different city than it was in 1974. We have people living in places where no

one lived then. We have a multi-unit dwellings where once there might have been a vacant lot or an old wooden house, so the way this water will be have when it get here we have some of the best hydrologists predicting, but that's all it is, a predication so if you're anywhere near these areas even if you're not a nominated street don't be out there if don't need to be.

Compere: It can change very quickly as you said; you said a number of times that it can change minute by minute, and by the hour. Can you give people a timeframe of how you expect this to play out and timing-wise how far the river will go up.

Bligh: Right now in Ipswich we are above 17 meters, and we expect it to be 22 meters sometime around lunch time, so 17 to 22 , so that's 5 meters the river will move over the next 6 or 7 hours, that's the time prediction, but that tells you this is a fast moving event. Once that comes down the Brisbane River we would expect to see this river behind us peeking sometime around high tide, in the mid afternoon tomorrow, 2 to 3 o'clock, so we've really got a day and a half for people to be, well many people will start flooding before then but as we start to see the peak, so I would expect to see water into Brisbane homes potentially in significant numbers by this afternoon.

Compere: By this afternoon? How many numbers?

Bligh: Just significant numbers...

Compere: Hard to tell...

Bligh: It's hard to tell.

Compere: What happened during the course of the night, that's the area of concern isn't it too? That you start to see the flood waters rising and then you go into night time and electricity will more than likely be cut, you really need, people really need to have their plans in place, well and truly before night.

Bligh: Absolutely, and at this stage the bureau is pretty confident we're not going to see more rainfall, but as I said if people are trying to deal with these situations in dark, at night time in heavy rain, all of that will be disastrous. I do need to stress that people will be inconvenienced today by power shutdowns, electricity and water just do not mix and we would have catastrophic events if we did not systematically and carefully shut down in the right places our electricity to a number of buildings. That will be finalised this morning for the first round of shutdowns, most of that will be in the CBD area, so

again people, every employer out there is caring about their staff and many people yesterday were sent home, I don't expect to see them back at work now for days.

Compere: Cameron Williams is at one of those evacuation centres for us tonight, have you got any planning for more facilities to open up through the course of today and tomorrow?

Bligh: We're working, Brisbane City Council is overseeing, as the councils do in every area, the evacuation centres, they're doing a marvellous job of setting up a massive of evacuation centre our showgrounds. That will have a capacity for more than 3000 people. If you just think about what it takes to set up a centre for 3000 people, feeding and kitchen facilities in the next you know they've started that yesterday, they're doing, that will all be in place. They will also start today the process of equipping potentially back up evacuation centres in the event that this gets beyond what we're currently predicting. So I think we're, all the preparations that can be made, are being made and the real challenge for as a community is to , to be in this together, and that means working with our emergency workers, don't make their job harder, if they knock on your door follow they're directions. I've heard report this morning of people disobeying police directions about not going into water over roads, there's no place for that. Our police are stretched; do not stretch them further by disobeying them.

Compere: Good advice. One final question for you – how are you holding up?

Bligh: Ah I'm fine, I'm just worried about Queenslanders, and we've got people in dire and desperate circumstances, very concerned about those people on roofs. I think we're going to be shocked by what we hear about our search and rescue teams today. So a long hard day today for Queensland, a very anxious wait for people in Ipswich and Brisbane, a lot of hard work sandbagging, preparing, protecting and that's what we're going to focus on.

Compere: Anna Bligh, always good to talk to you. Thank you very much for updating our audience really appreciates you coming on to talk to us and getting them that information.

Bligh: Thanks Karl, we'll be updating throughout the day, we'll be having two-hourly bulletins, we expect this to be changing right across the region and we let people know what's happening.

Compere: Alright, appreciate your time. Thank you very much for that.

Bligh: Thank you.



ENDS  
NL

Produced by the Government Media Monitoring Unit

## Anna Bligh

---

**Subject:** 7.00am MEDIA AM ABC Radio  
**Location:** EMQ Kedron

**Start:** Wed 12/01/2011 7:00 AM  
**End:** Wed 12/01/2011 7:10 AM

**Recurrence:** (none)

**Meeting Status:** Meeting organizer

**Organizer:** Anna Bligh  
**Required Attendees:** Anna Hartley; Belinda Taylor; Brendon Strong; Edmund Burke; Jaxen Wood; Kate van Poelgeest; Kimberley Gardiner; Mark Symons; Megan Saunders; Oskar Bronowicki

**Categories:** Media, Archive



T/script - Premier  
on AM, ABC ...

**From:** Brendon Strong  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 12 January 2011 11:21 AM  
**To:** Premiers Office; Oskar Bronowicki; Kate van Poelgeest  
**Subject:** T/script - Premier on AM, ABC Radio

## Premier says emotional day ahead for Queenslanders

TONY EASTLEY: The floods are disrupting life all over this city.

Two major public hospitals have cancelled elective surgery. Supermarket shelves are emptying. People are stuck in places they don't want to be as roads are closed. Electricity supplies may be disrupted.

The Queensland Premier, Anna Bligh is at the state emergency service coordination centre and joins us now.

Premier good morning and thanks for making your time available. What's your biggest concern this morning?

ANNA BLIGH: Good morning Tony. Tony I'm concerned across a number of fronts this morning. We have our search and rescue teams going into the Lockyer Valley for the first time now that the weather has cleared.

I think it's going to be a very, very emotional day for those teams as they face some potentially very gruesome finds. I think it's going to be a heartbreaking day for those families who are still holding out a lot of hope for missing people, as we see those hopes crushed.

We have families coming further down the Valley who are stuck on, stranded on rooftops after a sudden event at Lowood, a town in the Lockyer Valley again last night at 3am; a terrifying moment for those families. So we're doing rooftop rescues there at the moment.

And then of course we have two major cities, Ipswich and Brisbane, bracing as you say for a one in 100 year flood. Tony we are talking massive amounts of water coming into this river system and it will flood thousands of properties.

So today we are activating evacuation processes and centres here in Brisbane, they would have been activated yesterday in Ipswich; thousands of people already out of their own homes and many more to come.

TONY EASTLEY: Authorities of course have issued dire warnings, is there anything Premier to suggest otherwise this morning, even though as we look out and you probably can see from where you are there, there are some clear skies over Brisbane?

ANNA BLIGH: It's very eerie here today because we have an absolutely beautiful blue sky, a perfect Queensland summer day, but people can take no comfort from the blue sky; the rain has already done its damage in the catchment of our river system and this water is coming down at great speed.

The predictions yesterday were that Ipswich would reach between 18 and 19 overnight; it is currently at 18-and-a-half, so the predictions are very, very accurate. On the basis of that I understand that we could see up to 20,000 properties in Brisbane affected by the water.

That is an extraordinary amount of people and homes and people do need to take their warnings very seriously.

TONY EASTLEY: The death toll and the missing Premier, what is the latest on that?

ANNA BLIGH: We've seen 10 people die in the last 24 to 48 hours as a result of that shocking incident in Toowoomba. Unfortunately overnight police have been advised of further missing persons, as people get back into these towns and start to knock on their neighbours' doors, they're finding more people they can't account for.

So the police are now looking for more than 90 missing persons. As I said our search and rescue teams are now on the ground, they are getting into those tributaries and creeks in some very difficult, very sodden terrain and I expect they are going to have a very emotional day as they inevitably recover some bodies.

Police are anticipating, or have very, very grave fears for at least another 15 if not more people.

So, Tony this is a heartache day for those teams and for the families who are waiting.

TONY EASTLEY: Queensland Premier Anna Bligh again thank you for joining us on AM.

ANNA BLIGH: Thank you to ABC for keeping us all up to date.

<http://www.abc.net.au/am/content/2011/s3110970.htm>

Tony Eastley reported this story on [Wednesday, January 12, 2011 08:00:00](#)



## Anna Bligh

---

**Subject:** 7.10am MEDIA: Channel 7 Sunrise show  
**Location:** EMQ Kedron

**Start:** Wed 12/01/2011 7:10 AM  
**End:** Wed 12/01/2011 7:20 AM

**Recurrence:** (none)

**Meeting Status:** Meeting organizer

**Organizer:** Anna Bligh  
**Required Attendees:** Anna Hartley; Belinda Taylor; Brendon Strong; Edmund Burke; Jaxen Wood; Kate van Poelgeest; Kimberley Gardiner; Mark Symons; Megan Saunders; Oskar Bronowicki

**Categories:** Media



PREM ON SUNRISE TRANSCRIPT -  
12 01 11.docx REMIER ANNA BLIGH

**TRANSCRIPT**  
**BTQ7 SUNRISE 0810**  
**WEDNESDAY 12 JANUARY 2011**  
**INTV: PREMIER ANNA BLIGH**  
**RE: SEQ FLOODS**

Compere: To bring you up with the very latest we've got Premier Anna Bligh joining us from EMQ headquarters. Premier, good morning to you.

Bligh: Good morning.

Compere: Hi how are you going this morning, what can you tell us, the very latest at this point in time?

Bligh: Well, as you would know we have a very rapidly developing situation here. We've seen overnight continued waters rising and continuing in the Lockyer Valley. One of the towns there, Lowood had a very rapid incident last night with families on rooftops at 3am so they've been rescued this morning. We've seen waters rise very rapidly in Ipswich and there are about 18.5m now which is basically exactly where the hydrologists predicted they would be. So our forecasts are proving accurate and that water is now moving into the Brisbane area. Thousands of people out of their homes in Ipswich. The Brisbane River has now broken its banks at Yeronga, a suburb on the water in a stretch of road called The Corso. So I suppose the flood in Brisbane has officially started with that river breaking its banks. We've got police on the site doorknocking and that will continue across the city. This is a frightening situation for many people. This is something that's going to be a very...we're going to have a very anxious day. I understand that current Brisbane City Council modelling indicates that we could see up to 20,000 properties affected. That is a massive dislocation across a large capital city.

Compere: So Premier the people who are watching from home this morning in those suburbs that were affected in '74, knowing that their home will probably be affected this time around, what would you like them to do at this exact moment? Where should they go? What is your advice to them as we speak?

Bligh: This is going to be a very big and difficult event. And we have...I want to reassure people firstly that we have additional emergency staff, additional police, we have extra army personnel. We have what it takes to manage this on the frontline. But they can only do it well if we all pull together and cooperate with them and if we all take our own measures to protect ourselves and our families and our friends. If you're on high ground look out for your neighbours, ring your family, ring your friends, offer someone a bed. We need to all be doing this together. If you're in a low lying area if your property has previously been affected by floods it will be affected this time. You need to make provisions today and you need to do it quickly. We expect to see significant numbers of houses inundated from early this afternoon and the water is very unlikely to go down (inaudible) three or four days. People should be careful this morning – if you do not need to be on the roads do not. Do not go into work if you do not need to be there and if you're not absolutely critical to the flood effort because if you get into work this morning you are likely to be stranded there as roads will shut down throughout the day.

Compere: Okay so if you know someone that lives on higher ground give them a call – now's the time to go and stay. Get out of your house. Power outages, we're going to see the power cut down, cut out through most of the CBD this

morning, large chunks of it certainly. Just give me an idea of how widespread that will be and the implications that will have.

Bligh: Can I say I know that for many people this is a very frightening and scary time. We will all need to be as calm as we can and our patience is going to be tested. We will need to shut down electricity supply and that is going to cause many people, it makes a difficult situation even more difficult. Frankly people I think understand electricity and water just do not mix and if we do not shut down supply to these major areas we could see catastrophic circumstances. So it is going to be difficult as electricity supply is shut down. It will start this morning in the CBD and surrounding areas. So get candles, make sure you're well supplied with those sorts of things. We're going to have a long wait today, a very long and difficult night for many people and the water's starting to peak early afternoon, tomorrow. So this event is happening now, people are already being affected by it. Please, there's no room for complacency. Take it seriously.

Compere: Particularly too if you rely on power for health reasons, if you need machinery, anything like that, certainly make arrangements at this point in time. But faced with this today Premier we know that tomorrow, Thursday, is going to be the dark day. We're going to see a worse situation. I guess what would you say to people watching this morning who are frightened, who need to speak to somebody, who are obviously feeling a little bit lost. What's your message to them?

Bligh: I know that this is, as I said, I know it's a frightening experience but what will get us through this, just as it did in 1974, is our sense of community spirit and our confidence in ourselves and each other. I believe that we've got everything it takes to manage this and to get through it together. But we will need to stay calm, we need to be looking out for each other. And we need to make sure we're very well-informed. So please, get onto the City Council websites and find out exactly where your house is located in relation to these floodwaters. If you need any medical supplies you should be speaking to your doctor and you should be making whatever arrangements you can. But we will have flood boats out there, we will have emergency services workers out there supplying people, helping people, helping people move. For the next 48 hours I expect to see an army of people out there helping and people should ring the SES hotline if they need any kind of assistance. That's 132500. Ring the SES hotline – that's where you can get help.

Compere: Fantastic. And as you say, stay calm. Premier Anna Bligh we do appreciate your time this morning, thank you.

Bligh: Thank you and thank you for doing such a good job in letting people know what's happening.

ENDS  
BS

Produced by the Government Media Monitoring Unit
--

## **Anna Bligh**

---

**From:** Kimberley Gardiner  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 12 January 2011 3:23 PM  
**To:** ministers; [REDACTED] Parliamentary Secretaries; Caucus Members; Media Advisors; Principal Advisors; Premiers Office  
**Subject:** TRANSCRIPT - PREMIER ANNA BLIGH - INTERVIEW SUNRISE - 12 JANUARY 2011

### **TRANSCRIPT SUNRISE (SEVEN) 0810 WEDNESDAY 12 JANUARY 2011**

**MELISSA DOYLE:** To bring you up to date with the very latest we've got Premier Anna Bligh with us joining us from EMQ headquarters. Premier, good morning to you.

**PREMIER ANNA BLIGH:** Good morning.

**DOYLE:** Hi how are you going this morning, what can you tell us, the very latest at this point in time?

**PREMIER:** Well, as you would know we have a very rapidly developing situation here. We've seen overnight continued waters rising and continuing in the Lockyer Valley. One of the towns there, Lowood had a very rapid incident last night with families on rooftops at 3am so they're being rescued this morning. We've seen waters rise very rapidly in Ipswich and there are about 18.5m now which is basically exactly where the hydrologists predicted they would be. So our forecasts are proving accurate and that water is now moving into the Brisbane area. Thousands of people out of their homes in Ipswich. The Brisbane River has now broken its banks at Yeronga, a suburb on the water in a stretch of road called The Corso. So I suppose the flood in Brisbane has officially started with that river breaking its banks. We've got police on the site doorknocking and that will continue across the city. This is a frightening situation for many people. This is something that's going to be a very, we're going to have a very anxious day. I understand that current Brisbane City Council modelling indicates that we could see up to 20,000 properties affected. That is a massive dislocation across a large capital city.

**DOYLE:** So Premier the people that are watching from home this morning in those suburbs that were affected in '74, knowing that their home will probably be affected this time around, what would you like them to do at this exact moment? Where should they go? What is your advice to them as we speak?

**PREMIER:** This is going to be a very big and difficult event. And we have...I want to reassure people firstly that we have additional emergency staff, additional police, we have extra army personnel. We have what it takes to manage this on the frontline. But they can only do it well if we all pull together and cooperate with them and if we all take our own measures to protect ourselves and our families and our friends. If you're on high ground, look out for your neighbours, ring your family, ring your friends, offer someone a bed. We need to all be doing this together. If you're in a low lying area if your property has previously been affected by floods it will be affected this time. You need to make provisions today and you need to do it quickly. We expect to see significant numbers of houses inundated from early this afternoon and the water is very unlikely to go down from anywhere from three or four days. People should be careful this morning; if you do not need to be on the roads do not. Do not go into work if you do not need to be there and if you're not absolutely critical to the flood effort because if you get into work this morning you are likely to be stranded there as roads will shut down throughout the day.

**DOYLE:** Okay so if you know someone that lives on higher ground give them a call; now's the time to go and stay. Get out of your house. Power outages, we're going to see the power cut down, cut out through most of the CBD this morning, large chunks of it certainly. Just give me an idea of how widespread that will be and the implications that will have.

**PREMIER:** Can I say I know that for many people this is a very frightening and scary time. We will all need to be as calm as we can and our patience is going to be tested. We will need to shut down electricity supply and that is going



to cause many people, it makes a difficult situation even more difficult. Frankly, people I think understand electricity and water just do not mix and if we do not shut down supply to these major areas we could see catastrophic circumstances. So it is going to be difficult as electricity supply is shut down. It will start this morning in the CBD and surrounding areas. So get candles, make sure you're well supplied with those sorts of things. We're going to have a long wait today, a very long and difficult night for many people and the water's starting to peak early afternoon tomorrow. So this event is happening now, people are already being affected by it. Please, there's no room for complacency. Take it seriously.

**DOYLE:** Particularly too if you rely on power for health reasons, if you need machinery, anything like that, certainly make arrangements at this point in time. But faced with this today, Premier, we know that tomorrow, Thursday, is going to be the dark day. We're going to see a worse situation. I guess what would you say to people watching this morning who are frightened, who need to speak to somebody, who are obviously feeling a little bit lost. What's your message to them?

**PREMIER:** I know that this is, as I said, I know it's a frightening experience but what will get us through this, just as it did in 1974, is our sense of community spirit and our confidence in ourselves and each other. I believe that we've got everything it takes to manage this and to get through it together. But we will need to stay calm, we need to be looking out for each other. And we need to make sure we're very well-informed. So please, get onto the Brisbane City Council websites and find out exactly where your house is located in relation to these floodwaters. If you need any medical supplies you should be speaking to your doctor and you should be making whatever arrangements you can. But we will have flood boats out there, we will have emergency services workers out there supplying people, helping people, helping people move for the next 48 hours. I expect to see an army of people out there helping and people should ring the SES hotline if they need any kind of assistance. That's 132500. Ring the SES hotline – that's where you can get help.

**DOYLE:** Fantastic. And as you say, stay calm. Premier Anna Bligh we do appreciate your time this morning, thank you.

**PREMIER:** Thank you and thank you for doing such a good job in letting people know what's happening.

**DOYLE:** Look, it's the least we can do. Thanks so much.

**ENDS**

Kimberley Gardiner  
Director, Government Media Unit  
Office of the Premier of Queensland

P [REDACTED]  
M [REDACTED]  
E [kimberley.gardiner](mailto:kimberley.gardiner) [REDACTED]

## Anna Bligh

---

**Subject:** 9.30am PRESS CONFERENCE WITH PM  
**Location:** EMQ Kedron

**Start:** Wed 12/01/2011 9:30 AM  
**End:** Wed 12/01/2011 10:00 AM

**Recurrence:** (none)

**Meeting Status:** Meeting organizer

**Organizer:** Anna Bligh  
**Required Attendees:** Anna Hartley; Belinda Taylor; Brendon Strong; Edmund Burke; Jaxen Wood; Kate van Poelgeest; Kimberley Gardiner; Mark Symons; Megan Saunders; Oskar Bronowicki; Proteus

**Categories:** Media, Archive



ANSRIPT JOINT  
PRESS CONFERE...

## Anna Bligh

---

**From:** Kimberley Gardiner  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 12 January 2011 3:48 PM  
**To:** ministers [REDACTED] Parliamentary Secretaries; Premiers Office; Media Advisors; Principal Advisors  
**Subject:** TRANSCRIPT JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE - PREMIER ANNA BLIGH & PRIME MINISTER JULIA GILLARD - BRISBANE - 12 JANUARY 2011

**E & O E – PROOF ONLY  
TRANSCRIPT  
JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE  
930AM WEDNESDAY  
12 JANUARY 2011  
BRISBANE**

**PREMIER BLIGH:** Well good morning. I welcome to Queensland the Prime Minister and Chief of Defence Angus Houston as two of our largest cities Ipswich and our capital city of Brisbane prepare and begin to experience the worst natural disaster in our history.

As our city prepares for that disaster we are also managing a number of major incidents in other areas of Queensland and I'd like to work through some of the issues that are unfolding in those towns and cities first and then go to the Brisbane and Ipswich area.

Today because of the clearing of the rain we will see a major search and rescue effort into the Lockyer Valley searching for those people who remain missing. Very sad news overnight with further missing notifications made to the Queensland Police and the number they are searching is over 90. We can confirm that at this stage we have no confirmations of further deaths but we do expect that our emergency search and rescue teams today may face a very difficult and emotional task as they search for a possibly find bodies in some of those isolated areas.

Our thoughts are with those works and particularly with those families who are continuing to hope and anxiously wait for news of their loved ones, we hope that they have good news at the end of today although we do stress that it may take several days of major search and rescue efforts given the damage in some of these areas, to properties and to local terrain.

The Coroner is moving to the Lockyer Valley today to assist with these efforts and we have 8 specialist counselling teams including people particularly trained in counselling children and grief counsellors and they will be locating across the towns in that valley today.

In other parts of regional Queensland we're continuing to see floodwaters rise, the town of Dalby still has 125 people in an evacuation centre although the water is now stable there. In Chinchilla we have a major flood incident occurring with waters continuing to rise and current advice is that Chinchilla is likely to experience a flood peak over and above what they experienced about 10 days ago.

The town of Condamine was completely evacuated yesterday evening for the second time in 10 days and they are likely to be out of their home again for a period of time. The towns of Goondiwindi and Texas are also facing rising waters, Goondiwindi is expected to be within potentially half a metre of its levy banks, that could see those levies collapse and we are keeping a very careful watch on Goondiwindi, this is a town of some 5000 people.

The town of Texas, a relatively small town of about 600 people, are also seeing waters rising and evacuations have started in Texas.

The good news is that the water in Rockhampton is falling, although very, very slowly, similarly the water in Gympie is falling, but that water from Gympie is now making its way to Maryborough and Maryborough can expect to see its waters rise and reach a peak tomorrow.

In Bundaberg we are also seeing some minor rises and some new flooding occurring in Bundaberg.

I give you all that information so that you can appreciate the scale of this incident and appreciate that our emergency teams are working across a number of areas, across an enormous part of Queensland. We also note that as we start to prepare here in the capital city, that many of these towns are experiencing this event for the second time. I think we need to draw inspiration from their resilience and draw inspiration and courage from the experiences they've had and are continuing to face.

If I can move now to Ipswich and Brisbane.

In Ipswich at 7:30am this morning the water had risen to 18.9 metres, there is some slightly good news in Ipswich and that is that the expected peak has been revised down from 22 metres to 20.5, however they experienced 20.7 in 1974, so we are in a 1974 flood situation in Ipswich. I stress that in making those 1974 comparisons, both the city of Ipswich and the city of Brisbane are vastly different places than they were in 1974, we have significantly population, we have more dense construction, we have people living in high rise units where in 1974 nothing existed. So many more people are expected to be affected by this event even though the waters levels may be relatively similar.

So for example in Ipswich today at that level we expected to peak today at 20.5, that we expect that that will inundate and affect 4000 properties in Ipswich, 1500 are currently affected by floodwaters. We have 10 evacuation centres operational in Ipswich and 1200 people in those evacuation centres, many more out of their homes and staying with friends and relatives.

The nearby towns of Toogoolawah and Esk are completely isolated. They're not necessarily experiencing floodwater but are completely isolated by cut roads and we'll be getting supplies into those towns as soon as possible.

Here in Brisbane the water is currently at around 3.1 metres and it is rising, we expect it to rise relatively slowly this morning but much more quickly after lunch this afternoon. By this afternoon we expect it to peak around 4.5 metres and rise to 5.5 metres tomorrow morning, Thursday morning. Sometime around 4am tomorrow morning we expect to see those waters peak around the 5.5 mark, in 1974 it peaked at 5.45. So by 4am tomorrow morning we expect Brisbane to be experiencing flooding of 1974 proportions and slightly higher.

We have an evacuation centre established at the RNA Showgrounds, there are currently 182 people registered to accommodate there overnight but of course we expect that number to swell significantly throughout the day.

Those people who are unable to get to higher ground with friends or family, can I please encourage you to make early registration and early arrangements with the evacuation centres. The first centre is the RNA Showgrounds, from 8am this morning, the second centre was activated at the QE2 Stadium on the south side of Brisbane.

The Lord Mayor advises me he is speaking now with major churches to see whether it is possible to utilise church halls and other church facilities in local neighbourhoods should that be necessary. We have the very significant issues arising on the Brisbane River. Many of you will have seen the images of pontoons and boats attached to pontoons floating down the river. We have salvage



operations occurring to ensure that we don't see further damage caused by those floating objects running into businesses and homes. We have a very significant operation being undertaken right now across the river from the Regatta Hotel where a large barge, known as The Island, and many people in Brisbane will know that boat, it is at risk of coming loose of its moorings and there are an operation right now to secure that facility.

Throughout today there will be a number of critical issues that will be managed by our emergency teams. Firstly the Port of Brisbane is now closed and will only be open for emergency supplies under police and harbour authority's escort. Traffic management plans are being put into place, as we see power cut off in some areas, and I will talk a little bit about power in a moment, but as we see power cut off, we are likely to see some traffic lights out around the CBD parts of Brisbane. A very significant traffic plan is being put into place and police will be doing everything in their power to manage that today, but in a large capital city, I think you can all imagine the difficulties they will face.

This is likely to be a significant problem with roads cutting from localised flooding and traffic lights out. One of the biggest messages I send to people in the city of Brisbane today and Ipswich is do not travel if you do not have to. It is a danger to the rest of the population to have people out travelling unnecessarily. What that will do is take police and emergency resources off the front line where they are needed to protect and save lives. Please, this incident is not a tourist event. This is a deeply serious natural disaster, stay in your homes, do not travel unless it is absolutely necessary.

The second message is for those who haven't already done so, find a friend in high places. There are many parts of Brisbane that will not be affected. Brisbane is a very hilly city, many of us have friends and family living on those hills. Please if you are not going to be affected, reach out to a neighbour, reach out to a friend or a family member. We will ensure everything is being done to evacuate people to official evacuation centres but this could last for several days and I can assure you that you would rather be, if possible, with family than in one of these centres.

The water we are preparing for is a worst case scenario in Brisbane. We anticipate some 2,100 streets will be affected, that 19,700 residences are likely to experience flooding across their entire property. We expect a further 3,500 commercial properties to similarly experience flood water across the entire property.

This is a very significant event, it will create enormous disruption and dislocation.

We are already seeing the beginning of this flood, the Brisbane River has broken its banks at Yeronga, near the Corso. We are seeing flooding starting this morning in places like Milton, Toowong, Jindalee, the Graceville area and we are likely to see more and more as the day progresses.

The fact that this is peaking tomorrow does not mean we won't see very dangerous situations emerging right now.

I think we've all woken up in Brisbane to a very surreal experience. The sky is blue, we are facing an almost perfect Queensland summer day. We can take no comfort from that blue sky. The water and rain have already done their damage, they are in the catchment and they are on their way down our river system. So please do not think, do not take any comfort from the fact we've got blue sky here this morning.

Can I just conclude by acknowledging that everybody out there, no doubt, is experiencing this as a quite scary and frightening event. Can I say that I know in my bones that Queenslanders are up to this and that we can take it and I know that because I know we have the best people on our

front line. They are coming from all over Australia, from other states, SES, emergency workers, police, from New Zealand and from the Australian Defence Force.

I know it because we've enormous resources that are now deployed here in the South-East and in other parts of Queensland, including a massive boost from the Defence Forces and the Prime Minister will outline that in more detail.

I also know that we are very strong and that we have enormous community spirit. This event will test us as it is testing people in regional Queensland; they have prevailed and the people here in the South-East will equally prevail.

Ladies and gentlemen please keep updated throughout the day, this is a rapidly moving event. I thank everybody to date for their marvellous effort. We've got, I think, the hardest times are still ahead of us.

If I can invite the Prime Minister to join me and to make some comments. Prime Minister, thank you for being in Queensland today.

**PRIME MINISTER:** Thank you. Thank you very much to the Premier for that introduction and can I say to the Premier, it's been a genuine privilege to attend the State Disaster Management Committee meeting this morning and to hear directly what great work is being done by emergency service personnel right throughout Queensland.

I'm here today with the Minister for Defence, Stephen Smith, with our minister, Joseph Ludwig who will concentrate on Queensland flood recovery. I'm joined by the Chief of the Defence Force, by my national security adviser and by the head of Emergency Management Australia.

And we have come to Queensland today to be in Brisbane to very visibly say that we are working with the people of Queensland shoulder to shoulder as they face this flood crisis.

Throughout the days of this flood crisis, the Australian Defence Force has done great work to support the people of Queensland. They have been out there each day as floodwaters have threatened. As the crisis has changed in its dimensions, we have stepped up Australian Defence Force efforts and we are taking a further step up today. We are bringing to bear an additional seven helicopters, that will mean that there are 15 helicopters available throughout Queensland and one of the biggest sources of work for those helicopters will be the very difficult, very urgent and occasionally heartbreaking task of search and rescue in the Lockyer Valley.

We are also ensuring that we have more C-130 aircraft available. These are the aircraft capable of carrying food and supplies in order to resupply parts of Queensland, townships in Queensland, that have become isolated and need food and supplies brought in by air.

We will continue to work with the people of Queensland through the Australian Defence Force. We have several hundred Australian Defence Force personnel on a notice ready to move, and during the course of the day more and more personnel will join the efforts in Brisbane to assist with tasks like sandbagging.

I understand that across Queensland and particularly in Ipswich and Brisbane today, there would be many frightened people anxious about what is going to happen next. To those people, I would say that the Australian Defence Force will be there providing support to the magnificent emergency personnel in Queensland, to be working with them, to support Queenslanders through this crisis.

And of course we know that there are many Australians who are waiting very anxiously for news of loved ones who haven't been located since the wall of water hit Toowoomba and moved through the Lockyer Valley. That's why such a priority is being put on making helicopters available for the search and rescue task

At the same time, we will continue to support the people of Queensland with emergency payments and, of course, at the appropriate time, when flood waters enable people to go back to their homes, with grants to assist with recovery and rebuilding for families, for small businesses and primary producers.

But my task today is to give some information to those who might be leaving their homes now, who are evacuating now, and who need emergency assistance. This is the first initial payment available with later payments down the track when people are in recovery mode.

In South-East Queensland today, Centrelink offices are not staffed. Just like other major employers, the Commonwealth has enabled Centrelink staff, many of whom live in flood-affected areas themselves in Brisbane and Ipswich, to make appropriate arrangements for themselves and their family and to make sure they are not moving through streets and causing the kind of traffic and issues that the Premier referred to.

Therefore, the best way of people getting Centrelink assistance today is to ring 180 22 66 in order to access emergency payments and support. We will also be having people in recovery centres, for example, there are Centrelink staff in the recovery centre in Ipswich.

1,000 Centrelink staff are focusing on Queensland flood efforts and making sure that they are getting appropriate information to the people of Queensland. The system is working well, we have made around 10,000 emergency payments, that's \$17 million that has got into people's pockets as the first initial payment to help people through and, as I say, there are later payments when people are looking to replace household contents, going back to their small business or their farm, engaging in clean-up and rebuilding.

I also want to alert people to the fact there are income support arrangements. There will obviously be people who cannot go about their ordinary work, employees who can't reach work, small business operators whose businesses are flooded and cannot be operated, primary producers who cannot get their goods to market. As I announced on Monday, there are special income support payments available for people in those circumstances and once again, they should access that 180 22 66 number.

Premier, can I say to you and through you to the people of Queensland, Queensland has already faced some dark days and there are dark days still ahead but Australia is standing with you, working with Queensland to help Queensland through this crisis and we will be there shoulder to shoulder not only for the days ahead but for the many months of recovery and rebuilding to come.

And Premier through you, can I also say a very big thanks to all of the emergency services personnel, to all of the volunteers, to all of the people in local communities, the local mayors, the local councillors who are doing such a good job to lead their communities during a very difficult period and difficult time. I've seen firsthand today at the committee meeting I've just attended, the professionalism and determination of the emergency services personnel of Queensland. It really is very heart warming to see it and my thanks go to everyone who is making a contribution.

**JOURNALIST:** Premier in Brisbane and Ipswich in particular, what are the worst affected areas at the moment?



In the Brisbane area the areas that we've started to see the first flooding are in the Jindalee reach of the river, in the Milton and Toowong areas and in the South Brisbane and Yeronga reach of the river, but this is rapidly changing. You can expect to see more and more suburbs join that list very quickly over the next couple of hours, and I'm sorry I can't give you a similar list for Ipswich but I can say in Ipswich we have 1,500 homes, so very significant sections of Ipswich, we're still getting final reports in from them. Can I just say that people in Ipswich last night really saw the water come up quite dramatically and there's more to come and that is what is what people in Brisbane will experience over the next 24 to 48 hours.

**JOURNALIST:** Can you confirm reports that there's been any looting in Ipswich and whether anyone has been forcibly evacuated (inaudible)

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER STEWART:** Certainly we've dealt with a couple of instance of stealing in the Ipswich and another area in Gatton and Lockyer Valleys. We're following up on those but police have responded to those.

**PREMIER:** Sorry I should say, I understand there was one incident where police powers were used last night to protect the safety of one individual.

**JOURNALIST:** How long are you expecting the water levels to stick around Brisbane?  
The current advice is that the water levels, once they peak at about 4am tomorrow could last at around that level at least until Saturday before they start going down. But there will be many people for whom it doesn't go down enough for them to either access their home or their street for more days after that. So as these rise reasonably quickly, they will move on but it will take several days. That's why it's important not to be travelling around at the moment. If you decide to go off to the shops or to your workplace unnecessarily, you may find yourself there for many days. The best place to be at the moment is at home.

**JOURNALIST:** The Commissioner earlier said earlier there were a couple of families stranded on rooftops out at Lowood and there was an emergency rescue operation happening out there. Is there any update on that?

**PREMIER:** We have successfully rescued 8 people from roof tops in the Lowood area, I understand that involved a couple of families. A number of people off I think two or three roofs. So there was rapid rising water in Lowood last night around 3am and people got to safety on rooftops; early morning rescues have seen all of those people rescued safely.

I might just give one update because I've had a number of inquiries and my office has had a number of people ringing in. I think the heart of many Australians were very touched and concerned by images on Monday night of a family sitting on top of a white car and the car appeared to be sinking in the Toowoomba incident. I can advise that involved a mother and a father and a child. The mother and child have been located and are safe. The father is unfortunately one of those on the missing person list. So for all of those people who have been particularly concerned about that family, that was heartrending images and a great feeling of helplessness I think for everybody who saw it. I'm very relieved that the mother and child are safe, but as I said we are still searching for the father in that case.

**JOURNALIST:** Prime Minister what else are you going to be doing today, and are you staying up here indefinitely?

**PRIME MINISTER:** Look I will be staying in Brisbane for a period of time. Today I am intending to be briefed by our Commander Luke Foster, who is commanding Queensland Operation Flood Assist for us. I will travel to Enoggera in order to talk to him and meet directly with Defence Force personnel. Obviously I would like to get out and about too, meeting the people of Queensland and talking to them as they deal with this flood situation. In terms of where that is possible, obviously we'll be working with Queensland and taking the necessary advice. To echo what the Premier is



saying, obviously none of us want to distract from emergency efforts that are underway now, but I do want to be our speaking to people on the ground. I found in the visiting that I've done so far in Queensland that you always learn something from talking to people and their direct experience and then I can feed it back in to make sure that our government systems are responding directly to their needs.

**JOURNALIST:** (inaudible) commit to flood mitigation funding for Queensland, perhaps an expansion of the Wivenhoe Dam, which obviously isn't quite big enough, and perhaps the Bureau of Meteorology who said yesterday that they're not up to scratch to identify what –

**PREMIER:** Can I just comment on that because I was at that press conference, that is not what the Bureau of Meteorology said. What the Bureau of Meteorology said was that currently available technology is not capable of resolution to the degree that would enable an event like that to have been pin pointed. So I think it's very important to understand, our Bureau of Meteorology has world class, most cutting edge equipment, but the technology available, science is not quite at that stage yet. Science may well get there and protect us better in future, but it's not there yet.

**JOURNALIST:** Have you had an opportunity yet to sit back just for a moment and sort of cut yourself away from all the briefings that you get? Your electorate is going to be severely impacted here, maybe even your home, have you had a chance to sit back and feel the emotion of what your residents and friends are probably going to be feeling?

**PREMIER:** Along with many other people in Queensland my family is not immune to these experiences. My mother's house is in one of the low lying streets of West End, my brother and my sons evacuated her yesterday, she's now at my house and I'm very happy about that. So that's certainly a peace of mind for me and it's a reminder to me that there are thousands of other people going through exactly that experience.

My constituents will be severely impacted; the suburbs of East Brisbane, Norman Park, South Brisbane will all be flooded. We also have parts of Brisbane that weren't, that look completely different than they did in 1974, Southbank did not exist, we will have major areas of the city flooding in ways that we will find hard to predict and experience. So I can honestly to people, I do know what it's like to be out there worrying about your own family. This is a frightening time, but if we're all calm, if we all stick together, if we all reach out to each other, then I am absolutely confident that together with our emergency personnel and the army that we will prevail in this event.

**JOURNALIST:** There are reports that there are several children stuck in a child care centre out at Withcott and a couple of babies are there. Emergency Service hasn't got any closer to rescuing those children?

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER STEWART:** No, certainly there is no flood activity in the Withcott area at the moment. I think what you're referring to –

**JOURNALIST:** Are the roads cut off?

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER STEWART:** Certainly that is the case, the roads system out in the Lockyer Valley is tenuous to say the least and we're doing everything we can to address all of the calls for assistance we have.

**JOURNALIST:** Are there any emergency rescue operations currently underway that you can detail, like people standing on the roofs in Lowood, is there anything that you can explain to us now?

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER STEWART:** Certainly there are situations that are situations happening right now in the Ipswich and Brisbane areas. I don't have particulars of those, but I do know that we're responding to multiple calls for assistance, as are all emergency service personnel.

**JOURNALIST:** Premier, you've told people to think about moving very early, but there's always going to be people that just simply won't until the water starts coming up in their homes. What's your advice to them, just to leave behind and get yourself out, forget about all those possessions?

**PREMIER:** Without any double, we need to put human life first and there is every possibility that people will have very little time if they don't make early preparation. If you start to see water in your yard, get out, take your family and get to safety. This water could rise very, very quickly. We will have additional flood boats out and about rescuing people and getting people to safety. We have additional personnel arriving from other States today. But we need to make sure that we're working with them. We shouldn't be deliberately testing them, we should be doing everything in our own power to protect ourselves and leaving our emergency people to deal with the absolute extreme cases.

**JOURNALIST:** You said the Island may break away, can you also confirm reports that the Oxley's restaurant may sink and also the Wesley Hospital may need to be evacuated.

**PREMIER:** Yes I can confirm Oxley's wharf restaurant is likely to sink some time likely to sink today. Salvage efforts were being made yesterday, but in the interest of safety those efforts have now stopped and it is nothing further can be done for that restaurant. And it is likely - it is however moored to the banks of the river with very strong steel cables.

What is happening is those cables are pulling the restaurant down into the river. So it is very likely we will see that restaurant sink into the river sometime today or overnight.

But it is on to the river bank and my understanding is it is likely to stay there. So the restaurant will be lost but we don't expect to see it break but we will be monitoring that very carefully. In relation to the Wesley Hospital, there is no expectation that the Wesley Hospital will experience flooding, obviously because it's on quite a high hill.

Current work is being done just to ensure that the flooding is not likely to isolate that hospital. Obviously hospitals need to be places where we can get supplies and doctors in and out of and medical staff easily. So there is some work being done at the moment just to guarantee that we can continue to get road links into the Wesley Hospital in every possible scenario.

It's not possible to entirely rule out some evacuation of critical patients but that would be an absolute last resort, frankly because obviously that would have its own risks for those. So that is an unlikely but remote possibility.

**JOURNALIST:** Can you say what damage may be caused if the Island does break away from where it's situated at the moment?

**DEPUTY COMMANDER STEWART:** Certainly the options that are open to us is to allow the Island to sink actually and that is not a bad option as long as it stays in place and obviously the maritime experts are looking at and that's exactly the same with the Oxley Wharf restaurant. It is actually safer to have it in place sunk and to be able to repatriate it later.

**JOURNALIST:** There were reports that Suncorp Stadium might be on fire after a transformer shorted out. Do you know anything about that?

**DEPUTY COMMANDER STEWART:** No, I can comment on that, I have no knowledge yet.

**PREMIER:** Sorry, the one other issue I meant to raise which I think is important is I think understands that electricity and water do not mix and Energex will systemically throughout this event be having to shut down power in some parts of the city. They will only do to protect your lives, but it will cause inconvenience and it will make a difficult job of enduring this event more difficult.

And I understand that that is going to try people's patience, but you will only have your power disconnected if it is imperative to save your life and to protect you and your property from what might otherwise be catastrophic electrical events.

So you will be advised by Energex, Energex will be doing updates about areas of the city that will be cut off from electricity and obviously as soon as waters subside they will be reconnected as quickly as possible.

Many part of the CBD are being disconnected today, these are large buildings and they have substations in them, small substations generally in a lot of those large high rise CBD buildings and some of those substations located in basements will flood today and flood quickly and we need to disconnect that power so that means the whole buildings will be without power, so again, people should going to work without checking and going into the city because many of those buildings will be shut down.

**JOURNALIST:** Premier, the weather is so unpredictable, what are your plans for the rest of the day, are you based here or are you planning to be out and about?

**PREMIER:** It's important, I think, for myself and our senior emergency people to be based here at Disaster Co-ordination Centre and be monitoring events, not only here in Brisbane, but across a very large area region of Queensland. As you heard from my earlier report, as massive as the event in Brisbane may be, we have equally significant events in places throughout regional Queensland, escalating situations in Chinchilla, in Texas, in, in Goondiwindi, so we will be monitoring those today as well.

Like the Prime Minister I will be looking for the first reasonable and available opportunity to be out talking to people who have affected by this flood. But I think Queenslanders want make sure that the person in charge is in charge today that's where I intend to be.

**JOURNALIST:** Are there any plans to plans to open any more evacuation centres around Brisbane?

**PREMIER:** The Lord Mayor advises me that the two mayor evacuation centres for Brisbane will be the RNA Showgrounds and the QE2 Stadium, but he is equally now working as I speak with a number of major churches in around the Brisbane area, all of whom have facilities such as halls, in local communities often ground where smaller evacuation facilities may be set up, so that process is happening now.

I should say that happened spontaneous overnight in Ipswich. There are official evacuation centres in Ipswich but spontaneously local communities have got together, opened up a local church hall, took their sleeping bags down and kept everybody safe, so I thank them for their, for showing a bit in ingenuity there and that's made a big difference to the effort in Ipswich

**JOURNALIST:** Premier, can I just ask, the staff that are coming forward today are they volunteering to help out or are you asking them to and this isn't their primary role as the defence of nation, so how are they responding to going out and helping people?



**CDF HOUSTON:** Our people are always very very pleased to assist in any disaster response situation, particularly when there's a major emergency such as this. We obviously have permanent people, we also have a large number of reservists who will be involved and as we go forward you will see more and more soldiers out there doing the hard yards and they give their work very willingly, they see it as a very important part of their function as a member of the Defence Force. And I must say I am very very proud of everything they've done thus far and we will be there for the long haul and we will assist as much as we can in the days and weeks ahead. Thank you.

**PREMIER:** Can I also, Angus Houston's comments that the Prime Minister and I were in Theodore the other day with Major General Mick Slater. Mick Slater and I were talking to a number of Defence personnel who were there and he asked them to put up their hand if they were on leave and every hand went up: So these were people who were otherwise on leave and they had come back off leave and were there willingly and very enthusiastically helping in Theodore.

Can I just add that while we are managing an immediate emergency response in a number of places here in South East and the South West, we know there are number of towns who are now over their flood experience and moving very much into the recovery and rebuilding phase. Can I say to all of those towns, Major General Mick Slater and his duties remain with his focus on them. So as Brisbane experiences this, the recovery and rebuilding process, under the leadership of Major General Mick Slater, continues full steam ahead. So we are not delaying that or being diverted by these events in Brisbane. Mick Slater has been already this week out in places like Bundaberg and Emerald and will continue to do so.

The rebuilding effort is happening alongside the emergency effort here in the South East. So to regional Queensland, nothing is being delayed because of these events here in Brisbane. We are looking continuously to rebuild regional Queensland as soon as humanly possible.

**JOURNALIST:** Prime Minister, what assistance will be the Government give for flood mitigation and preventing this sort of disaster happening again?

**PRIME MINISTER:** Well our assistance obviously flows in various stages as the flood hits people and then we move into the recovery stage. Under our Natural Disaster Relief arrangements, what we do, firstly, we provide the emergency payments that I've referred to, then we provide assistance to households, to small businesses, to primary producers, households to deal with the loss of household content and effects, small businesses and primary producers to provide clean-up money and then concessional loans so they can get back on their feet.

Apart from that we've triggered the income support arrangements that I spoke about earlier. And then we move of course to dealing with the infrastructure damage that flood waters have done. We aren't in a position for all parts of Queensland to assess that yet.

We can start doing assessments as flood waters subside and we can see what's happened to roads, to bridges, to essential community infrastructure.

Under our arrangements we can move to better what was there before, they are not simply replacement arrangements, we can provide better than was there before. So for example if we were rebuilding a levee, then there might be a need to make that at a better state in order to resist flood waters.

But all of those assessment are going to have to be done as flood waters subside. It's going to be a major major task, assessing that infrastructure and recovery need. I am pleased that we were able to make Mick Slater available to lead the recovery work here of course, a very senior and distinguished member of our Australian Defence Force.



We will continue as we move to that phase of infrastructure rebuilding to be working in partnership with the Queensland Government and with local government so that we can get the infrastructure back up and in appropriate state for the people of Queensland. That's why I say the task of Federal Government is to stand shoulder to shoulder in these difficult days.

But also for the many many months of recovery and rebuilding to come.

**JOURNALIST:** Premier, will you be expanding Wivenhoe Dam and do you require Federal assistance for that?

**PREMIER:** I think it would be helpful for me to give you some information to understand the enormity of what is on our back door step by way of water. In 1974, when there was no dam and no dam wall, the inflowing into that catchment area and down the Brisbane River were about 1.5 million litres of water. What is now coming through dam is 2.5 million litres of water. Obviously at the end of this event we will do a significant review of Wivenhoe capacity, but I think we need to be realistic about whether any dam could hold back all of 2.5 million litres of water.

What we do know is that dam wall was not there, 2.5 million litres would be coming through Brisbane. So we already have a very significant mitigation effect for this event from the Wivenhoe dam. We will be looking to assess the capability and performance of the Wivenhoe Dam after this event. We will similarly be looking at sensible, practical flood mitigation across the State.

But I should make point that a number of the river systems that have flooded here in Queensland already have large dams on those rivers. The Emerald flood, for example, the Fairbairn dam is on the system. In the Burnett, the Paradise Dam is there, it was built in 2005. Here in Brisbane, the Wivenhoe Dam and two on the system that went into the St George area.

So there are dams on these river systems. Dams do floods. Dams can help mitigate and minimise some of the impact that might have happened without them. But a dam cannot stop the sort of flood that is coming across the plains the Lockyer Valley and the catchment area into the Wivenhoe system.

**JOURNALIST:** Premier, apologies if you've already answered this question, but last week there was an estimate of around 200,000 people affected by this flood crisis. Now it's obviously affecting both the south-west and south-east, do you have an update on the numbers? Would it be close to 1 million do you think?

**PREMIER:** Clearly we'll have to do updates and I'm sorry I don't have that figure just yet, we've still got unfolding circumstances. But in Brisbane for example the current modelling predicts 19,700 homes affected. If you took an average of three people in each house, that's directly affected with their properties completely flooded, you're starting to get some very big numbers; similar sorts of 4,000 homes in Ipswich. But when we say affected we also have places where they don't have floodwaters but they are completely cut off. They have not been able to leave the town in some cases now for two and a half weeks and we've been flying supplies, medical supplies and food into them. So these floods have an effect whether they're in your backyard coming through your floorboards or whether you are just isolated and unable to leave your town.

So we will certainly be looking at updating those numbers but the other point I would make is that all of the modelling made earlier, the city of Brisbane and the city of Ipswich are just vastly different than they were in 1974. The city of Brisbane is a major capital, home to more than a million people in the direct area, so there is going to be a very big effect.

**JOURNALIST:** Premier it's only early but is the water responding to those computer models that the projections are based on? Is it doing exactly what the computer thought it would?

**PREMIER:** To date the predictions are proving to be very accurate, particularly about river levels. The hydrologists predicted that Ipswich would get to somewhere between 18 and 19 metres around midnight last night, it got to about 17.5 and by 4am this morning it was 18.9, and so within a couple of hours they're very high levels of precision.

In terms of where the flood water is going, the early flood water seems to be going according to prediction but we really have to see I think this afternoon as it starts to increase the pace at which it moves. And if you're never anywhere any of the coloured lines on those maps, even if you're not directly in that area, you should be ready to take precautions and be ready to move if you need to.

**JOURNALIST:** There's been examples of panic buying, does that sort of concern you when so much of the rescue response is so well organised with evacuation centres being set up? And secondly when you have so many organisations and people pitching in a working together, how do you react when you hear reports of looting?

**PREMIER:** Look the people of Brisbane and Ipswich have had a relatively short amount of time to prepare for this event and if they've gone out and stocked up their homes with groceries then that was exactly the right thing to. The last thing we want is supermarkets full of food and people completely isolated without food and unable to access it. So for many people going out yesterday and stocking up their food supplies, getting their prescriptions filled et cetera was a very prudent preparation to make.

So I would necessarily assume that because supermarket shelves are empty that people have been irresponsible or panic buying. It is appropriate in these events, shops are likely to be closed for many days. People may not have floodwater in their own homes but may be cut off from getting out of their neighbourhood and getting to supplies.

So if people have got enough supplies in their home then we don't need to use emergency resources and send the SES or other people in by flood boat to supply them. So it's actually smart thinking and as I said I am happy if there's empty supermarket shelves, it means right now that people have grocery supplies in their homes.

In relation to looting, look I don't think there's any word bad enough for the people who do these sorts of things. These people are out of their home in the most dire of circumstances. They've had to flee in the middle of the night. They've had little to take with them and whatever is left in their homes I want that there when they get home. So anybody who sees any of this sort of activity, please report to it the police. Police are out and about patrolling and they will be in the days to come to prevent this sort of activity. I think the entire community reacts with disgust when we see people take advantage of those people who are suffering this event.

**JOURNALIST:** Premier we've heard about the possible outbreak of disease following these floods. Has preparation been put into place for this?

**PREMIER:** Across Queensland we've had a very major supply operation over the last week of additional Tetanus shots, Hepatitis B and supplies of mosquito repellent because obviously in some parts we're worried about mosquito borne diseases.

So these supplies have been out there, doctors and health centres and clinics have been ensuring that people who are involved in the clean-up are assisted to know what they should be doing; obviously it's things like rubber gloves as well.

I should say that as the clean-up starts people should going into muddy, wet areas in thongs, it can mean you're going to be standing on glass and metal and often it's those cuts after a flood that make people more at risk of serious infection.

To date while we have seen some of those sorts of incidents they've been relatively minor, we haven't seen any large scale public health issues. So the one other message that I did want to get out and if you guys can help that would be great.

It seems completely ridiculous that I would be saying to people in this circumstance that we should conserve water. We have massive amounts of water flowing past our doorsteps, however it is possible that our water treatment plants could be affected by this flood and we may see some issues around drinking water in days to come. So people should be conserving water so that those water treatment plants that are working can continue to supply the volumes that we need. Those people who can get bottled in we will be able to get supplies of bottled water through the ADF.

So it's not any reason to panic, but now's not time, as crazy as it sounds, now is not a time to be wasting water because we don't quite know what might happen with our water supply as water treatment plants become affected. We have more than one water treatment plant in Brisbane, they won't all be affected, but we might have a limiting of supply in the days after. So please don't go drawing on that water supply any more than you need to, as strange as that might seem.

**PRIME MINISTER:** Can I, just to add two factual things just prompted by the various questions. The Federal Government has triggered our health incident centre so that will obviously work alongside Queensland on any necessary public health response. And as the Premier said lots of people did go and stock up the groceries yesterday, that meant a lot of people were therefore using ATMs, and there have been reports of ATMs that are out of cash.

We're aware of those reports and the Reserve Bank will be working with our banking system with obviously the individual banks to ensure that there are cash supplies, but it is possible that people could go to a location today where they normally go to access cash and find that the ATM doesn't have cash for them, and if they needed to access cash then obviously they may have to look at another ATM to do that. But the Reserve Bank will be working with our banks on ensuring that cash supply is maintained.

BLIGH: Ok folks, thank you very much. We will do another 2 hourly update at 11:30am in this room.

Thank you.

**ENDS]**

---

IMPORTANT: This message, and any attachments to it, contains information that is confidential and may also be the subject of legal professional or other privilege. If you are not the intended recipient of this message, you must not review, copy, disseminate or disclose its contents to any other party or take action in reliance of any material contained within it. If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender immediately by return email informing them of the mistake and delete all copies of the message from your computer system.

---



**Anna Bligh**

---

**From:** Ken Smith [Ken.Smith [REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Monday, 10 January 2011 5:44 AM  
**To:** Anna Bligh; Nicole Scurrah; Stephen Beckett; Kimberley Gardiner  
**Subject:** Fw: Updated Wivenhoe Dam release strategy  
**Attachments:** Technical Situation Report W34.docx

Further to my text last night, please see below details of increased releases from Wivenhoe as a result of recent rain in the south east. Note that since this email last night Fernvale bridge and Mt Crosby weir have been inundated. This will impact on access for the communities in the Brisbane Valley.

Will provide more information as it becomes available.

---

**From:** Dan Spiller <Daniel.Spiller [REDACTED]>  
**To:** stephen.robertson [REDACTED] <stephen.robertson [REDACTED]>; Ken Smith; Lance McCallum (lance.mccallum [REDACTED]) <lance.mccallum [REDACTED]>; Tim Watts (tim.watts [REDACTED]) <tim.watts [REDACTED]>; Geoff Stead (geoff.stead [REDACTED]) <geoff.stead [REDACTED]>; lauren.sims [REDACTED] <lauren.sims [REDACTED]>; Debbie Best (debbie.best [REDACTED]) <debbie.best [REDACTED]>; Martin.PeterJ [REDACTED] <Martin.PeterJ [REDACTED]>; Dunn.KerryG [REDACTED] <Dunn.KerryG [REDACTED]>  
**Cc:** 'Rob Drury' <rdrury [REDACTED]>; pbird [REDACTED] <pbird [REDACTED]>; 'sstevenson [REDACTED]' <sstevenson [REDACTED]>; SEQWGM Media <media [REDACTED]>; Scott Denner <Scott.Denner [REDACTED]>; Madgwick.DarrenT [REDACTED] <Madgwick.DarrenT [REDACTED]>; Damien Brown (damien.brown [REDACTED]) <damien.brown [REDACTED]>; bob.reilly [REDACTED] <bob.reilly [REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sun Jan 09 23:06:36 2011  
**Subject:** Updated Wivenhoe Dam release strategy

All,

Latest advice from the Flood Control Centre attached.

There has been 100 to 300mm of rainfall in the Wivenhoe and Somerset dam catchments over the past 24 hours. Rainfall of similar magnitudes is expected over the next 12 to 24 hours.

At this time, including forecast rainfall, total inflows will exceed 1,000,000 ML and may approach 1,500,000 ML - in the order of the 1974 flood volume.

To date, the primary objective for this event has been managing to prevent inundation of the Mt Crosby Weir and Fernvale Bridges.

With the forecast volumes, this primary objective is being changed to minimizing the risk of urban inundation. This involves larger releases now, minimizing the risk of even larger releases later (were the flood compartment to reach high levels).

Urban inundation in the City reaches generally commences at total river flows of about 3,500 cubic metres per second (dam releases plus Lockyer and Bremer). At this time, and depending upon overnight rainfall, the Flood Control Centre is proposing to increase releases from around 1,200 to 2,500 cubic metres per second from midday tomorrow. This provides an allowance for other flows.

The Mt Crosby Weir and Fernvale bridges will certainly be inundated - isolating or inconveniencing many Brisbane Valley residents. The timing will depend largely on local flows, with the river having recently increased to be about one foot below the deck. Seqwater is preparing the bridge to be inundated, and may need to close it tonight. However, other flows permitting, we will delay inundating the bridge until tomorrow night - providing notice for impacted residents.



Actions to date:

- Notified Councils (up to the CEO level at BCC)
- Notified Police (Assistant Commissioner)
- Increasing treated water storage and preparing treatment plants, should there again be increased turbidity levels or other operational issues.

A media advice is being prepared now, for review and issue by 7am. The advice will address the closure of the bridges, with the intent of providing as much notice as possible to impacted residents (if not already closed). Impacts on the City reaches will be addressed following further consultation with Council (with there being a 20+ hour transit time).

It is important to note that the dams are managing impacts by delaying and reducing releases. For comparison, peak flows into the dam are forecast to reach up to 7,500 cubic metres per second - excluding any downstream flows.

Please call me on [REDACTED] if you require any further information.

Regards,  
Daniel Spiller

---

This email, together with any attachments, is intended for the named recipient(s) only; and may contain privileged and confidential information. You understand that any privilege or confidentiality attached to this message is not waived, lost or destroyed because you have received this message in error. If received in error, you are asked to inform the sender as quickly as possible and delete this email and any copies of this from your computer system network. If not an intended recipient of this email, you must not copy, distribute or take any action(s) that relies on it; any form of disclosure, modification, distribution and/or publication of this email is also prohibited. While all care has been taken, the SEQ Water Grid Manager disclaims all liability for loss or damage to person or property arising from this message being infected by a computer virus or other contamination. Unless stated otherwise, this email represents only the views of the sender and not the views of the SEQ Water Grid Manager and/or the Queensland Government.

---

-----  
This email is intended only for the addressee. Its use is limited to that intended by the author at the time and it is not to be distributed without the author's consent.

Unless otherwise stated, the State of Queensland accepts no liability for the contents of this email except where subsequently confirmed in writing. The opinions expressed in this email are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of the State of Queensland. This email is confidential and may be subject to a claim of legal privilege.

If you have received this email in error, please notify the author and delete this message immediately.

---

## TECHNICAL SITUATION REPORT

<b>TSR Number</b>	<b>W34</b>	<b>Date of TSR release</b>	<b>9.1.2011</b>	<b>Time of TSR release</b>	<b>9.00pm</b>
-------------------	------------	----------------------------	-----------------	----------------------------	---------------

### Seqwater status of inflows and dam operations

*Current status but could change based on inflows or rainfall.*

<b>Current objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue current releases however event is increasing in magnitude and will require increased releases.</li> </ul>										
<b>Strategy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue the current releases until tomorrow noon when releases will be increased to impact Mt Crosby and Fernvale Bridges.</li> </ul>										
<b>Key considerations</b>	<table> <tr> <td>Storage levels:</td><td>Above FSL</td></tr> <tr> <td>Inflows:</td><td>Inflows may approach 1,500,000ML which is close to 1974 event.</td></tr> <tr> <td>Rainfall:</td><td>Continuing</td></tr> <tr> <td>Lockyer/Bremer:</td><td>Monitoring their inflows</td></tr> <tr> <td>Brisbane River:</td><td>Impact as below.</td></tr> </table>	Storage levels:	Above FSL	Inflows:	Inflows may approach 1,500,000ML which is close to 1974 event.	Rainfall:	Continuing	Lockyer/Bremer:	Monitoring their inflows	Brisbane River:	Impact as below.
Storage levels:	Above FSL										
Inflows:	Inflows may approach 1,500,000ML which is close to 1974 event.										
Rainfall:	Continuing										
Lockyer/Bremer:	Monitoring their inflows										
Brisbane River:	Impact as below.										

### Rainfall

Very heavy rainfall has been recorded in the upper reaches of the Brisbane and Stanley in the last 6 hours with totals up 100 to 140mm. Totals for the last 24 hours range from 100 to 300mm.

Rainfall of similar magnitudes is expected in the 12 to 24 hours, especially around the Bremer/Warrill catchments as the system tracks south.

A severe weather warning remains current for heavy rainfall in the dam catchment areas.

### Somerset Dam (Full Supply Level 99.00 m AHD)

The dam level is 101.68 m AHD (about 500,000ML currently in storage) and rising quickly. Peak inflow to the dam is estimated to be about 4,000 m<sup>3</sup>/s based on observed rainfall and could be as high as 5,000m<sup>3</sup>/s with additional forecast rainfall. Five sluice gates are open releasing about 1,100m<sup>3</sup>/s (95,000ML/d) into Wivenhoe Dam. At this stage the dam will reach at least 103.5 early Tuesday morning which will adversely impact areas around Kilcoy.

Since the commencement of the event on 02/01/2011 approximately 100,000ML has been released from the dam into Wivenhoe, with an event total of the order of 520,000ML expected. This may increase due to the forecast rain in the next 24 to 48 hours. At this stage, releases will continue until at least Thursday.

### Wivenhoe Dam (Full Supply Level 67.00 m AHD)

River levels upstream of the dam are rising quickly with significant inflow being generated from the intense heavy rainfall. Flows in the Brisbane River at Gregor's Ck have already reached 6,700m<sup>3</sup>/s and the river is still rising.



The dam level is rising again, with the current level being 69.10m AHD (1,410,000ML with about 300,00 of flood storage). Estimated peak inflow to the dam just from the Upper Brisbane R alone may reach as high as 7,500m<sup>3</sup>/s and, at this stage, the dam will reach at least 73.0 m AHD during Tuesday morning. Given the rapid increase in inflow volumes, it will be necessary to increase the release from Wivenhoe Monday morning.

The objective for dam operations will be to minimise the impact of urban flooding in areas downstream of the dam and, at this stage, releases will be kept below 3,500m<sup>3</sup>/s and the combined flows in the lower Brisbane will be limited to 4,000m<sup>3</sup>/s. This is below the limit of urban damages in the City reaches.

The current release rate from Wivenhoe Dam is 1,400m<sup>3</sup>/s (120,000ML/day). Gate opening will start to be increased from noon Monday and the release is expected increase to at least 2,600m<sup>3</sup>/s during Tuesday morning.

Since the commencement of the event on 02/01/2011 approximately 220,000ML has been released from the dam, with an event total approaching 1,000,000ML without further rain and as much as 1,500,000ML with forecast rainfall of (both including Somerset outflow). At this stage, releases will continue until at least Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2011.

#### Impacts downstream of Wivenhoe Dam

The projected Wivenhoe Dam releases combined with Lockyer flows and local runoff will mean that all crossings downstream of Wivenhoe (Twin Bridges, Fernvale, Savages Crossing, Burtons Bridge, Kholo Bridge, Mt Crosby Weir and Colleges Crossing) will be adversely impacted until at least Saturday 15 January in varying degrees.

Water levels in the lower Brisbane R will be impacted by the combined flows of Lockyer Ck, Bremer River, local runoff and releases from Wivenhoe Dam.

Somerset Regional, Ipswich City and Brisbane City Councils have been advised of the updated Wivenhoe operating strategy.

Seqwater Technical Officer name	Robert Drury
Seqwater Technical Officer position title	Dam Operations Manager

#### BoM assessment

*(consisting of references to latest Flood Warning for the Brisbane River and other relevant Bureau forecasts and warnings (e.g. weather/rain forecasts, Tropical Cyclone Warning etc) and other updates/comments if needed)*

BoM has been advised.

BoM Technical Officer name	Peter Baddiley
BoM Technical Officer position title	
BoM Technical Officer contact details	flood.qld@ [REDACTED]

### Brisbane City Council (BCC) assessment

*(to include predicted local inundation areas and depths of inundation based on the information)*

Council has been advised of the current status.

BCC Technical Officer name	Chris Lavin
BCC Technical Officer position title	Disaster Operations Manager
BCC Technical Officer contact details	

### Ipswich City Council (ICC) assessment (if required)

*(to include predicted local inundation areas and depths of inundation based on the information)*

Council has been advised of the current status.

ICC Technical Officer name	Tony Trace
ICC Technical Officer position title	Local Disaster Response Coordinator
ICC Technical Officer contact details	

### Somerset Regional Council (SRC) assessment (if required)

*(to include predicted local inundation areas and depths of inundation based on the information)*

Council has been advised of the current status.

SRC Technical Officer name	Tony Jacobs
SRC Technical Officer position title	Local Disaster Response Coordinator
SRC Technical Officer contact details	

### Collated and distributed by (Agency)

Contact Officer signature	
Contact Officer name	Rob Drury
Contact Officer position title	Dam Operations Manager

Next TSR due	Date	10.1.2011	Time		or Event	Change in strategy
--------------	------	-----------	------	--	----------	--------------------



## TECHNICAL SITUATION REPORT

<b>TSR Number</b>	<b>W36</b>	<b>Date of TSR release</b>	10.1.2011	<b>Time of TSR release</b>	8am
-------------------	------------	----------------------------	-----------	----------------------------	-----

### Seqwater status of inflows and dam operations

*Current status but could change based on inflows or rainfall.*

<b>Current objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue increasing releases to discharge flood waters but keep impact downstream to minimum.</li> </ul>
<b>Strategy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All bridges are now inundated .</li> </ul>
<b>Key considerations</b>	<div>Storage levels:     Above FSL</div> <hr/> <div>Inflows:                Inflows expected around 1,500,000ML which is close to 1974 event.</div> <hr/> <div>Rainfall:                Continuing</div> <hr/> <div>Lockyer/Bremer:       Monitoring their inflows</div> <hr/> <div>Brisbane River:        Impact as below.</div>

### Rainfall

Moderate to heavy rainfall has been recorded in the Upper Brisbane and Stanley Rivers in the last 12 hours with totals up to 90 mm. Totals for the last 24 hours range from 100 to 325mm.

Mt Glorious recorded 100 mm in the last 12 hours.

Rainfall of similar magnitudes is expected in the 12 to 24 hours around the downstream catchments as the system tracks south.

A severe weather warning remains current for heavy rainfall in the dam catchment areas.

### North Pine Dam (Full Supply Level 39.60 m AHD)

The dam level was 39.97 m and steady. Five gates are open releasing 475 m<sup>3</sup>/s. The inflow into the dam since the commencement of the event is 52,000 ML. Estimated event volume is 72,000 ML assuming no further rainfall. Gate operations will continue until at least Tuesday 11 January 2011.

### Somerset Dam (Full Supply Level 99.00 m AHD)

The dam level at 05:00 was 102.84 m AHD and rising (storing 193,000 ML above FSL). Peak inflow to the dam is estimated to be about 4,200 m<sup>3</sup>/s based on observed rainfall and could be as high as 5,000m<sup>3</sup>/s with additional forecast rainfall. Five sluice gates are open releasing about 1,100m<sup>3</sup>/s (95,000ML/d) into Wivenhoe Dam. At this stage the dam lake level will reach about 103.5 m AHD on Monday afternoon. Areas around Kilcoy will continue to be adversely affected.

Since the commencement of the event on 02/01/2011 approximately 142,000ML has been released from the dam into Wivenhoe, with an event total of the order of 520,000ML expected. This is expected to increase due to the forecast rain in the next 24 to 48 hours. At this stage, releases will continue until at least Thursday.

### **Wivenhoe Dam (Full Supply Level 67.00 m AHD)**

River levels upstream of the dam have peaked and are falling slowly with significant inflow being generated from the intense heavy rainfall. Flows in the Brisbane River at Gregor's Ck have peaked at 7,350m<sup>3</sup>/s at 23:00 on Sunday 9 January. This peak is bigger than January 1974 and February 1999 at this location.

The dam level is rising quickly, with the current level being 70.77m AHD (storing 450,000 ML). Estimated peak inflow to the dam just from the Upper Brisbane R is around 8,800m<sup>3</sup>/s and, at this stage, the dam will reach at least 73.3 m AHD during Tuesday morning. Given the rapid increase in inflow volumes, it was necessary to start to increase the release from Wivenhoe during Monday morning.

The objective for dam operations will be to minimise the impact of urban flooding in areas downstream of the dam and, at this stage, the aim is to keep combined flows in the lower Brisbane to 3,500m<sup>3</sup>/sec if possible. Consistent with the approved Operating Procedures, these target combined flows may need to be increased to 4,000m<sup>3</sup>/s, and potentially higher. In either case, this is significantly less than the current estimated combined pre-dam peak inflow of 12,000 m<sup>3</sup>/s.

Fernvale Bridge approaches and Mt Crosby Weir Bridge have been inundated and both bridges are now closed.

The current release rate from Wivenhoe Dam is around 2,000m<sup>3</sup>/s (172,000ML/day). Gate opening will continue to be increased during Monday and the release is expected to increase to at least 2,600m<sup>3</sup>/s in the next 12 to 24 hours and further depending on downstream flows..

Since the commencement of the event on 02/01/2011 approximately 275,000ML has been released from the dam, with an event total approaching 1,600,000ML without further rain and as much as 2,100,000ML with forecast rainfall of (both including Somerset outflow). At this stage, releases will continue until at least Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2011.

### **Impacts downstream of Wivenhoe Dam**

The projected Wivenhoe Dam releases combined with Lockyer flows and local runoff will mean that all crossings downstream of Wivenhoe (Twin Bridges, Fernvale, Savages Crossing, Burtons Bridge, Kholo Bridge, Mt Crosby Weir and Colleges Crossing) will be adversely impacted until at least Saturday 15 January in varying degrees.

Water levels in the lower Brisbane R will be impacted by the combined flows of Lockyer Ck, Bremer River, local runoff and releases from Wivenhoe Dam. If the predicted rainfall eventuates in the downstream tributary catchments the resultant combined flows in the lower Brisbane may exceed the threshold of damaging discharge in the urban areas within the next 24 to 48 hours. Currently the estimate peak flow in the lower Brisbane River will be the highest since Wivenhoe Dam was completed in 1984 but still well below flows the 1974 levels.

Somerset Regional, Ipswich City and Brisbane City Councils have been advised of the updated Wivenhoe operating strategy.

### **Outlook**

Heavy rainfall continues throughout South East Queensland and the situation could deteriorate rapidly over the next 24 hours. The flood operation centre will continue to monitor the situation and provide every six hours until the situation stabilizes.

**Seqwater Technical Officer name**

Robert Drury



Seqwater Technical Officer position title	Dam Operations Manager

### BoM assessment

*(consisting of references to latest Flood Warning for the Brisbane River and other relevant Bureau forecasts and warnings (e.g. weather/rain forecasts, Tropical Cyclone Warning etc) and other updates/comments if needed)*

BoM has been advised.

BoM Technical Officer name	Peter Baddiley
BoM Technical Officer position title	
BoM Technical Officer contact details	flood.qld@bom.gov.au

### Brisbane City Council (BCC) assessment

*(to include predicted local inundation areas and depths of inundation based on the information)*

Council has been advised of the current status.

BCC Technical Officer name	Chris Lavin
BCC Technical Officer position title	Disaster Operations Manager
BCC Technical Officer contact details	

### Ipswich City Council (ICC) assessment (if required)

*(to include predicted local inundation areas and depths of inundation based on the information)*

Council has been advised of the current status.

ICC Technical Officer name	Tony Trace
ICC Technical Officer position title	Local Disaster Response Coordinator
ICC Technical Officer contact details	

### Somerset Regional Council (SRC) assessment (if required)

*(to include predicted local inundation areas and depths of inundation based on the information)*

Council has been advised of the current status.

SRC Technical Officer name	Tony Jacobs
SRC Technical Officer position title	Local Disaster Response Coordinator

**SRC Technical Officer contact details**

Collated and distributed by (Agency)

Contact Officer signature	
Contact Officer name	Rob Drury
Contact Officer position title	Dam Operations Manager

<b>Next TSR due</b>	<b>Date</b>	11.1.2011	<b>Time</b>		<b>or Event</b>	Change in strategy
---------------------	-------------	-----------	-------------	--	-----------------	--------------------



**State Disaster Management Group  
Extraordinary Meeting Minutes  
10 am Friday 24 December 2010**

Liaison Room  
State Disaster Coordination Centre  
Level 2, Block E, Emergency Services Complex  
Corner of Kedron Park Road and Parks Road, Kedron

**Responsible  
Agency**

Chair

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed the following special guests

The Premier of Queensland, Premier Anna Bligh MP

Deputy Premier and Minister for Health, Paul Lucas MP

The Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services, Neil Roberts MP

Regional Director (Queensland) Bureau of Meteorology, Jim Davidson

The Chair welcomed the members of the SDMG (Director General Department of Education and Training via teleconference), their respective agency representatives

A quorum was achieved at this meeting through attendance by SDMG Members or appointed SDMG Member Deputies as follows:

SDMG Member – Department of the Premier and Cabinet - Ken Smith

SDMG Member – Department of Community Safety - Jim McGowan

SDMG Member – Department of Communities – Linda Apelt

SDMG Member – Department of Education and Training – Julie Grantham

SDMG Member Deputy – Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation – Trevor Van Dam

SDMG Member – Department of Environment and Resource Management – John Bradley

SDMG Member – Department of Infrastructure and Planning – Graeme Newton

SDMG Member – Department of Justice and Attorney General – Philip Reed

SDMG Member – Department of Public Works – Mal Grierson

SDMG Member – Department of Transport and Main Roads – David Stewart

SDMG Member – Emergency Management Queensland – Bruce Grady

SDMG Member – Local Government Association of Queensland – Greg Hallam

SDMG Member Deputy – Queensland Health, Acting Chief Health Officer Aaron Groves

SDMG Member – Queensland Police Service – Bob Atkinson

SDMG Member Deputy – Queensland Treasury – Walter Ivessa

## 2. Bureau of Meteorology Presentation

Mr Davidson provided a 15 minute PowerPoint presentation on the current weather situation and the 8 day outlook.

Mr Davidson answered questions from the SDMG group and was thanked for his presentation.

## 3. Situational Report

Assistant Director General, Emergency Management Queensland (EMQ), Mr Bruce Grady provided a brief update on the real time rain event arrangements and activities.

Mr Grady noted the cooperation between the Local Disaster Management Groups (LDMG's) and District Disaster Coordinators (DDC's) and on-going combined efforts of EMQ and Queensland Police Service (QPS) in the management of the current events.

It was noted that Christmas Day may be problematic with regards to the mobilisation of the State Emergency Services (SES) volunteers but some SES redundancy currently exists in the southern regions which is not expected to be impacted by the current rain events.

### Resolution:

The Chair requested that the Deputy Premier and the Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services have their email address placed on the Daily Situation Report Email Distribution List. In addition the chair provided SDMG members with the option of opting into receiving the 5am Daily Situation Report via email with those members wishing to be included to make their details available post meeting.

## 4. Agency Preparedness

- The Chair called for agency preparedness reports as follows:

Jim Davidson

EMQ

Completed post  
meeting by

SDMG  
Secretariat,

EMQ Mike  
Schapland

DPC Brad Smith

All Members



**Queensland Police Service –****Commissioner Bob Atkinson**

The Commissioner advised of the following:

- Department of Community Safety (DCS) and QPS continue to work together in the management of the current situations through the appropriate channels
- QPS Senior Executive have been meeting daily for the past week
- DDC's are operational
- Specialised Units and Police Air Wing are on standby
- The Disaster Management teams and Media Liaison Branch are working well together in the management of these activities and in preparation for future activity should it occur.
- Arrangements are in place to recall officers from leave should this be necessary.

**Comment:**

The Premier did raise the issue of longer term weather concerns and the possible impact on New Years Eve activities. This issue was noted by the Commissioner for inclusion in further event management considerations.

**Department of Transport and Main Roads –****Director General David Stewart**

The Director General advised of the following:

- The relevant officers within the department are meeting daily to discuss the issues surrounding the rain event
- The department and staff are at a high level of preparedness
- The department information website is being kept up to date with all relevant information (especially road closures)
- Road Tech crews are on standby in North Queensland
- The department is currently considering "load limiting" actions
- Rail and the rail network is being monitored
- Aviation (Sky Trans) and Maritime (Costal Shipping) assets have been contacted with regards to resupply requirements (if required)
- Maritime – all ports remain open with the Harbor Masters monitoring conditions
- An alert has been issued to recreational boaters expressing caution in light of the current weather conditions and forecast.

**Department of Community Safety –****Director General Jim McGowan**

The Director General advised of the following:

- The current level of disaster management preparedness is the best of many years
- 200 Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS) specialised members have been deployed and are in place in various identified locations including Airlie Beach, Proserpine, Bundaberg, Yeppoon, Ingham and Townsville

- Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) is at the standard level of preparation
- EMQ is assisting QPS where required

#### **Department of Environment and Resource Management –**

##### **Director General John Bradley**

The Director General advised of the following:

- The mines of greatest concern at the moment are those in the central region.
- Four minor incidents (discharges) are currently being monitored for environmental compliance
- Townsville refineries overflow storage is currently being observed
- One gate at Wivenhoe Dam is currently open and will close some time in the next 24 hrs.
- The current release rate is 350 cubic meters per second.
- Should the significant rain event occur and there is a requirement to release more water the current release rate could be increase by as much a 10 fold.
- Modelling into release rates and river levels is currently being investigated.
- A community based fact sheet has been developed (and is due for release soon) with information pertaining to the release of water from our dams – why it occurs and operations protocol behind a release.

##### **Comment:**

The Premier and the Chair noted the information contained in the draft fact sheet and highlighted that the information may be of great interest to the general public and consideration may wish to be afforded to contacting the newspapers for the inclusion of the fact sheet within a publication or advertisement.

The Director General noted these comments and the Chair advised that an electronic copy of the fact sheet would be disseminated to SDMG members post meeting.

#### **Department of Education and Training –**

##### **Director General Julie Grantham (via teleconference)**

The Director General advised of the following:

- With all of the Schools and TAFE colleges close they are concentrating on Emergency Community Response
- Arrangements are in place to ensure access is available to schools
- The relevant communications protocols are in place
- Arrangements are in place for staff to assist EMQ if required

##### **Comment:**

The Director General, DCS, also advised that EMQ has an MOU in place with Clubs Queensland detailing the availability of utilising club facilities during emergencies.



**Department of Health –**
**Acting Chief Health Officer Doctor Aaron Groves**

The Acting Chief Health Officer advised of the following:

- The Director General, Queensland Health, had held a regional teleconference to discuss the issue with relevant staff.
- Queensland Health has robust business continuity plans in place.
- Their current concern from a health perspective would be the current discharges from the mines and its environmental impact on the communities wellbeing (Department of Environment and Resource Management and Queensland Health are in discussions with regards to this matter).
- Queensland Health is also looking at community recovery should a large scale/major rain event eventuate.

**Department of Communities –**
**Director General Linda Apelt**

The Director General advised of the following:

- Regional Recovery Teams have been placed on alert
- 11 government agencies are prepared to release staff for disaster management / relief work
- Communications protocols have been established with financial institutions with regards to cash payments
- Internal coordination units have been briefed and are on standby
- Currently assistance and grants are being addressed on a case by case basis and to date this has occurred through the provision of assistance and not the allocation of money.
- The 3 major Non Government Organisations (NGO's) have staff ready to deploy.

**5. Arrangements covering the Christmas/New Year period**

**Chair**

The chair articulated the importance of ensuring that the protocol procedures are in place over this period in time

The chair also invited those members and departmental contact officer (that may be interested) to dial in and partake in the daily State Disaster Coordination Centre hosted teleconference.

**Resolution:**

Chief Superintendent, Alistair Dawson was asked to coordinate the dissemination of the teleconference protocol procedures and provide this information (with a daily schedule/timetable) to all SDMG Members and Departmental Contact Officer's.

**SDMG  
Secretariat  
(completed post  
meeting)**

**6. Other Agency Reports (by exception)**

**XO**

None Provided

## **7. Other Business**

**Chair**

The chair raised the issue of appointing a State Disaster Coordinator (SDC) for the December rain event and after discussion with the Commissioner they decided an SDC would be appointed to ensure that event preparations and management were conducted in a careful and controlled way.

- The SDC for the December Rain Event 2010 is Deputy Commissioner Ian Stewart, Queensland Police Service.
- Email advice of this appointment has been given to all DDC's with a request to disseminate to all Local Disaster Coordinators.

### **Resolution:**

That members note the appointment of Deputy Commissioner Stewart as the SDC. Deputy Commissioner Ian Stewart was formally appointed as SDC with effect 24 December 2010 and until the appointment is terminated.

## **8. Future Meetings**

**Chair**

The Chair noted that the State Disaster Coordination Group (SDCG) will continue to meet over the Christmas/New Year period and that another meeting of the SDMG would be considered in line with the development of the event.

### **Resolution:**

The SDMG Executive Officer, Assistant Commissioner Brett Pointing, will oversee the call out of SDMG members should additional meetings be required. This is to be facilitated via the SDMG Secretariat.

**SDMG XO and  
SDMG  
Secretariat**

## **9. Meeting Closed**



## Attendance Sheet

**Meeting Date:** Friday 24 December 2010 **Time:** 10am – 11am  
**Venue:** Liaison Room  
 State Disaster Coordination Centre  
 Level 2, Block E, Emergency Services Complex  
 Corner of Kedron Park Road and Parks Road, Kedron

Quorum = 8 Permanent Members

	Agency	Attending	Signature
Members	Department of the Premier and Cabinet <i>Chairperson</i>	Ken Smith	
	Department of Community Safety <i>Deputy Chairperson</i>	Jim McGowan	
	Department of Communities	Linda Apelt	
	Department of Education and Training	Julie Grantham	
	Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation	Ian Fletcher	
	Department of Environment and Resource Management	John Bradley	
	Department of Infrastructure and Planning	Graeme Newton	
	Department of Justice and Attorney General	Philip Reed	
	Department of Public Works	Mal Grierson	
	Department of Transport and Main Roads	David Stewart	
	Emergency Management Queensland	Bruce Grady	
	Local Government Association of Queensland	Greg Hallam	
	Queensland Health	Mick Reid	
	Queensland Police Service	Bob Atkinson	
	Queensland Treasury <i>Acting Under Treasurer / Member of the G.</i>	WALTER IVESSA Alex Beavers	
Other Attendees	Queensland Police Service <i>Executive Officer</i>	Brett Pointing	
	Queensland Police Service <i>Secretariat</i>	Deb Watkins	
	Queensland Police Service	Ross Barnett	
	Queensland Police Service	Ian Stewart	
	Queensland Police Service	Andy Henderson	
	Queensland Police Service	Peter Martin	
	Queensland Police Service	Alistair Dawson	
	Queensland Police Service	Shane Chelepy	
	Queensland Police Service	Richard Hahn	
	Queensland Treasury	Walter Ivessa	
	Department of Transport and Main Roads	Jack Noye	
	Department of Transport and Main Roads	Don Bletchly	
	Department of the Premier and Cabinet	John Gardiner	
	Department of the Premier and Cabinet	Brad Smith	
	Queensland Health	Noel Gillard	
	Department of Education and Training	Lee Callum	
	Local Government Association of Queensland	Greg Hoffman	
	Department of Communities	Phil Carney	
	Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation	Trevor Van Dam	



## Attendance Sheet

John Mackenzie	QPS	
GREG HOEFMAN	LGAS	
TIM HERBERT	DPC	

Draft



**State Disaster Management Group  
Extraordinary Meeting Minutes  
7:30 am Thursday 30 December 2010**

Liaison Room  
State Disaster Coordination Centre  
Level 2, Block E, Emergency Services Complex  
Corner of Kedron Park Road and Parks Road, Kedron

**Responsible  
Agency**

**Chair**

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed the following special guests

The Premier of Queensland, Premier Anna Bligh

Acting Premier and Minister for Health, Paul Lucas MP

The Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services, Neil Roberts MP

The Chair welcomed the members of the State Disaster Management Group (SDMG) (including those attending via teleconferencing ) and their respective agency representatives

A quorum was achieved at this meeting through attendance by SDMG Members or appointed SDMG Member Deputies as follows:

SDMG Member – Department of the Premier and Cabinet - Ken Smith

SDMG Member – Department of Community Safety - Jim McGowan

SDMG Member – Department of Communities – Linda Apelt

SDMG Member – Department of Environment and Resource Management – Debbie Best

SDMG Member – Department of Infrastructure and Planning – Graeme Newton

SDMG Member – Department of Justice and Attorney General – Philip Reed

SDMG Member – Department of Public Works – Mal Grierson

SDMG Members – Department Transport and Main Roads – Jack Noye

SDMG Member – Emergency Management Queensland – Bruce Grady

SDMG Member– Queensland Health – Mick Reid



SDMG Member – Queensland Police Service – Bob Atkinson

SDMG Member Deputy – Queensland Treasury – Walter Ivessa

## **2. Bureau of Meteorology Presentation**

Mr Davidson provided a presentation on the current weather situation and the updated weather forecast.

Mr Peter Baddiley provided a presentation on the river system flood levels and predicted peaks over the coming days.

Both Mr Davidson and Mr Baddiley answered questions from the SDMG members and were thanked for their presentation.

## **3. The Premier of Queensland – Premier Anna Bligh**

### **The Premier, Anna Bligh**

The Premier noted that the disaster was being very well managed at the local levels and noted the cooperation between Emergency Management Queensland and the Queensland Police Service.

The Premier noted that there was a requirement to describe the situation a little better especially in terms of the number of estimated to be evacuated and the anticipated flood levels. Perhaps to describe it in a national context and highlight the anticipated duration.

The Premier also discussed the issues of:

- Keeping on top of road closure and road safety announcements
- Public health concerns that will arise in the coming 10 days
- Utilisation of prison resources
- Redeployment and redundancy staff (from interstate if required)

The Premier concluded by stressing the need to keep on top of road closures, aim to better describe the event and focus on water treatment.

### **Deputy Premier and Minister for Health – Mr Paul Lucas MP**

The Deputy Premier reinforced the statements made by the Premier and expressed his desire to make sure that we use the worst case scenario when advertising flood levels.

### **Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services – Mr Neil Roberts MP**

The Minister expressed that the local and district arrangement were working well but we must afford consideration to the expectations and demands placed upon the government in regards to the recovery phase.

Jim Davidson





#### **4. State Disaster Coordinator – Deputy Commissioner Ian Stewart**

The State Disaster Coordinator (SDC) noted that the main focus may be Emerald / Rockhampton and Bundaberg but we must not overlook the other effected smaller communities.

The SDC noted that his main focus now is turning to the coordination from response to recovery. The State Disaster Coordinator / State Recovery Coordinator positions will probably co-exist for at least a week.

The issue of checking electricity structures within houses is being taken care of by the Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG's) and Distric Disaster Coordinators (DDC's) and it appears to be in hand.

#### **5. State Disaster Management Group Chairperson – A/Assistant Commissioner Alistair Dawson**

- The Chair of the State Disaster Management provided an update on the activities of the relevant District Disaster Groups including some district specific concerns and activities.

#### **6. Agency Reports**

The Chair called for agency preparedness reports as follows:

##### **Queensland Police Service – Commissioner Bob Atkinson**

The Commissioner advised of the following:

- Queensland Police Service (QPS) have mobilised various assets including the Water Police, Tactical Crime Squads and Public Safety Response Team.
- The QPS are now looking at the issue of fatigue management both within the regions and within the State Disaster Coordination Centre response team.
- The Commissioner thanked the Premier for the support provided to QPS through the Government Air Wing.
- QPS are also focusing on New Years Eve arrangement with the intention to promote safe and responsible drinking and to not divert police from their current important duties through during the period.
- QPS are also looking at the return of a large number people from holiday on roads that may have been damaged. The largest concern is the road conditions and road safety.

##### **Comment:**

The Premier also commented on the need to reassure people that there are additional police on the ground in effected areas and that looting is currently not a concern but the additional police will be providing that additional property security support and act as a deterrent.

##### **Emergency Management Queensland Assistant Director General Bruce Grady**

The Director General advised of the following:

- There was a scheduled teleconference for 9am with the Australian National Retail Authority to discuss the issue of resupply.

All Members



- Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS) rural fire teams have been identified to be used in the clean up activities
- A mobile communications tower was deployed to Emerald to assist in the activities.
- Sea transportation is being considered for resupply.

**Department of Transport and Main Roads –  
Acting Director General Jack Noye**

The Director General advised of the following:

- The Cunninghams Gap is now open
- The road damage bill is now in excess of \$1.5 billion
- The 13 19 40 website (and phone line) has been simplified and is being updated every 60 seconds
- RACQ is being updated on a regular basis and ABC regional radio has been providing assistance in get the message out.
- Private sector contractors are available to help with road repair on rotation with the current road tech crews.
- Department of Transport and Main Roads are working on supply and re supply transport issues as part of their ongoing work.
- Emerald rail bridge was closed at 8am with the last train at 6:30am

**Department of Communities –  
Director General Linda Apelt**

The Director General advised of the following:

- Over 200 staff including Lifeline and Red Cross have been activated throughout the state.
- Relief centres have been established at Warwick, Dalby, Chinchilla, Emerald and Bundaberg.
- Outreach programs are in place to assist the rest of the State
- In the space of 1hr there were over 100 calls to the 1800 help line
- Material for each specific area has been developed and is being distributed throughout the regions.
- \$3060 has been expended for emergent loans.

**Department of Health –  
Director General Mick Reid**

The Director General advised of the following:

- All public hospital services are intact with the exception of the facility in Theodore which has been closed.
- A health clinic has been established at the agricultural college and is being staffed by 40 hospital staff.
- The movement of patients and staff is now becoming a problem with the helicopters being use to transport critical cases to Cairns.
- Environmental health fact sheets have been developed for dissemination.
- A 1300 health care line has been established and Queensland Health has assisted Emerald with the provision of 100 blankets to the relief centres.





The Acting Director General advised of the following:

- That DERM would like to establish a smaller working group consisting of DERM – LGAQ and Health to look at the issues of water treatment / sewerage and water purification.
- The Mt Cosby treatment plant was off line for 12 hours yesterday with the water management grid being utilised to cover this outage.
- There has only been one unauthorised release which was beyond the control of the mine and is not considered serious.

**Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation –  
SDMG Member Deputy) Chief Operations Officer Trevor Van Dam**

The representative advised that:

- Consideration needs to be given for Cat B assistance to both primary industry and small business. Cat B needs to be instigated by the state before the state can consider Category C support with the Commonwealth. Once Category C is implemented that work will have to be undertaken in conjunction with Treasury.
- The DEEDI representative in Rockhampton advised that tourism is experiencing a 40% loss but will not be eligible for Cat B assistance unless their infrastructure has been affected.

**Local Government Association of Australia (LGAQ)–  
SDMG Member Deputy Greg Hoffman**

The representative advised that:

- Local government are looking at the issue of water and sewerage very closely. In addition to waste water the LGAQ are also looking into rubbish removals.
- The LGA are also looking at the issue of mosquito and midge control and the movement of council workers and equipment.

**7. Other Business**

Nil

**8. Future Meetings**

The Chair proposed the next meeting of the State Disaster Management Group take place Friday 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010 at 3pm at the Emergency Services Complex Kedron.

**9. Meeting Closed**

Chair

Chair  
SDMG XO and  
SDMG  
Secretariat

NOTE FROM THE SECRETARIAT –

During the proceedings of this meeting the Attendance Sheet was misplaced.

After a search of the area and a request of the members to check that the document hadn't been mistakenly collected up amongst their meeting documents, the Attendance Sheet was still unable to be located.

As a result the attendance recorded within the minutes consists of the recollection of the members (with regards to their agency representation) and notes taken by the secretariat.

Upon endorsement of these minutes at the next ordinary meeting (2 March 2011) the attendance will be correct as state within the minutes.

**State Disaster Management Group  
Extraordinary Meeting Minutes  
2:30pm Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

Level 15 Conference Room  
Executive Building, 100 George Street, Brisbane

**Responsible  
Agency**

Chair

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

The chair welcomed the following special guests

The Premier of Queensland, Anna Bligh MP

The Deputy Premier and Minister for Health, Paul Lucas MP.

Major General Mick Slater, Australian Defence Force (Royal Australian Army).

The chair welcomed the State Disaster Coordinator (SDC), Deputy Commissioner Ian Stewart and State Recovery Coordinator (SRC) Mr Bruce Grady.

The Chair welcomed State Disaster Management Group (SDMG) members and the Red Cross representative Mr Greg Goebel.

A quorum was achieved at this meeting through attendance by SDMG Members or appointed SDMG Member Deputies as follows:

SDMG Member - Department of the Premier and Cabinet - Ken Smith

SDMG Member – Department of Community Safety - Jim McGowan

SDMG Member – Department of Communities – Linda Apelt

SDMG Member – Department of Education and Training – Lyn McKenzie

SDMG Member – Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation – Ian Fletcher

SDMG Member – Department of Environment and Resource Management – Debbie Best

SDMG Member – Department of Justice and Attorney-General – Philip Reed

SDMG Member – Department of Public Works – Natalie MacDonald

SDMG Member – Department of Transport and Main Roads – Jack Noye





SDMG Member – Emergency Management Queensland – Warren Brice

SDMG Deputy Member – Local Government Association of QLD – Greg Hoffman

SDMG Member– Queensland Health – Mick Reid

SDMG Deputy Member– Queensland Treasury – Alex Beavers

SDMG Deputy Member – Department of Infrastructure and Planning – Paul Low

SDMG Member – Queensland Police Service – Commissioner Atkinson

## **2. Premier Address**

**Premier**

The Premier addressed the group. Summary as follows:

The Premier conveyed thanks to all those present and the staff of their respective agencies for the work done in response to this disaster. The Premier noted that there were 40 towns in Queensland with over 200 000 people affected by this event. She praised the response as world class and well coordinated at all levels. The Premier asked that her thanks and praise be passed down (through the members) to all staff.

The Premier noted that each and every agency needs to pull together and continue to be committed to the on going task at hand. "Business as usual" would not be enough commitment from the Queensland Government and we need to think outside the square, be flexible, remain focused and make sure the disaster response and recovery is the number one priority for each and every Government Agency.

The Premier advised that while response has been well organised and executed to date there is a need to bring together all of these relevant elements, assets and agencies together under a larger coordinating body tasked with mapping out the "long term recovery plan" for Queensland.

The Premier advised that at a Special Cabinet Meeting held today Major General Mick Slater, ADF, was appointed as the Chairperson of a Queensland Flood Recovery Taskforce, which would also consist of:

- Mr Ken Smith, DPC
- Police Commissioner Atkinson, QPS
- Mr Jim McGowan, DCS
- Mr Bruce Grady, DCS
- A representative (to be nominated) from LGAQ.

A summary of the proposed governance arrangements for the Taskforce and supporting groups and sub-groups for the recovery process was distributed to members (copy attached to minutes). The Premier said that Major General Slater has been tasked with developing the "Recovery Road Map" that prioritises our response efforts. Major General Slater is seconded to the Department of the Premier and Cabinet in this role.



The Premier also advised that the Prime Minister has nominated Senator Joe Ludwig, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, to be the Commonwealth representative on a recovery Cabinet Sub-Committee. Senior officers within the Commonwealth Ministry will also be nominated to represent the Commonwealth on the various taskforce sub groups. The nomination of the Commonwealth officers was due by close of business Friday 7<sup>th</sup> January with a requirement for the sub groups to meet during the week beginning Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January.

Members were requested nominate appropriate officers from within their agencies for membership on the recovery sub-groups.

Members were advised of the need to re-prioritise their agencies work projects to focus on the recovery arrangements as their first priority. Members were to identify any relevant projects that may be delayed and advise their Ministers.

The Premier advised that the Government has received offers of assistance from New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia. Requests to access these offers of assistance should be made through her office.

The Premier also requested that agencies work with the relevant unions, particularly in terms of impacts on State Government employees.

### **3. Chairpersons address**

Chair

The Chair advised members to provide names of relevant stakeholders and agency representatives for sub-groups, to be emailed to Mr Brad Smith, DPC, by lunchtime, Thursday 5 January 2011.

These sub-groups need to be established and have their first meeting within the week commencing 10 January.

The Chair noted that the Cabinet Flood Recovery sub-committee will meet on Monday 10 January. As a result, he proposed that the Directors General meet with the Chair of the Queensland Flood Recovery Task Force before the 10 January to re-work the governance structures for the recovery model.

The Chair advised that upon commencement of the new structures, the SDMG would meet less frequently, with the work of the Task Force and supporting groups taking a lead in the recovery arrangements.

The Secretariat support for the Task Force would be provided by DP+C.

The Chair of the Task Force would report to the Premier via the Cabinet Sub-Committee.

The Chair requested assistance from the Commissioner, QPS, wherever possible, to assist the Task Force in transport. The Government Air Wing would also assist where possible.

Mr Brad Smith was requested to prepare a Premiers Briefing Note to seek a relaxation of the guidelines for the use of the Government Air Wing.

The Chair addressed the issue of the monies raised in flood relief appeals, and their management. The Task Force would examine the expenditure of these monies as part of its work.





The Acting DG, DPW, was requested to provide a summary of the impact on government assets for a briefing to the Premier by close of business today. This summary is to include schools, kindergartens and child care centres, emergency services accommodation, community health facilities and critical services (non-government assets).

#### **4. State Disaster Coordinator - Update**

The SDC provided a very brief update on the situation in Rockhampton, Dirranbandi and St George.

The SDC provided a hard copy of his presentation to the morning's Cabinet meeting (copy attached).

#### **5. State Recovery Coordinator - Update**

The SRC stressed the importance of agencies providing membership on local recovery committees, as the more effective work at this level will minimise need for higher level support.

He also stressed the need to identify levels of redundancy within agencies in terms of disaster response capabilities for the remainder of the storm season.

The SRC provided a hard copy of his presentation to the morning's Cabinet meeting (copy attached).

#### **6. Other Business**

The Member for Department of Community Safety, Mr Jim McGowan, addressed the issue of leave arrangements for volunteer workers, which led to a broader discussion on the need to have a consistent fatigue management policy across all agencies. The DG, JAG, undertook to examine this issue.

#### **7. Future Meetings**

No SDMG meeting was scheduled at this time. Members will be advised when the next meeting is called.

#### **8. Meeting Closed**

Deputy  
Commissioner Ian  
Stewart

Mr Bruce Grady

Chair

Chair

Deputy Chair





## Attendance Sheet

Meeting Date: Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2011

Time: 2:30 pm

Venue: Level 15  
Conference Room  
Executive Building  
100 George Street Brisbane

Quorum = 8 Permanent Members

\* via teleconference

Agency		Attending	Signature
Members	Premier of Queensland	Anna Bligh MP	
	Deputy Premier and Minister for Health	Paul Lucas MP	
	Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services	Neil Roberts MP	
	Department of the Premier and Cabinet Chairperson	Ken Smith	
	Department of Community Safety Deputy Chairperson	Jim McGowan	
	Department of Communities LINDA APELT	Bette Hill	
	Department of Education and Training	Lyn McKenzie	
	Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation	Ian Fletcher	
	Department of Environment and Resource Management	Debbie Best	
	Department of Infrastructure and Planning	Paul Low	
	Department of Justice and Attorney General	Philip Reed	
	Department of Public Works	Natalie MacDonald	
	Department of Transport and Main Roads	Jack Noye	
	Emergency Management Queensland	Warren Bridson	
	Local Government Association of Queensland SDMG Member Representative	Greg Hoffman	
	Queensland Health	Mick Reid	
	Queensland Police Service	Bob Atkinson	
	Queensland Treasury	Alex Beavers	
Other Attendees	State Recovery Coordinator Emergency Management Queensland	Bruce Grady	
	State Disaster Coordinator Queensland Police Service	Ian Stewart	
	Executive Officer Queensland Police Service	Brett Pointing	
	Secretariat Queensland Police Service	Deb Watkins	
	XO and Secretariat Support Officer Queensland Police Service	Richard Hahn	
	Australian Red Cross	Greg Goebel	
	DMD Simon DPC	DMD Simon	
	Commissioner CVERS	Lee Johnson	
	MPF	M D. SLATEK	
	deputy premier's office	g okye	

**State Disaster Management Group  
Extraordinary Meeting Minutes  
8 am Tuesday 11 January 2011**

Liaison Room  
State Disaster Coordination Centre  
Level 2, Block E, Emergency Services Complex  
Corner of Kedron Park Road and Parks Road, Kedron

**Responsible  
Agency**

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed;

Chair

Premier – the Hon Anna Bligh

Deputy Premier and Minister for Health – the Hon Paul Lucas MP

The Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services, the Hon Neil Roberts MP

The Chair welcomed State Disaster Management Group (SDMG) members and their respective agency representatives.

The Chair also welcomed Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) representatives:

Mr Peter Baddiley (by teleconference)

Mr Jim Davidson

A quorum was achieved at this meeting through attendance by SDMG Members or appointed SDMG Member Deputies as follows:

SDMG Member - Department of the Premier and Cabinet - Ken Smith

SDMG Member – Queensland Police Service – Bob Atkinson

SDMG Member – Department of Community Safety - Jim McGowan

SDMG Member – Department of Communities – Linda Apelt

SDMG Member – Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation – Ian Fletcher

SDMG Member Deputy – Department of Environment and Resource Management – Terry Wall

SDMG Member – Department of Justice and Attorney-General – Philip Reed



SDMG Member – Department of Public Works – Natalie MacDonald

SDMG Member – Department of Transport and Main Roads – Jack Noye

SDMG Member – Emergency Management Queensland – Warren Bridson

SDMG Deputy Member – Local Government Association of QLD – Greg Hoffman

SDMG Member– Queensland Health – Mick Reid

SDMG Deputy Member– Queensland Treasury – Alex Beavers

SDMG Member – Department of Infrastructure and Planning – Graeme Newton

## **2. Opening Comments by Premier**

The Hon. Anna Bligh

The Premier of Queensland addressed the group and advised that Qld is facing a grim, very desperate situation in Toowoomba and Lockyer Valley with many residents and emergency service workers at risk.

The already stressed communities of Dalby, Chinchilla, Condamine and Warwick facing further challenges.

The Premier mentioned that this will be a big test of the resilience of many people and that fatigue management will become an issue for many departments.

The Premier thanked everyone for their efforts.

## **3. Bureau of Meteorology Presentation**

Jim Davidson and  
Peter Baddiley

Mr Davidson provided a presentation on the current weather situation and the updated weather forecast.

Mr Baddiley provided a presentation on the river system flood levels and predicted peaks over the coming days.

Both Mr Davidson and Mr Baddiley answered questions from the SDMG members and were thanked for their presentation.

## **4. State Disaster Coordinator – Situation Update**

Deputy  
Commissioner Ian  
Stewart

Deputy Commissioner Stewart provided a summary of the “Hot Spots” around Queensland. These include:

### **o Toowoomba / Lockyer Valley**

Confirmed deaths, 2 in Toowoomba, 3 in Grantham and 3 from Murphy's Creek.





A huge number of isolated farms and houses to be checked and searched.  
Toowoomba stable, however grave concerns in the Grantham / Withcott areas.

72 reported missing people and will need expert USAR and swift water support to assist in the search for bodies and survivors.

- **Dalby**

2 evacuation centres, the Primary school and the Agricultural College.

The Primary school centre would be compromised if flood level rises above 4.5m.

This would cause a shortage of accommodation for evacuees.

- **Chinchilla**

The town is isolated and all low lying areas have been doorknocked with many people having self-evacuated.

10 people are in the evacuation centre with 10 properties inundated.

- **Condamine**

River at 10.9m and the bridge has been cut.

Residents were advised to evacuate prior to the bridge going under however most refused to leave.

Evacuation centre has been established in Miles.

- **Gympie**

16 people have self evacuated and are in the northern evacuation centre.

10 people have self evacuated and are in the southern evacuation centre.

No issues with utilities.

- **Nanango**

5 homes inundated.

15 businesses inundated.

- **Warwick**

River currently at 7m and are expecting up to 8m.

Request for a Disaster Situation Declaration recently made by DDC.

Established 2 evacuation centres.

- **Stanthorpe**

Quart Pot Creek rising quickly.

Need further hydrology for Warwick area.

Other issues;

A request to evacuate 200 people from Forest Hill

Evacuations have commenced in low lying areas of Laidley

Assistant Commissioner Peter Martin, Brisbane DDC, stated that initial planning was done on the basis of 4,600 cumecs (cubic metres per second) and will need to be urgently reviewed in light of the projected 6,000 cumecs.



Chair noted that fatigue in workforce will become a serious issue and asked Mr Warren Bridson (EMQ) to liaise with Police and QFRS to look at mechanisms to pick up on offers of support from other states.

## **5. State Recovery Coordinator - Update**

Report not provided due to urgency of response issues.

## **6. Agency Reports**

The Chair called for agency reports by exception:

All Members

### **Department of Health –**

#### **Director General Mick Reid**

The Director General advised that:

- 9 dead on arrival at Toowoomba Hospital at 0730hrs.
- Intensive Care Unit operating normally
- Some medical staff members have been redeployed to the Gatton area.

It was noted by the Queensland Police Service that Disaster Victim Identification systems are being established in coordination with the John Tonge Centre.

### **Department of Public Works –**

#### **A/Director General Natalie MacDonald**

The A/Director General advised that:

- Attempts were being made by Smart Services Queensland to shift workload back to agencies to free up workforce for emergency response.
- Calling for volunteers from other government agencies
- May utilise volunteers from private sector call centres.

### **Department of Communities –**

#### **Director General Linda Apelt**

The Director General advised that:

- Human services support for communities is current priority.
- Examining sourcing psychologist/counsellors from other government agencies to assist.

## **7. Other Business**

Planned meeting of Queensland Mayors and Premier to be postponed.

Chair

## **8. Future Meetings**

The Chair put to Members the option for a next meeting to occur on Tuesday 11 January 2011 at 5pm due to the urgency of the current situation.

Chair

The members endorsed the proposal for the meeting to be held on 11 January at 5pm.

## **9. Meeting Closed**





## Attendance Sheet

Meeting Date: Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2011

Time: 8 am

Venue: Liaison Room  
State Disaster Coordination Centre  
Level 2, Block E, Emergency Services Complex  
Corner of Kedron Park Road and Parks Road, Kedron

Quorum = 8 Permanent Members

\* via teleconference

Agency		Attending	Signature
Members	Premier of Queensland	Anna Bligh MP	
	Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services	Neil Roberts MP	
	Department of the Premier and Cabinet <i>Chairperson</i>	Ken Smith	
	Department of Community Safety <i>Deputy Chairperson</i>	Jim McGowan	
	Department of Communities	Bette Kill	
	Department of Education and Training	Lyn McKenzie	
	Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation	Ian Fletcher	
	Department of Environment and Resource Management	Terry Wall	
	Department of Infrastructure and Planning	Graeme Newton	
	Department of Justice and Attorney General	Philip Reed	
	Department of Public Works	Natalie MacDonald	
	Department of Transport and Main Roads	Jack Noye	
	Emergency Management Queensland	Warren Bridson	
	Local Government Association of Queensland <i>SDMG Member Representative</i>	Greg Hoffman	
	Queensland Health	Mick Reid	
	Queensland Police Service	Bob Atkinson	
	Queensland Treasury	Gerard Bradley	
	State Disaster Coordinator <i>Queensland Police Service</i>	Ian Stewart	
	State Recovery Coordinator <i>Emergency Management Queensland</i>	Bruce Grady	
Other Attendees	Executive Officer <i>Queensland Police Service</i>	Brett Pointing	
	Secretariat <i>Queensland Police Service</i>	Deb Watkins	
	XO and Secretariat Support Officer <i>Queensland Police Service</i>	Richard Hahn	
	Australian Defence Force	Luke Foster	
	Bureau of Meteorology	Jim Davidson	
	Bureau of Meteorology		
	Department of the Premier and Cabinet	Brad Smith	
	Department of Transport and Main Roads	Don Blotchly	
	RED CROSS	GREG GLEBEL	



100

**State Disaster Management Group  
Extraordinary Meeting Minutes  
5 pm Tuesday 11 January 2011**

Liaison Room  
State Disaster Coordination Centre  
Level 2, Block E, Emergency Services Complex  
Corner of Kedron Park Road and Parks Road, Kedron

**Responsible  
Agency**

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed;

Chair

The Premier – the Hon Anna Bligh

The Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services, the Hon Neil Roberts MP

The Chair welcomed State Disaster Management Group (SDMG) members and their respective agency representatives.

The Chair also welcomed Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) representatives:

Mr Peter Baddiley

Mr Jim Davidson

A quorum was achieved at this meeting through attendance by SDMG Members or appointed SDMG Member Deputies as follows:

SDMG Member – Department of the Premier and Cabinet - Ken Smith

SDMG Member – Queensland Police Service – Bob Atkinson

SDMG Member – Department of Community Safety - Jim McGowan

SDMG Member – Department of Communities – Linda Apelt

SDMG Member – Department of Education and Training – Julie Grantham (via teleconference)

SDMG Member – Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation – Ian Fletcher (via Teleconference)

SDMG Member – Department of Justice and Attorney-General – Philip Reed

SDMG Member – Department of Public Works – Mal Grierson



SDMG Member – Department of Transport and Main Roads – Jack Noye

SDMG Member Deputy – Local Government Association of QLD – Greg Hoffman

SDMG Member– Queensland Health – Mick Reid (by teleconference)

SDMG Member– Queensland Treasury – Gerard Bradley

SDMG Member – Department of Infrastructure and Planning – Graeme Newton

## **2. Bureau of Meteorology Presentation**

Mr Davidson provided a presentation on the current weather situation and the updated weather forecast.

Mr Baddiley provided a presentation on the river system flood levels and predicted peaks over the coming days.

Both Mr Davidson and Mr Baddiley answered questions from the SDMG members and were thanked for their presentation.

## **3. State Disaster Coordinator – Situation Update**

Deputy Commissioner Stewart outlined that there are currently 9 dead, 59 people missing with grave concerns held for 15 of those missing. Various 'hotspots' were discussed with input from the relevant DDC including:

### **o Brisbane DDC, Peter Martin:**

Fast moving situation.

Currently planning for 10,000 cumecs flow

Evacuation centre established at the RNA showgrounds.

Superintendent Gayle Hogan tasked as liaison officer with LDCC re evacuation centres.

Concerns re Oxley's Wharf Restaurant. Direction issued to stop salvage efforts based on advice by MSQ re concerns that structure may break free and damage critical infrastructure downstream.

Landslip has occurred at Wellington Point

Security of evacuation centres to be addressed

### **o Toowoomba DDC, Brett Schaffurius:**

2 evacuation centres in Laidley, the hospital and council depot

Expecting 250+ evacuees.

Forest Hill evacuation going well.

60 people left in Grantham.

Operations moving to search and recovery.

44 evacuated in Oakey.

20 people evacuated in Jondaryan

Jim Davidson and  
Peter Baddiley

Deputy  
Commissioner Ian  
Stewart





o **Warwick DDC, Greg Morrow:**

Expecting 9.1m through Stanthorpe later tonight which is much higher than previous event.

Sewerage has spilled into Quart Pot Creek.

Warwick cut in two.

2 evacuation centres in Warwick.

3 people in the Allora evacuation centre.

The forecast 10.5m peak on Friday should not compromise the Goondiwindi levee.

#### **4. Agency Reports**

The Chair called for agency reports by exception:

All Members

##### **Department of Public Works –**

##### **A/Director General Mal Grierson**

The Director General advised that:

- Expected that Neville Bonner building in William St and Queensland Health office in Charlotte St will be compromised by expected flood level.
- All government agencies asked to undertake urgent stock-take of available desk space.
- Concerns re Energex control room.

##### **Department of Health –**

##### **Director General Mick Reid**

The Director General advised that:

- Business of government must continue.
- Brisbane and Ipswich hospitals should be safe from impending flood levels.
- Elective surgery has been postponed.
- Some private nursing homes and hospitals may need to partially evacuate and they are current making own arrangements to undertake this.

##### **Department of Transport and Main Roads –**

##### **Director General Jack Noye**

The Director General advised that:

- Re-supply across the State will be a major issue into the future due to no road connections between north and south Queensland.
- Key problem is flooding at Rockhampton caused by the Fitzroy River.
- Will be utilising ocean going vessels from Brisbane to Townsville for at least 2 weeks with limited capacity for essential items only.
- Arrangements made for Toll to assist in coordinating distribution.
- Jim Huggett has been tasked to cut through any State Govt red tape.
- Amberley RAAF base may be compromised by expected flood levels.
- QR moving rail stock from Mayne railway yards.
- Public transport currently operating.



**Department of Communities –  
Director General Linda Apelt**

The Director General advised that:

- 8 specialist community counselling teams have been assembled and prepared to move into the Lockyer Valley specialising in grief and loss.
- Recovery teams currently at Ipswich evacuation centre at the showgrounds.

**5. Other Business**

Red Cross may need assistance expediting criminal history checks for some interstate volunteers.

Chair

**6. Future Meetings**

The Chair put to Members the option for the next meetings to occur on Wednesday 12 January 2011 at 8am and 5pm due to the urgency of the current situation.

Chair

The members endorsed the proposal for the meetings to be held on 12 January at 8am and 5pm.

**7. Meeting Closed**

**State Disaster Management Group**

**Attendance Sheet**
**Meeting Date:** Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2011

**Time:** 5 pm

**Venue:** Liaison Room  
 State Disaster Coordination Centre  
 Level 2, Block E, Emergency Services Complex  
 Corner of Kedron Park Road and Parks Road, Kedron

Quorum = 8 Permanent Members

\* via teleconference

	Agency	Attending	
Members	Premier of Queensland	Anna Bligh MP	
	Deputy Premier and Minister for Health	Paul Lucas MP	
	Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services	Neil Roberts MP	
	Department of the Premier and Cabinet <i>Chairperson</i>	Ken Smith	
	Department of Community Safety <i>Deputy Chairperson</i>	Jim McGowan	
	Department of Communities	Linda Apelt	
	Department of Education and Training	Julie Grantham	
	Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation	Ian Fletcher	
	Department of Environment and Resource Management	Terry Wall	
	Department of Infrastructure and Planning	Graeme Newton	
	Department of Justice and Attorney General	Philip Reed	
	Department of Public Works	Mal Grierson	
	Department of Transport and Main Roads	Jack Noye	
	Emergency Management Queensland	Warren Bridson	
	Local Government Association of Queensland <i>SDMG Member Representative</i>	Greg Hoffman	
Other Attendees	Queensland Health	Mick Reid	
	Queensland Police Service	Bob Atkinson	
	Queensland Treasury	Gerard Bradley	
	State Disaster Coordinator <i>Queensland Police Service</i>	Ian Stewart	
	State Recovery Coordinator <i>Emergency Management Queensland</i>	Bruce Grady	
	Recovery Task Force Commander <i>Australian Defence Force</i>	Mick Slater	
	SDMG Executive Officer <i>Queensland Police Service</i>	Brett Pointing	
	SDMG Secretariat <i>Queensland Police Service</i>	Deb Watkins	
	XO and Secretariat Support Officer <i>Queensland Police Service</i>	Richard Hahn	
	State Disaster Coordination Group (chair) <i>Queensland Police Service</i>	Alistair Dawson	
	Australian Defence Force	Luke Foster	
	Australian Defence Force		
	Bureau of Meteorology	Jim Davidson	



[REDACTED]

**State Disaster Management Group  
Extraordinary Meeting Minutes  
8 am *Wednesday 12 January 2011***

Liaison Room  
State Disaster Coordination Centre  
Level 2, Block E, Emergency Services Complex  
Corner of Kedron Park Road and Parks Road, Kedron

Responsible  
Agency

Chair

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed the following persons;

Prime Minister of Australia – The Hon Julie Gillard MP

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry – Senator the Hon Joe Ludwig

Minister for Defence – Stephen Smith MP

And other representatives from the Commonwealth

The Queensland Premier – the Hon Anna Bligh

Deputy Premier and Minister for Health – the Hon Paul Lucas MP

The Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services, the Hon Neil Roberts MP

Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy – the Hon Stephen Robertson MP

Chief of Defence Force - Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston, AC, AFC

Recovery Task Force Commander – Major General Mick Slater

Brisbane Lord Mayor – Campbell Newman (via teleconference)

Mayor of Ipswich - Cr Paul Pisale (via teleconference)

Mayor of Somerset Regional Council – Graham Lehmann (via teleconference)

SDMG members and their respective agency representatives.

District Disaster Coordinators for Brisbane (Assistant Commissioner Peter Martin), Ipswich (Superintendent Garth Pitman) and Toowoomba (Superintendent Brett Schafferius).

Bureau of Meteorology representatives Mr Peter Baddiley (via teleconference)



and Mr Jim Davidson.

A quorum was achieved at this meeting through attendance by State Disaster Management Group (SDMG) Members or appointed SDMG Member Deputies as follows:

SDMG Member – Department of the Premier and Cabinet - Ken Smith

SDMG Member – Queensland Police Service – Bob Atkinson

SDMG Member – Department of Community Safety - Jim McGowan

SDMG Member – Department of Communities – Linda Apelt

SDMG Member – Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation – Ian Fletcher

SDMG Member – Dept of Environment and Resource Management – John Bradley

SDMG Member – Department of Justice and Attorney-General – Philip Reed

SDMG Member – Department of Public Works – Mal Grierson

SDMG Member – Department of Transport and Main Roads – David Stewart

SDMG Member – Emergency Management Queensland – Warren Bridson

SDMG Deputy Member – Local Government Association of QLD – Greg Hoffman

SDMG Member– Queensland Health – Mick Reid (via teleconference)

SDMG Member– Queensland Treasury – Gerard Bradley (via teleconference)

SDMG Member – Department of Infrastructure and Planning – Graeme Newton

## **2. Chairs Briefing– Urgent Issue**

Chair

The chair raised the issue of power supply to government and community support agencies located within the Brisbane CBD that will be directly affected by the imminent rise in the Brisbane River.

A small working group consisting of ENERGEX / Queensland Police Service / Department of Public Works / Deputy Premier and a representative for the Brisbane City Council were put together and immediately departed the meeting to work on the emerging issue.

## **3. Bureau of Meteorology Presentation**

Jim Davidson and  
Peter Baddiley





Mr Davidson provided a presentation on the current weather situation and the updated weather forecast.

Mr Baddiley provided a presentation on the river system flood levels and predicted peaks over the coming days.

Mr Barry Dennien from South East Queensland Water provided information pertaining to the water release currently being undertaken at Wivenhoe Dam.

The dam peaked at 191% at 7pm last night with the release rate at that time being 7500 cubic metres per second. As at 7am today that release rate has been decreased to 2500 cubic metres per second. This rate is to be maintained whilst we wait for the Lockyer Valley and Bremer River water flows to peak.

Once this has occurred the release rate will increase to 3500 cubic metres per second for several days (until the flood compartment of the dam is emptied).

Mr Davidson, Mr Baddiley and Mr Dennien answered questions from the SDMG members and were thanked for their presentation.

#### **4. State Disaster Coordinator – Situation Update**

Deputy  
Commissioner Ian  
Stewart

Deputy Commissioner Stewart provided a summary of the situation in Queensland. This included the following

**Central Queensland** – Situation at Rockhampton is being maintained with the roads to the North open but the roads to the South still closed.

The road to the South can reopen at 8.4meters but this will only occur after the road condition has been established and assessed.

**South West Queensland** –the river at Chinchilla is above the previous maximum reported during the first phase of flooding.

There was a complete evacuation of Condamine again overnight with police remaining in location.

St George, Surat and Dirranbandi situations are all under control and being well managed.

The Situation in Warwick and Stanthorpe is now being managed.

The river level in Texas is rising with 9 people self evacuating. Recommendations are to evacuate houses in low lying areas. The situation in Texas is being closely monitored

The situation in Goondiwindi is stable with the town level intact up to 10.5m (the current prediction is 11m). The current issue for Goondiwindi is opening and maintaining the transport corridor.

**North Coast** – There has been no loss of life at Gympie and the situation is being maintained.



The Bruce Highway to the North is open but closed to the South. The Winton from Gympie is now making its way down to Maryborough.

### **Toowoomba**

The main focus for the Queensland Police activities at this time getting into the areas of Murphy's Creek and Grantham to carry out search and recovery. There are grave fears held for residents in both areas. Due to the inclement weather yesterday they were unable to commence search and recovery activities as it was considered unsafe for emergency staff. The State Coroner may travel to the affected areas today to ascertain the bigger picture.

In Lowood this morning 8 roof top rescues were successfully conducted There has been a lot of minor flooding in Caboolture especially in the town areas around and behind Somerset. Woodford, Kilcoy and Moree are still isolated.

The Queensland Police Service is now preparing for the peaks in Ipswich and Brisbane.

The State Disaster Coordinator called for individual reports from the District Disaster Coordinators as follows:

### **District Disaster Coordinator Report for Toowoomba**

Coordination of search and recovery activities in the areas of Grantham and Murphy's Creek. It is expected that these operations will continue for several days.

The evacuation centres at Laidley and Toowoomba are still open and police are assisting with the repatriation of families to their homes.

### **District Disaster Coordinator Report for Ipswich**

Overnight there were 10 areas evacuated with 12000 people registering at evacuation centres.

At Lowood and Rosewood 240 people self evacuated.

All evacuation centres are being well supported.

The SES activity in the area has been outstanding.

The Royal Australian Air Force provided transport vehicles.

Additional Queensland Police Service officer were deployed to Ipswich to assist with operations.

Emergency powers were used once over night for a 60+ man who didn't want to leave his property and was "in possession" of a rifle.

Mayor Pisale remarked that evacuation centres were operating well and everyone was in good spirits with only one count of looting being reported.





### **District Disaster Coordinator Report for Brisbane**

Modelling for Brisbane was done on a 12 000 cubic metres per second release which has now been down graded to 9 500 cubic metre per second release.

Re-modelling is now being done based on 9 500 cubic metres.

Two evacuation centres have been established.

One is at the RNA showgrounds with the capacity to hold 3000 people (and animals). This has been operational since yesterday and currently has 182 evacuees.

The second centre came online at 8am today and is the QEII / ANZ Stadium Sports Stadium. This centre has a capacity of 1300 people.

Current Issues for Brisbane:

- Several pontoons have broken free and have become navigation hazards and a threat to critical infrastructure.
- The Oxley (floating) Restaurant is taking on water and is slowly sinking.
- The Island (a flat bottom barge) is breaking its mooring. Heavy equipment is being used to try to contain the situation. Once again should it break its mooring it will be very hazardous and a threat to critical infrastructure further down river.
- There is a small landslip in the Redlands area which is currently being addressed.

Traffic management is going to be critical to this event.

A media release went out regarding no urgent use of the CBD along with a media release relating to self evacuation.

The Brisbane City Lord Mayor has contacted both the Catholic and Anglican church societies to look at setting up smaller more localised and accessible evacuation centres bolstering the evacuation capacity to 6000 Brisbane residents.

There is minor flooding on low level roads, draining areas and creeks. These are currently causing local traffic problems.

The Brisbane River has broken its banks at Moggill, Yeronga and Jindalee.

### **5. Agency Reports**

The Chair called for agency reports by exception:

All Members

#### **Department of Health –**

#### **Director General Mick Reid**

The Director General advised that:

- All public hospitals and public nursing homes were secure.
- A private Nursing home in Rocklea may need to be evacuated.
- Some additional private nursing homes may need to be evacuated but





there should be no issue with this.

- Clarification was required with regards to the evacuation of the Wesley Hospital (currently there are conflicting reports).
- QAS has advised that ambulances are still able to access hospital facilities.
- Elective surgery has been postponed at many hospitals.

**Department of Communities –**

**Director General Linda Apelt**

The Director General advised that:

- A state-wide coordinator for Evacuation Centres has been appointed (Mr Mick Linnan) who will report to Alistair Dawson with regards to all issues pertaining to evacuations centres.

**Department of Transport and Main Roads –**

**Director General Dave Stewart**

The Director General advised

- The key focus is to get the Bruce Highway open.
- The Harbour Master is aware of and assisting with the issues previously mentioned (The Island and Oxley Restaurant).
- The Pacific Dawn has been redirected to an alternate port facility as the Port of Brisbane is closed to passenger liners.
- Public transport is currently running on Sunday timetables with ample information being provided to travellers via their web site.
- The rolling stock in the Mayne Rail yard has been moved and the yard is prepared for evacuation if required.
- The Cultural Centre bus way is expected to close later today.
- The TOLL transport group are working with DTMR and are looking at the resupply issues (utilising assets from Darwin and Sydney).

**Department of Community Safety**

**Director General Jim McGowan**

The Director General advised that:

- The DDC's have been asked to assist with the resupply by identifying items of necessity for their respective areas.
- The ADF and QANTAS maybe utilised to assist with resupply.
- ADF C-130 Hercules aircraft maybe use to resupply Mackay and Bundaberg, while jumbo jets maybe used to resupply Cairns and Townsville.

**Australian Defence Force**

**Colonel Luke Foster**

The Colonel advised that:

- The ADF are moving more rotary wing aircraft into South East Queensland from Townsville and Sydney.
- The ADF assets are available to assist in the resupply where required.
- Troops from Brisbane are assisting the SES and Brisbane response groups (helping with sandbagging and flood preparations etc).

**6. Premiers Address / Prime Ministers Address**



The **Premier** requested the total number of helicopters being used today as part of flood response activities (to be updated regularly throughout the day).

The Premier thanked everyone present for their work to date and that of their many staff here in Brisbane and throughout the state.

She thanked the Prime Minister for all of the assistance from the Commonwealth.

She also thanked the Chief of Defence Force for the ADF assistance and noted the cooperation between local / state and commonwealth government.

The **Prime Minister** thanked the Premier and acknowledged the work being done alongside each other at all levels of government and community. She thanked everyone for all of their work over the long days and stated that we had even more difficult days ahead.

The Prime Minister stressed that the Queensland Flood Event is being managed in exemplary fashion to date and thanked everyone for that past work, the work being undertaken now today and for the work that will be undertaken in the days to come.

#### **7. Chairs Action Items**

The Chair requested that each government department and statutory agency identify their vital staff that needs to be maintained in order to deliver business continuity and ensure they are able to function and carry out the duties required throughout the flood event.

Chair

All other non essential staff members are to be advised to not attend work until the situation has been resolved.

#### **8. Future Meetings**

The Chair advised that SDMG meeting will be held at 5pm today.

Chair

SDMG meetings are to be held at 8am and 5 pm daily until further notice.





## Attendance Sheet

Meeting Date:

WEDNESDAY 12  
January 2011

Time:

8am  
8pm

Venue:

Liaison Room  
State Disaster Coordination Centre  
Level 2, Block E, Emergency Services Complex  
Corner of Kedron Park Road and Parks Road, Kedron

Quorum = 8 Permanent Members

\* via teleconference

	Agency	Attending	Signature
Members	Premier of Queensland	Anna Bligh MP	
	Deputy Premier and Minister for Health	Paul Lucas MP	
	Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services	Neil Roberts MP	
	Department of the Premier and Cabinet <i>Chairperson</i>	Ken Smith	
	Department of Community Safety <i>Deputy Chairperson</i>	Jim McGowan	
	Department of Communities	Linda Apelt	
	Department of Education and Training	Julie Grantham	
	Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation	Ian Fletcher	
	Department of Environment and Resource Management	John Bradley Terry Wall	
	Department of Infrastructure and Planning	Graeme Newton	
	Department of Justice and Attorney General	Philip Reed	
	Department of Public Works	Mal Grierson	
	Department of Transport and Main Roads	Dave Stewart	
	Emergency Management Queensland	Warren Bridson	
	Local Government Association of Queensland <i>SDMG Member Representative</i>	Greg Hoffman	
Other Attendees	Queensland Health	Mick Reid	
	Queensland Police Service	Bob Atkinson	
	Queensland Treasury	Gerard Bradley	
	Minister for Agriculture, fisheries and Forestry <i>Federal Senator</i>	The Hon Joseph Ludwig	
	State Disaster Coordinator <i>Queensland Police Service</i>	Ian Stewart	
	State Recovery Coordinator <i>Emergency Management Queensland</i>	Bruce Grady	
	Recovery Task Force Commander <i>Australian Defence Force</i>	Mick Slater	
	SDMG Executive Officer <i>Queensland Police Service</i>	Brett Pointing	
	SDMG Secretariat <i>Queensland Police Service</i>	Deb Watkins	
	XO and Secretariat Support Officer <i>Queensland Police Service</i>	Richard Hahn	
	State Disaster Coordination Group (chair) <i>Queensland Police Service</i>	Alistair Dawson	
	Australian Defence Force	Luke Foster	



## Attendance Sheet

Bureau of Meteorology	Jim Davidson	
Bureau of Meteorology		
Department of the Premier and Cabinet	Brad Smith	
Department of Transport and Main Roads	Jack Noye	
Department of Communities	Bette Kill	
Queensland Health	Joannette Young	
Department of Public Works	Natalie MacDonald	
Department of Infrastructure and Planning	Michael Kinnane	
Emergency Management Queensland	Peta Robertson	
Department of Education and Training	Lyn McKenzie	
Department of Education and Training	Graham Atkins	
Queensland Fire and Rescue Service	Lee Johnson	
Department of Environment and Resource Management	John Bradley	
District Disaster Coordinator Brisbane	Peter Martin	*Teleconference ✓
District Disaster Coordinator Toowoomba	Brett Schafferius	*Teleconference ✓
District Disaster Coordinator Warwick	Greg Morrow	*Teleconference ✓
District Disaster Coordinator Ipswich	Garth Pitman	*Teleconference ✓
Queensland Treasury	Alex Beavers	*Teleconference
Lord Mayor Brisbane City Council	Campbell Newman	*Teleconference ✓
Chief Executive Officer Brisbane City Council	Colin Jensen	*Teleconference ✓
Mayor of Ipswich Council	Paul Pisale	*Teleconference ✓
Mayor of Somerset Regional Council	Graham Lehmann	*Teleconference ✓
Dept of Justice & AG	TOMMY RYAN	
PRIME MINISTER	JULIA GILLARD	
QUEENSLAND AMBULANCE	CHRIS BILLYARD	
RED CROSS	GREG GOEBEL	

**State Disaster Management Group  
Extraordinary Meeting Minutes  
5 pm Wednesday 12 January 2011**

Queensland Emergency Operations Centre (QEOC) Board Room  
Level 3  
Disaster Management Centre  
Emergency Services Complex Kedron  
Corner of Kedron Park Road and Park Road, Kedron

**Responsible  
Agency**

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed;

Chair

The Premier of Queensland, the Hon Anna Bligh

The Deputy Premier and Minister for Health, the Hon Paul Lucas (by teleconference)

The Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services, the Hon Neil Roberts MP

Brisbane City Council Deputy Mayor Graham Quirk (by teleconference)

Lockyer Regional Council Mayor Steve Jones (by teleconference)

The Chair welcomed State Disaster Management Group (SDMG) members and their respective agency representatives.

The Chair also welcomed Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) representatives:

Mr Peter Baddiley

Mr Jim Davidson

A quorum was achieved at this meeting through attendance by SDMG Members or appointed SDMG Member Deputies as follows:

SDMG Member – Department of the Premier and Cabinet - Ken Smith

SDMG Member – Queensland Police Service – Bob Atkinson

SDMG Member – Department of Community Safety - Jim McGowan

SDMG Member – Department of Communities – Linda Apelt

SDMG Member – Department of Employment, Economic Development and





Innovation – Ian Fletcher (by teleconference)

SDMG Member – Department of Environment and Resource Management – John Bradley (by teleconference)

SDMG Member – Department of Justice and Attorney-General – Philip Reed

SDMG Member – Department of Public Works – Mal Grierson

SDMG Member – Department of Transport and Main Roads – David Stewart

SDMG Member – Emergency Management Queensland – Warren Bridson

SDMG Member – Local Government Association of QLD – Greg Hallam

SDMG Member – Queensland Health – Mick Reid

SDMG Member – Queensland Treasury – Gerard Bradley (by teleconference)

SDMG Member – Department of Infrastructure and Planning – Graeme Newton

## **2. Bureau of Meteorology Presentation**

Jim Davidson and  
Peter Baddiley

Mr Davidson provided a presentation on the current weather situation and the updated weather forecast.

Mr Baddiley provided a presentation on the river system flood levels and predicted peaks over the coming days.

Mr Barry Dennien from South East Queensland Water provided an update on the current and forecast operation of Wivenhoe Dam.

Mr Davidson, Mr Baddiley and Mr Dennien answered questions from the SDMG members and were thanked for their presentation.

## **3. State Disaster Coordinator – Situation Update**

Deputy  
Commissioner Ian  
Stewart

Deputy Commissioner Stewart outlined that there are currently 12 dead, 46 people missing with grave concerns held for 15 of those missing. Various 'hotspots' were discussed with input from the relevant DDCs including:

### **o Brisbane DDC, Peter Martin:**

A 300m section of the floating Riverwalk is threatening to break loose. Plans are currently being prepared to demolish (in a controlled manner) the section of walkway to minimise the risk to critical transport infrastructure down stream.

The 'Island' barge and pontoon is still threatening to break free. Large concrete blocks are being bought in as additional tie points. A crew of 4 are on board the barge and the barge is currently under power to reduce stress on the pontoon. A marine architect is conducting on site risk assessment. Navy Clearance Divers should arrive on site at 2230 hrs and will consider





scuttling the vessel, given the risk to the 4 crew and essential transport infrastructure down stream.

The Moggill Ferry has broken away from one cable and is currently being held by one cable on the Ipswich side. A 1.5 tonne anchor being bought on site to assist in securing the vessel.

o **Ipswich DDC, Garth Pitman:**

The peak at Ipswich @ 1500hrs was expected to be 20.5m. Actual peak was 19.2m.

1000 houses inundated with water.

o **Toowoomba DDC, Brett Schaffurius:**

Numbers in evacuation centres in Lockyer Valley are decreasing.

Long slow search particularly in the Grantham / Murphys Creek area due to the nature of the terrain.

Mayor Steve Jones relayed the nature of the very serious and significant issues being faced by the Lockyer Valley communities.

#### **4. Agency Reports**

The Chair called for agency reports by exception:

All Members

##### **Department of Public Works –**

##### **A/Director General Mal Grierson**

The Director General advised that:

- Lost access to 6 government buildings including QH building in Charlotte St, Forestry House and others.
- Important to repatriate some government buildings (on a priority basis) to deliver recovery services to people.
- Many iconic buildings affected by flood including Suncorp Stadium, Cultural Centre.

##### **ENERGEX -**

##### **Chris Arnold**

Mr Arnold advised that:

- Currently 115,000 customers have lost supply.
- Numbers are expected to increase to 150,000.
- The risk of Powerlink distribution substations being compromised is decreasing.
- Messaging will need to explain the slow connection process to ensure public safety.

##### **SEQ Water –**

##### **Mr Barry Dennien**

Mr Dennien advised that:

- 2 pallets of bottled water have been delivered to the Withcott area.
- Minor damage to Mt Crosby which should be fully operational by the weekend.



- Some concerns about water drinking quality given the quality of surface river water and levels of turbidity.

**Telecommunications –**

**Mayor Chris Jones, Lockyer Valley Regional Council**

Mayor Jones was concerned that:

- Telecommunications issues were compromising recovery efforts.
- Discussions to be held with Telstra and Optus.

**Department of Premier and Cabinet –**

**Director General Ken Smith**

The Director General advised that:

- Concerns are held about issues of people self-establishing evacuation centres.
- Post flood will need to do more work in relation to matters surrounding establishing and supplying evacuation centres.
- Need to develop mechanisms to manage the logistics of people wanting to volunteer to help in the clean up of Brisbane / Ipswich over the coming week. Cr. Quirk, D/C Stewart, QFRS and SES tasked to discuss this matter in detail.

**Local Government Association of Qld -**

**Greg Hallam**

Mr Hallam was concerned that:

- Over 70,000 kilometres of LGA roads have been damaged or destroyed as a result of these floods. This is a huge impact on many communities.

**Department of Health –**

**Director General Mick Reid**

The Director General advised that:

- Hospitals OK
- The Commonwealth government agencies are assisting private nursing homes respond to the current floods.
- The John Tong Centre is geared up to handle up to 50 bodies.

**Department of Transport and Main Roads –**

**Director General David Stewart**

The Director General advised that:

- There are skeleton passenger services operating.

**5. Other Business**

The Chair reiterated the importance of keeping accurate records of volunteers and support provided by other states and levels of government.

Chair

**6. Future Meetings**

The Chair put to Members the option for the next meetings to occur on Thursday 13 January 2011 at 8am and 5pm due to the urgency of the current situation.

Chair



The members endorsed the proposal for the meetings to be held on 18 January at 8 am and 5pm.

**7. Meeting Closed**





## Attendance Sheet

Meeting Date: ~~Wednesday 12th~~  
Tuesday 11th January 2011

Time: 5 pm

Venue: Board Room  
Queensland Emergency Operations Centre  
Level 3 Disaster Management Centre  
Emergency Services Complex  
Corner of Kedron Park Road and Parks Road, Kedron

Quorum = 8 Permanent Members

\* via teleconference

Agency		Attending
Members	Premier of Queensland	Anna Bligh MP
	Deputy Premier and Minister for Health	Paul Lucas MP
	Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services	Neil Roberts MP
	Department of the Premier and Cabinet <i>Chairperson</i>	Ken Smith
	Department of Community Safety <i>Deputy Chairperson</i>	Jim McGowan
	Department of Communities	Linda Apelt
	Department of Education and Training	Julie Grantham
	Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation	Ian Fletcher
	Department of Environment and Resource Management	John Bradley
	Department of Infrastructure and Planning	Graeme Newton
	Department of Justice and Attorney General	Philip Reed
	Department of Public Works	Mal Grierson
	Department of Transport and Main Roads	Dave Stewart
	Emergency Management Queensland	Warren Bridson
	Local Government Association of Queensland <i>SDMG Member Representative</i>	Greg Hoffman
Other Attendees	Queensland Health	Mick Reid
	Queensland Police Service	Bob Atkinson
	Queensland Treasury	Gerard Bradley
	Recovery Task Force Commander <i>Australian Defence Force</i>	Mick Slater
	State Disaster Coordinator <i>Queensland Police Service</i>	Ian Stewart
	State Recovery Coordinator <i>Emergency Management Queensland</i>	Bruce Grady
	SDMG Executive Officer <i>Queensland Police Service</i>	Brett Pointing
	SDMG Secretariat <i>Queensland Police Service</i>	Deb Watkins
	XO and Secretariat Support Officer <i>Queensland Police Service</i>	Richard Hahn
	State Disaster Coordination Group (chair) <i>Queensland Police Service</i>	Alistair Dawson
	Australian Defence Force	Luke Foster <i>IAN DUFF</i>

*Teleconference	✓
*Teleconference	✓
*Teleconference	✓
*Teleconference	



**State Disaster Management Group  
Extraordinary Meeting Minutes  
Thursday 13 January 2011 (AM)**

Queensland Emergency Operations Centre (QEOC) Board Room  
Level 3  
Disaster Management Centre  
Emergency Services Complex Kedron  
Corner of Kedron Park Road and Parks Road, Kedron

**Responsible  
Agency**

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed;

Chair

The Premier of Queensland, the Hon Anna Bligh

The Prime Minister of Australia, the Hon Julia Gillard

The Deputy Premier and Minister for Health, the Hon Paul Lucas MP (by teleconference)

The Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services, the Hon Neil Roberts MP

Brisbane City Council Mayor Campbell Newman (by teleconference)

Ipswich City Council Mayor Paul Pisale (by teleconference)

Lockyer Regional Council Mayor Steve Jones (by teleconference)

The Chair welcomed State Disaster Management Group (SDMG) members and their respective agency representatives.

The Chair also welcomed Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) representatives: (by teleconference)

Mr Peter Baddiley

Mr Jim Davidson

A quorum was achieved at this meeting through attendance by State Disaster Management Group (SDMG) members or appointed SDMG member deputies as follows:

SDMG Member – Department of the Premier and Cabinet - Ken Smith

SDMG Member – Queensland Police Service – Bob Atkinson





SDMG Member – Department of Community Safety - Jim McGowan

SDMG Member – Department of Communities – Linda Apelt

SDMG Member – Department of Education and Training – Julie Grantham

SDMG Member – Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation – Ian Fletcher (via teleconference)

SDMG Member – Department of Environment and Resource Management – John Bradley

SDMG Member – Department of Justice and Attorney-General – Philip Reed

SDMG Member – Department of Public Works – Mal Grierson

SDMG Member – Department of Transport and Main Roads – David Stewart

SDMG Member – Emergency Management Queensland – Warren Bridson

SDMG Member – Local Government Association of QLD – Greg Hallam

SDMG Member– Queensland Health – Mick Reid

SDMG Member– Queensland Treasury – Gerard Bradley (by teleconference)

SDMG Member – Department of Infrastructure and Planning – Graeme Newton

## **2. Bureau of Meteorology Presentation**

Mr Davidson provided a presentation on the current weather situation and the updated weather forecast.

Mr Baddiley provided a presentation on the river system flood levels and predicted peaks over the coming days.

Both Mr Davidson and Mr Baddiley answered questions from the SDMG members and were thanked for their presentations.

## **3. State Disaster Coordinator – Situation Update**

Deputy Commissioner Stewart outlined that there are currently 12 dead, 74 people missing with grave concerns held for 12 of those missing.

Various 'hotspots' were discussed with input from the relevant DDCs including:

- o **Brisbane DDC, Peter Martin:**

The Moggill Ferry is currently nestled against the bank of the Brisbane River. The ADF have delivered a 1.5 tonne anchor to the location and today with the assistance of the ADF they will be joining the ferry to the anchor.

Jim Davidson and  
Peter Baddiley

Deputy  
Commissioner Ian  
Stewart



The 'Island' barge and pontoon is still threatening to break free. Large concrete blocks are onsite as additional tie points and additional tie lines have been deployed. The barge is under power for the last 24 hrs and will continue to be so for the foreseeable future. Re-supply of fuel to the ferry is being undertaken. Col. Foster advised that demolition teams would be onsite today assessing the plan to sink the barge if needed.

Overnight a large number of vessels, moorings and jetties at the Dockside complex came within 200 mm of breaking free. Lower water levels have eased concerns.

A total length of 860m of the walkway broke free with the major (400m) section being controlled on its trip down the river by tugs to minimise the risk of damage to essential transport infrastructure.

Premier raised questions about risks to any other walkways and concerns about subsidence issues surrounding the 'Vision' site.

o **Ipswich DDC, Garth Pitman:**

600 people currently in evacuation centres.

Road access between Brisbane and Ipswich is now available via Centenary Hwy to Cunningham Hwy to Yamanto and in to Ipswich.

o **Toowoomba DDC, Brett Schaffurius:**

Numbers in evacuation centres in Lockyer Valley will continue to decrease. Two major priorities are the search of the Withcott / Grantham / Murphy's Creek area and the restoration of utilities to communities.

Re-supply isolated areas is an issue due to destruction of local roads.

Mayor Steve Jones outlined problems surrounding; utilities, fuel supplies, roads and bridges, Lowood Water treatment plant and the number of broken water mains.

The Deputy Premier suggested that the North and South water retail entities may be able to assist the western water entity with staff and other support.

Energex has bought generation sets into the area for critical infrastructure.

ADF are providing water treatment plants into the Withcott and Grantham areas.

Significant amounts of temporary housing will be needed into to short to medium term.

o **Warwick DDC, Greg Morrow:**

All highways open to Warwick however B-doubles cannot travel on the road from Warwick to Toowoomba.

Goondiwindi has been evacuated with only 6 people left in the town. Local council is confident that the levee will hold against the predicted 10.7m peak. River is currently 9.1m.

Texas; water height is decreasing.

Yelarbon; water height is decreasing.

#### 4. Agency Reports

The Chair called for agency reports by exception:

All Members





**Energex –**

**Mr Chris Arnold**

Mr Arnold advised that:

- Currently 118,000 have lost supply.
- Reconnection process will be lengthy as all houses inundated will need to be checked prior to connection to the network.
- Maps will be prepared to visually track reconnection process.

**State Recovery Coordinator– Telecommunications**

**Mr Bruce Grady**

Mr Grady advised that:

- Telstra is undertaking damage assessments to exchanges in the Lockyer Valley.
- Both Telstra and Optus working to repair services in the area.

**Department of Environment and Resource Management –**

**Director General John Bradley**

The Director General advised that:

- The water turbidity is causing issues at the Mt Crosby treatment plant.
- The two major problems facing Brisbane water supply is that, with water supply ability somewhat compromised, the community that is not impacted by the flood must be very careful with their level of water use so as to allow sufficient water to be available for those areas to utilise the water supply to clean. The second concern is the re-supply of chemicals to the Mt Crosby water treatment plant.

**Prime Minister of Australia, The Hon Julia Gillard**

The Prime Minister thanked the Australian Defence Forces for their efforts during this emergency.

**Australian Defence Forces –**

**Colonel Foster**

The Colonel advised that:

- There will be 2 x C-17 flights into Townsville today and 4 x C-130 flights into Bundaberg today.
- Troops are also assisting police patrol in the Brisbane area.
- Many staff from RAAF Amberley will be supporting the city of Ipswich.
- Currently close to 400 ADF personnel are involved in operations in support of this disaster.

**Department of Infrastructure and Planning –**

**Director General Graeme Newton**

The Director General advised that:

- Strategy is being developed to manage the expected volunteer effort.
- May be necessary to redirect effort from one location that may be well supported to an area with larger levels of need.





**Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation**

**Director General Ian Fletcher**

The Director General advised that:

- A range of animal welfare issues were developing in relation to feed supply.
- Primary production chain is compromised in a number of ways which will impact on the supply of milk, eggs, fruit and vegetables.
- The Dept is working with all sectors to get produce moving again a.s.a.p.

**Department of Transport and Main Roads –**

**Director General David Stewart**

The Director General advised that:

- There are limited passenger services operating.
- Current focus is on re-supply efforts across the state.
- Coastal shipping will be an important component into the medium term.
- Brisbane port is currently closed and should be able to get vessels into port by Saturday to begin loading.

**5. Other Business**

The Premier reminded agencies that despite the problems in the south-east corner it is important that we not lose focus on the problems facing regional Queensland.

The Premier stated that a very high standard of performance had been established during this response phase but reminded agencies that the standard had to be maintained as we move into recovery.

The Premier reminded agencies to take up offers of support from other states and New Zealand if necessary to maintain the high standard of service and to ensure the welfare of staff and volunteers.

The Prime Minister thanked everyone for their efforts.

Director General Jim McGowan stated that it will be important to provide psychological support for front line staff particularly for the police, pilots and the ADF.

**6. Future Meetings**

The Chair reminded Members of the next meeting to occur on Thursday 13 January 2011 at 5pm.

The members endorsed the proposal for the meeting to be held on 13 January at 5pm.

**7. Meeting Closed**

Chair

Chair



## Attendance Sheet

Meeting Date:

*Thursday 9/11*  
 Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2011

Time: 8 am

Venue:

Board Room

Queensland Emergency Operations Centre  
 Level 3 Disaster Management Centre  
 Emergency Services Complex  
 Corner of Kedron Park Road and Parks Road, Kedron  
 Corner of Kedron Park Road and Parks Road, Kedron

Quorum = 8 Permanent Members

\* via teleconference

	Agency	Attending	Signature
Members	Premier of Queensland	Anna Bligh MP	
	Deputy Premier and Minister for Health	Paul Lucas MP	
	Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services	Neil Roberts MP	
	Department of the Premier and Cabinet <i>Chairperson</i>	Ken Smith	
	Department of Community Safety <i>Deputy Chairperson</i>	Jim McGowan	
	Department of Communities	Linda Apelt	
	Department of Education and Training	Julie Grantham	
	Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation	Ian Fletcher	
	Department of Environment and Resource Management	John Bradley	
	Department of Infrastructure and Planning	Graeme Newton	
	Department of Justice and Attorney General	Philip Reed	
	Department of Public Works	Mal Grierson	
	Department of Transport and Main Roads	Dave Stewart	
	Emergency Management Queensland	Warren Bridson	
	Local Government Association of Queensland <i>SDMG Member Representative</i>	Greg Hallam	
	Queensland Health	Mick Reid	
	Queensland Police Service	Bob Atkinson	
	Queensland Treasury	Gerard Bradley	
Other Attendees	Recovery Task Force Commander <i>Australian Defence Force</i>	Mick Slater	
	State Disaster Coordinator <i>Queensland Police Service</i>	Ian Stewart	
	State Recovery Coordinator <i>Emergency Management Queensland</i>	Bruce Grady	
	SDMG Executive Officer <i>Queensland Police Service</i>	Brett Pointing	
	SDMG Secretariat <i>Queensland Police Service</i>	Deb Watkins	
	XO and Secretariat Support Officer <i>Queensland Police Service</i>	Richard Hahn	
	State Disaster Coordination Group (chair) <i>Queensland Police Service</i>	Alistair Dawson	





## Attendance Sheet

Australian Defence Force	Luke Foster	
Bureau of Meteorology	Jim Davidson	
Bureau of Meteorology	Peter Baddiley	
Department of the Premier and Cabinet	Brad Smith	
Department of Transport and Main Roads	Don Blechley	
Queensland Health	Jeannette Young	
Department of Public Works	Natalie MacDonald	
Department of Infrastructure and Planning	Michael Kinnane	
Emergency Management Queensland	Peta Robertson	
Department of Education and Training	Lyn McKenzie	
Department of Education and Training	Graham Atkins	
Queensland Fire and Rescue Service	Lee Johnson	
District Disaster Coordinator Brisbane	Peter Martin	*Teleconference
District Disaster Coordinator Toowoomba	Brett Schafferius	*Teleconference
District Disaster Coordinator Warwick	Greg Morrow	*Teleconference
District Disaster Coordinator Ipswich	Garth Pitman	*Teleconference
Lord Mayor Brisbane City Council	Campbell Newman	*Teleconference
Mayor of Ipswich Council	Paul Pisale	*Teleconference
Mayor of Somerset Regional Council	Graham Lehmann	*Teleconference
Mayor of Lockyer Valley Council	Steve Jones	*Teleconference
ENERGEX	Chris Arnold	
ENERGEX	Ron Watson	
TASKFORCE	CHRIS AUSTIN	
Minister Robert's Office	Scott Chandler	
EMCA	M. De Shapland	
ENERGEX	Ron Watson	
ENERGEX	CHRIS ARNOLD	
TMR	Jim HUGGETT	
2MS media	Caryn Varley	
QPS	John English	
GRID MANAGER	Spree Jenner	
PMO	Sean Kelly	
QUEENSLAND AMBULANCE	RUSSELL BOWLES	
Queensland Ambulance Service	Cedric Brown	
Queensland Fire & Rescue	Iain Mackenzie	
EMA	CARL DARTY	
JTF 637	Col LUKE FOSTER	
RED CROSS	GREG GOSEB	
Premiers	Nicole Scrimgeour	
RPS	Lynne Chapman	



**State Disaster Management Group  
Extraordinary Meeting Minutes  
5 pm Thursday 13 January 2011**

Queensland Emergency Operations Centre (QEOC) Board Room  
Level 3  
Disaster Management Centre  
Emergency Services Complex Kedron  
Corner of Kedron Park Road and Parks Road, Kedron

Responsible  
Agency

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed;

Chair

The Premier of Queensland, the Hon Anna Bligh

The Deputy Premier and Minister for Health, the Hon Paul Lucas MP (by teleconference)

The Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services, the Hon Neil Roberts MP

Mr Kerry Shine MP, Member for Toowoomba North (by teleconference)

The Chair welcomed State Disaster Management Group (SDMG) members and their respective agency representatives.

The Chair also welcomed Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) representatives: (by teleconference)

Mr Peter Baddiley

Mr Jim Davidson

A quorum was achieved at this meeting through attendance by SDMG Members or appointed SDMG Member Deputies as follows:

SDMG Member - Department of the Premier and Cabinet - Ken Smith

SDMG Member – Queensland Police Service – Bob Atkinson

SDMG Member – Department of Community Safety - Jim McGowan

SDMG Member – Department of Communities – Linda Apelt

SDMG Member – Department of Education and Training – Julie Grantham



SDMG Member – Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation – Ian Fletcher

SDMG Member – Department of Environment and Resource Management – John Bradley

SDMG Member – Department of Justice and Attorney-General – Philip Reed

SDMG Member – Department of Public Works – Mal Grierson

SDMG Member – Department of Transport and Main Roads – David Stewart

SDMG Member – Emergency Management Queensland – Warren Bridson

SDMG Member – Local Government Association of QLD – Greg Hallam

SDMG Member– Queensland Health – Mick Reid

SDMG Member– Queensland Treasury – Gerard Bradley (by teleconference)

SDMG Member – Department of Infrastructure and Planning – Graeme Newton

## **2. Bureau of Meteorology Presentation**

Jim Davidson and  
Peter Baddiley

Mr Davidson provided a presentation on the current weather situation and the updated weather forecast.

Mr Baddiley provided a presentation on the river system flood levels and predicted peaks over the coming days.

Both Mr Davidson and Mr Baddiley answered questions from the SDMG members with much discussion about the situation at Goondiwindi.

Both Mr Davidson and Mr Baddiley were thanked for their presentations.

## **3. State Disaster Coordinator – Situation Update**

Deputy  
Commissioner Ian  
Stewart /  
Commissioner Bob  
Atkinson

Deputy Commissioner Stewart (who soon left the meeting to undertake other duties as requested by the Chair) / Commissioner Bob Atkinson led the discussion of various 'hotspots' with input from the relevant DDC's including:

### **o Brisbane Deputy DDC, Kerry Dunn:**

The Moggill Ferry is currently secure with the addition of a 1.5 tonne anchor connected to the ferry with the assistance of the ADF.

The refuelling of the 'Island' barge has been completed with the assistance of the ADF which should give 50 hours running time. The barge should be able to maintain position however it is planned to move the vessel





downstream to a location which will not compromise infrastructure and the first safe available opportunity.

It is not believed that any further walkways are at risk.

No further evacuation will be required in Brisbane.

Premier raised questions about strategies and infrastructure to transition people from evacuation centres back to their homes and discussed public messaging surrounding this issue.

Premier also discussed GP support to Evacuation Centres as many people evacuated without medication. Premier stated that this was an issue across Qld and not an issue isolated to Brisbane.

o **Ipswich DDC, Garth Pitman:**

Cunningham and Warrego Highways open.

Ipswich Motorway should be open on 15 January.

Rapid assessment teams ready for deployment on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

5 water tankers have made deliveries into Lowood. Bottled water was also delivered into Fernvale and Lowood.

o **Toowoomba DDC, Brett Schafferius:**

New England Highway to Warwick is open to all vehicles.

Withcott now has 65,000 litres of water in storage at the fire station.

Some power has been reconnected to the high ground around Grantham.

All houses in Grantham have now been searched.

205 km of waterways still to be searched.

During the earlier discussion of hydrology the Warwick DDC, Mayor Scheu, Greg Hallam and the SDC, Deputy Commissioner Ian Stewart, retired from the teleconference to discuss the Goondiwindi situation in greater detail.

#### **4. Agency Reports**

The Chair called for agency / utilities reports by exception:

All Members

#### **Department of Environment and Resource Management – Water Director General John Bradley**

The Director General advised that:

- Significant damage to water infrastructure in Lockyer Valley. Water deliveries running 24/7 to Lockyer community for the foreseeable future. Examining options including reverse osmosis plants.
- Mt Crosby chemical resupply was successful today.
- Eastbank facility is back on line but with reduced output and is fragile.
- Significant problems with water supply to Cherbourg and decision may be made to evacuate.

#### **Emergency Management Queensland – Telecommunications**





**Mr Warren Bridson**

Mr Bridson advised that:

- Optus has lost many mobile transmission towers and land line infrastructure affecting about 20,700 customers.
- Telstra have damage to 20,000 landlines, 200 mobile towers, 9,000 cables customers, 10,000 Foxtel customers and 14,000 ADSL customers.

**Department of Community Safety -**

**Director General Jim McGowan**

The Director General advised that:

- The Bruce Highway is now open at Gympie.
- Current focus is on re-supply efforts across the state.

**Department of Transport and Main Roads –**

**Director General David Stewart**

The Director General advised that:

- Public transport is operating to a Sunday timetable.
- Port of Brisbane is currently closed but the current priority is to get fuel and resupply ships in.

**Department of Infrastructure and Planning –**

**Director General Graeme Newton**

The Director General advised that:

- Draft volunteer strategy has been developed for consideration. Key points include 3 categories of volunteers, unskilled, skilled trades and corporate.
- Allow volunteers to self select category and utilise Volunteering Queensland to operate the program.
- Keep the scheme simple, allow people to self select and do not impinge on local governments.

**Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation –**

**Director General Ian Fletcher**

The Director General advised that:

- A site has been identified to allow the Brisbane Markets to relocate and hopefully open on Monday.
- RSPCA and Biosecurity Qld are working on a strategy in relation to animal welfare matters.

**Queensland Health -**

**Director General Mick Reid**

The Director General advised that:

- All patients have been evacuated from Goondiwindi consisting of 15 hospital patients and 3 support staff and 46 patients from a nursing home and an unknown number of staff.
- A teleconference is being held on Monday with all other state and territories and New Zealand to develop a 3 month rolling plan for

accessing staff in the area of; Mental Health, Environmental Health, Doctors and Nurses.



**Queensland  
Government**

**Department of Education and Training –  
Director General Julie Grantham**

The Director General advised that:

- An assessment is currently underway and planning happening regarding the opening of schools and kindergartens for the start of the school term.
- Allowances will be given in relation to the application of the Child Care Standards.

**Department of Communities –  
Director General Linda Apelt**

The Director General advised that:

- Resources are being increased to support Volunteering Queensland.
- Westpac is supporting evacuation centres with virtual banking facilities.

**Australian Defence Forces –  
Colonel Foster**

The Colonel advised that:

- Operations in Lockyer Valley include support of Police searches and water supply operations.
- There were 3 x C-130 flights into Bundaberg, not the planned 4.
- DDC has made the decision to not scuttle the 'Island' barge at this time.

**5. Other Business**

Greg Goebell from the Red Cross mentioned that some people have been donating very poor quality items and food well past its 'use by date' and asked that some public messaging occur about the types and nature of items needed.

Chair

**6. Future Meetings**

The Chair reminded Members of the next meetings to occur on Friday 14 January 2011 at 8am.

Chair

The members endorsed the proposal for the meetings to be held on 14 January at 8am.

**7. Meeting Closed**





## Attendance Sheet

Meeting Date:

*Thursday 9/1/11*  
 Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2011

Time: 5 pm

Venue:

Board Room

Queensland Emergency Operations Centre  
 Level 3 Disaster Management Centre  
 Emergency Services Complex  
 Corner of Kedron Park Road and Parks Road, Kedron

Quorum = 8 Permanent Members

\* via teleconference

	Agency	Attending	Signature
Members	Premier of Queensland	Anna Bligh MP	IN ATTENDANCE
	Deputy Premier and Minister for Health	Paul Lucas MP	IN ATTENDANCE
	Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services	Neil Roberts MP	IN ATTENDANCE
	Department of the Premier and Cabinet Chairperson	Ken Smith	
	Department of Community Safety Deputy Chairperson	Jim McGowan	
	Department of Communities	Linda Apelt	
	Department of Education and Training	Julie Grantham	
	Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation	Ian Fletcher	
	Department of Environment and Resource Management	John Bradley	
	Department of Infrastructure and Planning	Graeme Newton	
	Department of Justice and Attorney General	Philip Reed	
	Department of Public Works	Mal Grierson	
	Department of Transport and Main Roads	Dave Stewart	
	Emergency Management Queensland	Warren Bridson	
	Local Government Association of Queensland SDMG Member Representative	Greg Hallam	
	Queensland Health	Mick Reid	
	Queensland Police Service	Bob Atkinson	
	Queensland Treasury	Gerard Bradley	
	Recovery Task Force Commander Australian Defence Force	Mick Slater	
Other Attendees	State Disaster Coordinator Queensland Police Service	Ian Stewart	
	State Recovery Coordinator Emergency Management Queensland	Bruce Grady	
	SDMG Executive Officer Queensland Police Service	Brett Pointing	
	SDMG Secretariat Queensland Police Service	Deb Watkins	
	XO and Secretariat Support Officer Queensland Police Service	Richard Hahn	
	State Disaster Coordination Group (chair) Queensland Police Service	Alistair Dawson	



[illegible]

**State Disaster Management Group  
Extraordinary Meeting Minutes  
8 am Friday 14 January 2011**

Queensland Emergency Operations Centre (QEOC) Board Room  
Level 3  
Disaster Management Centre  
Emergency Services Complex Kedron  
Corner of Kedron Park Road and Parks Road, Kedron

**Responsible  
Agency**

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed;

Chair

The Premier of Queensland, the Hon Anna Bligh

The Deputy Premier and Minister for Health, the Hon Paul Lucas (by teleconference)

The Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services, the Hon Neil Roberts MP

The Minister for Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, the Hon Senator Joe Ludwig

Lord Mayor of Brisbane, Cr Campbell Newman and Deputy Mayor, Cr Graham Quirk (by teleconference)

Mayor of Goondiwindi, Cr Graeme Scheu (by teleconference)

Mayor of Lockyer Valley Regional Council, Cr Steve Jones (by teleconference)

The Chair welcomed State Disaster Management Group (SDMG) members and their respective agency representatives.

The Chair also welcomed Bureau of Meteorology representatives: (by teleconference)

Mr Jim Stewart

Mr Jim Davidson

A quorum was achieved at this meeting through attendance by SDMG Members or appointed SDMG Member Deputies as follows:

SDMG Member – Department of the Premier and Cabinet - Ken Smith

SDMG Member – Queensland Police Service – Bob Atkinson





SDMG Member – Department of Community Safety - Jim McGowan

SDMG Member – Department of Communities – Linda Apelt

SDMG Member – Department of Education and Training – Julie Grantham

SDMG Member – Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation – Ian Fletcher

SDMG Member – Department of Environment and Resource Management – John Bradley

SDMG Member – Department of Justice and Attorney-General – Philip Reed

SDMG Member – Department of Public Works – Mal Grierson

SDMG Member – Department of Transport and Main Roads – David Stewart

SDMG Member – Emergency Management Queensland – Warren Bridson

SDMG Member – Local Government Association of QLD – Greg Hoffman

SDMG Member– Queensland Health – Mick Reid

SDMG Member Deputy – Department of Infrastructure and Planning – Michael Kinnane

## **2. Bureau of Meteorology Presentation**

Jim Davidson and  
Jim Stewart

Mr Davidson provided a presentation on the current weather situation and the updated weather forecast.

Mr Stewart provided a presentation on the river system flood levels and predicted peaks over the coming days.

Both Mr Davidson and Mr Stewart answered questions from the SDMG members and were thanked for their presentation.

## **3. State Disaster Coordinator – Situation Update**

Deputy  
Commissioner Ian  
Stewart

Deputy Commissioner Stewart led the discussion of various 'hotspots' with input from the relevant DDCs including:

General situation across the state is beginning to stabilise with re-supply becoming the priority issue.

Mayor Newman indicated that opening arterial roads (including Coronation Drive, Inner City Bypass and Milton Road) is his priority.





- **Toowoomba DDC, Brett Schafferius:**  
26 water trucks will be supplying water into the Lockyer valley 24/7 for the immediate future.  
95% of electrical supply should be returned by this afternoon.  
Will be locating a 24hr police presence in Grantham to reassure residents.
- **Ipswich DDC, Garth Pitman:**  
SEQ Water providing good support into Lowood and Fernvale.  
Rapid Assessment Teams will commence operating in Ipswich today.  
River heights are falling.  
Karalee Evacuation centre was re-supplied with the assistance of the ADF.  
Ipswich Motorway should be open by mid-afternoon.
- **Brisbane DDC, Peter Martin:**  
At the peak 14,100 properties were affected with the current figure being 10,700 properties affected.  
1,203 houses suffered complete inundation.  
Currently 990 people in the RNA evacuation centre and 314 people in the QEII evacuation centre, with these numbers expected to begin falling.  
Re-supply to the western suburbs is the current priority with good support from the ADF.
- **Warwick DDC, Greg Morrow:**  
A 3 stage evacuation plan for Goondiwindi has been established and the community is currently at stage 1.  
60 people have self evacuated to the Showgrounds evacuation centre and 38 people have self evacuated to St Mary's Church.  
Fatigue management is an issue that is currently being managed.  
Mayor Scheu mentioned the great support he has received from the community of Inglewood.

#### **4. Agency Reports**

The Chair called for agency / utilities reports by exception:

All Members

The Chair stated that there is an urgent need to identify which LDMGs require extended trading hours to support their communities across the weekend.

#### **Energex –**

##### **Chris Arnold**

Mr Arnold advised that:

- Currently 60,000 customers are without supply.
- The target is to reduce that to 25,000 – 40,000 by tonight.
- CBD is largely operational now from an electricity distribution perspective with owners of buildings needed to undertake inspections and repairs prior to connection.
- Returning supply in Lockyer Valley and to western suburbs of Brisbane are the current priorities.
- Electricity is back to 50% of Lockyer Valley community with about 2,500



- customers still without electricity.
- Energex coordinating with Master Electricians regarding process for tasking safety inspections.
- Deputy Mayor Quirk enquired about the inequity in that some companies have volunteered to undertake the checks for free and some businesses had offered to undertake the checks at discount prices.
- Ron Watson from Energex stated the need for development of a clear process and messaging for the public.
- The Commissioner of Police, Mr Atkinson outlined the benefit in coordinating road access and power re-supply.

#### **Department of Environment and Resource Management – Water**

##### **Director General John Bradley**

The Director General advised that:

- The water treatment plant at Gatton should be operating later today with limited capacity however given severe damage to the water reticulation system this will be of only limited benefit.
- Supply to Withcott should be returned by 25 January.
- With the fragile nature of the Eastbank plant it is important people are advised to keep demand down.
- Current usage is 370 Mega litres and with the compromised performance of Eastbank output is limited to about 400 mega litres. As the clean up begins water consumption should increase and efforts must be made to keep consumption below 400 mega litres.
- Discussions were held about using recycled water for cleaning streets.

#### **Department of Transport and Main Roads –**

##### **Director General David Stewart**

The Director General advised that:

- It is vital that public are advised that essential travel only should be undertaken.
- Public transport operating with the Busway expected to open again today.
- Ipswich Motorway will reopen by mid-afternoon.
- The ADF have offered a Minesweeper to begin mapping and clearance of Moreton Bay.
- Port of Brisbane will begin undertaking a survey with a view to trying to open the port facilities by Sunday.
- Chain of supply issues are being examined for primary producers and resource sector.

#### **Australian Defence Forces –**

##### **Colonel Foster**

The Colonel advised that:

- 600+ ADF personnel are currently involved in supporting disaster response operations.
- Focus on resupply into areas such as Lockyer Valley, Ipswich, Western Suburbs, Bundaberg, and Goondiwindi.

#### **5. Other Business**



The Premier outlined the importance of having recovery and cleaning operations underway in Condamine prior to residents returning.

**6. Future Meetings**

The Chair cancelled the planned meeting at 5pm and proposed to Members that the next meeting should occur on Saturday 15 January 2011 at 9am.

Chair

The members endorsed the proposal for the next meeting to be held on 15 January at 9am.

**7. Meeting Closed**





## Attendance Sheet

Meeting Date: Friday 14th January 2011

Time: 8 am

Venue: Board Room

Queensland Emergency Operations Centre  
 Level 3 Disaster Management Centre  
 Emergency Services Complex  
 Corner of Kedron Park Road and Parks Road, Kedron

Quorum = 8 Permanent Members

\* via teleconference

Agency		Attending	Signature
Members	Premier of Queensland	Anna Bligh MP	IN ATTENDANCE
	Deputy Premier and Minister for Health	Paul Lucas MP	IN ATTENDANCE
	Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services	Neil Roberts MP	IN ATTENDANCE
	Department of the Premier and Cabinet Chairperson	Ken Smith	
	Department of Community Safety Deputy Chairperson	Jim McGowan	
	Department of Communities	Linda Apelt	
	Department of Education and Training	Julie Grantham	
	Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation	Ian Fletcher	
	Department of Environment and Resource Management	John Bradley	
	Department of Infrastructure and Planning	Graeme Newton	
	Department of Justice and Attorney General	Philip Reed	
	Department of Public Works	Mal Grierson	
	Department of Transport and Main Roads	Dave Stewart	
	Emergency Management Queensland	Warren Bridson	
	Local Government Association of Queensland SDMG Member Representative	Greg Hallam	
Other Attendees	Queensland Health	Mick Reid	
	Queensland Police Service	Bob Atkinson	
	Queensland Treasury	Gerard Bradley	
	Recovery Task Force Commander Australian Defence Force	Mick Slater	
	State Disaster Coordinator Queensland Police Service	Ian Stewart	
	State Recovery Coordinator Emergency Management Queensland	Bruce Grady	
	SDMG Executive Officer Queensland Police Service	Brett Pointing	
	SDMG Secretariat Queensland Police Service	Deb Watkins	
	XO and Secretariat Support Officer Queensland Police Service	Richard Hahn	
	State Disaster Coordination Group (chair) Queensland Police Service	Alistair Dawson	

Figure 1



**State Disaster Management Group  
Extraordinary Meeting Minutes  
9 am Sunday 16 January 2011**

Queensland Emergency Operations Centre (QEOC) Board Room  
Level 3  
Disaster Management Centre  
Emergency Services Complex Kedron  
Corner of Kedron Park Road and Parks Road, Kedron

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed:

The Premier of Queensland, the Hon Anna Bligh MP

The Deputy Premier and Minister for Health, the Hon Paul Lucas MP

The Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services, the Hon Neil Roberts MP

Deputy Mayor of Brisbane, Graham Quirk (by teleconference)

Mayor of Goondiwindi, Graeme Scheu (by teleconference)

Mayor of Somerset Regional Council – Graham Lehmann

Mayor of Western Downs Regional Council – Ray Brown

Recovery Task Force Commander – Major General Mick Slater

The Chair welcomed members and their respective agency representatives.

The Chair also welcomed Bureau of Meteorology representatives:

Mr Jim Davidson

Mr Paul Birch (via teleconference)

A quorum was achieved at this meeting through attendance by State Disaster Management Group (SDMG) Members or appointed SDMG Member Deputies as follows:

SDMG Member – Department of the Premier and Cabinet - Ken Smith

SDMG Member – Queensland Police Service – Bob Atkinson

SDMG Member – Department of Community Safety - Jim McGowan



SDMG Member – Department of Communities – Linda Apelt

SDMG Member – Department of Education and Training – Julie Grantham

SDMG Member – Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation – Ian Fletcher

SDMG Member – Department of Environment and Resource Management – John Bradley

SDMG Member – Department of Justice and the Attorney General – Philip Reed

SDMG Member – Department of Public Works – Mal Grierson

SDMG Member – Department of Transport and Main Roads – David Stewart

SDMG Member – Local Government Association of QLD – Greg Hallam

SDMG Member – Emergency Management Queensland – Ian McKenzie

SDMG Member – Queensland Health – Mick Reid

SDMG Member – Queensland Treasury – Gerard Bradley

SDMG Member – Department of Infrastructure and Planning – Graeme Newton

## **2. Bureau of Meteorology Presentation**

Mr Davidson provided a briefing on the current weather situation and the updated weather forecast.

Mr Birch provided a briefing on the river system flood levels and predicted peaks over the coming days.

Both Mr Davidson and Mr Birch answered questions from the SDMG members and were thanked for their presentation.

## **3. State Disaster Coordinator – Situation Update**

Deputy Commissioner Stewart advised the following:

16 people deceased (15 Lockyer Valley and 1 Brisbane)

14 people missing

Deputy Commissioner Stewart invited reports from the various District Disaster Coordinators from various flood effect areas as follows:

### **Toowoomba District Disaster Coordinator – Superintendent Brett Schafferius**

The Toowoomba District Disaster Coordinator reported the following:

- The water in Lowood is reinstated with the only Withcott requiring water delivery.
- The search of the Grantham township is complete with the areas of the paddocks and farms in Grantham next to be searched.
- The foot search from Spring Bluff to Grantham is complete.
- There is a silt and debris pile 300m x 150m containing mud, debris and carcasses of dead livestock that is yet to be searched.
- The foot search from Grantham to Grandville is 30% complete
- The ADF / QPS and SES are continuing on with search activities today.
- There is a 24hr police presence in the town of Grantham and will remain there until further notice.
- Minister for Police, Correctives Services and Emergency Services and the Police Commissioner visited evacuation centres in Grantham and Helidon yesterday.
- Community meetings are to occur again today.
- A marquee and temporary buildings were being delivered to Grantham at the time of the meeting.

The Deputy Premier raised the issue of generators and outside portable fridges being delivered to Grantham for those in need. It was advised that Major General Mick Slater through coordination with Lindsay Fox has organised for 25 Shipping containers to be delivered to Grantham tomorrow and used to assist in securing personal belongings of those affected.

#### **Dalby District Disaster Coordinator – Inspector Michael Bianchi**

The Dalby District Disaster coordinator reported that:

- Over night Dalby had 40 persons in evacuation centres and 30 people were being housed in the Chinchilla area.
- The Dalby water treatment plant is functioning and producing 40% of its capacity with additional water being trucked in.
- The river is expected to peak today at Condamine at 14.8 metres. The trigger point for re-entering the town is 13m which is expected late Tuesday or early Wednesday. It is expected that recovery efforts will commence early Wednesday once the assessment of the electricity, sewerage and water systems occurs and these services are reinstated. When the river reaches 12m it is anticipated that there will be a full return to the town.

The Mayor – Ray Brown advised the following

- There are 60 houses in Condamine with 15 inundated houses.
- 9 businesses inundated and 3 community facilities including the school.

#### **Warwick District Disaster Coordinator – Superintendent Greg Morrow**

The Warwick District Disaster Coordinator reported the following:

- The Goondiwindi evacuation centre was still open but there was no one in residence.
- The water was receding in the 20 affected houses.
- A resupply of food was expected to occur this afternoon.
- Transport and Main Roads have agreed allow the resupply vehicles through, even if there is still water on the roads, but under police escort.
- 25 rural properties (downstream) have been advised of the water enroute to their location.



- The town of Tallwood is the commercial hub for these rural properties and while its not in the path of the water, sandbags have been delivered there for use by rural properties as required.

The Mayor Graeme Scheu advised that a meeting would be held today to discuss the issue of reopening the hospital.

**Brisbane District Disaster Coordinator –  
Assistant Commissioner Peter Martin**

The Brisbane District Disaster Coordinator reported the following:

- The Brisbane River had dropped and return to normal levels.
- Current issues include road access and road restoration.
- Engineers were assessing the structural integrity of Coronation Drive.
- A Traffic Management Plan is being devised to address the issue of return to work tomorrow in the CBD.
- The resupply of fruit and vegies as a priority as is the re-building of the Rocklea markets. The ADF and police are working to ensure this happens.
- There are 372 persons in the RNA Evacuation Centre and 217 in the QEII.
- Volunteering numbers reach 13 000 yesterday with the same expected today - this has been causing traffic management problems.
- High visibility police presence is underway focusing on isolated properties where there is no one in residence.
- There are currently 5 community recovery centres operating with another one expected to come on line today.

Deputy Mayor Quirk advised that there were still 58 road closures at 8pm last night, but that number had dropped to 8 roads closed as of this morning.

The focus of today's clean up was a curb side collection.

The Deputy Mayor raised concerns of the solidification of mud/silt in the storm water drains and this may become an issue if there is a significant thunderstorm on Wednesday. The council is trying to flush the drains or at lease keep the drains moist.

The Deputy premier raise two issues:

1. That there is a low level of awareness in community recovery centres with regards to grants and entitlements, which needs to be addressed.
2. In addition it should be noted that people are not entitled to the "2 day power outage" compensation offered by ENERGEX in this instance as the disruption is not their fault.

**Ipswich District Disaster Coordinator –  
Superintendent Garth Pitman**

The District Disaster Coordinator for Ipswich reported the following:

- 179 people in the 4 evacuation centres, which is a drop of 50% overnight.
- The issue of cash on site at evacuation centres with minimal or no security was raised with the DDC organising a risk assessment of the current situation.(post meeting Linda Apelt / DDC Ipswich and the Commissioner were to discuss this matter further)
- The Fernvale area has 90% power restoration but there are still issues for Somerset with the provision of fuel for generators.



The Mayor for the Somerset Regional Council and Steve Dalton advised that the clean up crews were in place (consisting QFRS/SES) and the activities were progressing well. 100 food packages had been delivered and this will continue as required. The power is still out in some areas and the roads have sustained major damage with some road bridges missing. Telecommunications have been restored to some areas.

#### **4. Agency Reports**

The Chair called for agency / utilities reports by exception:

##### **Energex – Chris Arnold**

Mr Arnold advised that:

- There are currently 21000 customers without power which is down from 2500 yesterday
- Some streets are being affected by secondary faults but this is only happening on a street by street basis.
- 5 operators have been sent out to oversee the master electricians and the conduct of house by house inspections.
- An advertisement is being organised to explain to customers the restoration process. This is to include the 1300 number to contact the master electricians.
- \$200 fee for the master electrician service is to be paid by the resident but may be invoiced.
- Linda Apelt to work with ENERGEX to advise of emergency assistance funds and grants.
- Work is to be done with ERGON to ensure consistency in the provision of service.
- ENERGEX has asked for assistance from police with getting vehicles into effected areas.
- In addition, rubbish is being pile on the curb side often around and covering electricity transformer boxes which are being damaged by heavy machinery removing rubbish.

##### **Water –**

##### **Director General Department of Environment and Resource Management – Mr John Bradley**

The Director General confirmed that there are 1500 people in the Withcott area without water. He advised that this should be rectified by this afternoon. Bulk water supplies are returning to normal. Water consumption didn't spike yesterday as expected. The dam levels continue to drop with Wivenhoe at 144%, Somerset at 112% and North Pine at 98%. Dam release continues at 3500 cubic metres per second. Water turbidity is still high but treatment plant output is good.

##### **Telecommunications**

##### **Kim Graham – Optus.**

Mr Graham advised that restoration of the fibre optic cable was completed yesterday with the remainder of service outages due to power disruption. He advised that they had 28 mobile sites out due to power failure, 8 sites with water damage and 24 transformer elements damage.

##### **Department of Community Safety**

##### **Director General Jim McGowan**

Mr Jim McGowan advised:

- Resupply was going well with assistance provided by the ADF.

- NSW has offered additional garbage trucks to assist in the clean up.

**Department of Transport and Main Roads**  
**Director General Mr David Stewart**

Mr Stewart advised:

- Caltex received ships early today, BP will receive ships by this afternoon and Shell is expected to receive ships tomorrow.
- The Port Of Brisbane is expected to be open at 5am tomorrow morning.
- Chinchilla is the only area with main road access blocked.
- Public Transport is returning to normal with the bus way still closed but expected to come back on line tomorrow.
- The majority of traffic signals are back on line but there is concern of the return of traffic to the CBD for tomorrow. QPS and TMR are to work together on traffic management arrangements.

**Queensland Health**  
**Director General Mick Reid**

Mr Reid advised that the implementation of the vaccination process was going well with 609 vaccinations occurring at the volunteer centres. 33 GP centres have offered to administer the vaccinations and bulk bill - their details are available through 1300 health. 500 vaccinations were provided in Ipswich and Toowoomba.

The Premier questioned the duration it will take to rule out the advertised cases of Melioidosis (see note for disease description).

The Chief Medical Officer advised that she was relatively sure that the illnesses were viral and not Melioidosis but said that it takes longer to rule it out than it does to confirm it.

The Premier requested that once the information is available with regards to the illness that it be made publically known to dispel the current rumours.

**Department of Education and Training**  
**Director General Julie Grantham**

Mrs Grantham advised that it had been agreed that the government will reimburse the flood affected schools for uniforms and that stationery drives were currently underway with deliveries to schools expected soon.

Mrs Grantham advised that 92% of schools have been assessed. There were numerous schools with inundation to part of the schools facilities and many with ground flooding only. Mrs Grantham advised that there was now a solution in place for every school. Children from Rocklea will be catered for at Moorooka, those in Milton will be facilitated at the Math and Science facility at Toowong and those affected in Brassall will attend Ipswich High (these are just some of the arrangements in place). 5 schools have not been able to be assessed due to remaining inundation in Rockhampton and Condamine.

Mrs Grantham was advised that the information was due to be ready by Wednesday evening for release and she was to provide a copy of the media release and solution to the premier by Wednesday afternoon.



**Department of Communities  
Director General Linda Apelt**

The Director General advised;

- There are currently 34 Recovery Centres operating throughout Queensland with the Ipswich Recovery Centre processing 100 pay claims per hour.
- Recovery teams from the ACT and SA are expected to arrive tomorrow with a team from NZ due next week.
- With regard to funeral assistance payments, the Premier has written to the PM requesting the CAT B funding and this has been approved. It was decided that this payment was not to be publically managed but to be done on a case by case basis in close and careful consultation with the victim's families.

**Australian Defence Force  
Colonel Luke Forster**

Colonel Forster advised:

- 1447 ADF personnel involved in activities in Brisbane, Ipswich, Lockyer Valley, St George and Rockhampton.
- RAAF are to undertake an aerial survey of the flood effected areas / subject to weather.
- ADF helicopter assets are still assisting QPS with the search including the transportation of QPS staff.
- ADF are conducting food drops as needed.
- The RAN mine hunter vessel is due to arrive in Brisbane some time tomorrow.

**Queensland Police Service  
Commissioner – Bob Atkinson**

The Premier advised of a radio broadcast on the ABC that she had heard relating to scams being linked to the flood. She asked for the Commissioner to investigate and put out a public message from the police with regards to fraudulent activity and scams.

**State Disaster Recovery Officer  
Mr Bruce Grady**

Mr Grady advised;

- That with the events of 10 January (Toowoomba/Lockyer Valley) and the Brisbane flood the recovery efforts were pushed back into a response effort for the effected area.
- The Director Generals from the 5 key agencies and the Major General will meet post SDMG to discuss the key recovery priorities for the next 2 – 5 day period.

**Joint Recovery Task Force  
Major General Mick Slater**

The Major General advised that he had hoped to be further into the rebuilding stage of recovery but in light of recent incidents notes that the same people that were engaged in the longer term recovery were also engaged in emergency management and response.

Next week he is hopeful that the focus will move recovery from the 2nd priority and transition it and the efforts sounding it back to the top priority.



## 5. Premiers Address

The Premier addressed the group and articulated that:

- We should now take a moment to stop and reflect what the team of people around the table and the agency staff behind them have achieved.
- This time last week the SDMG had met to discuss the role of the Task Force and the SDMG being absorbed into these activities, but Monday (10/1) changed everything and tested Queensland like it has never been tested before.
- The performance of the Local Government has been highly commendable with their high level of self sufficiency (with Lockyer Valley being a completely separate situation and surrounding circumstances).
- Every agency, from NGO's, Local Government, State Government and Federal Government, has worked exceptionally well.
- She was supported every step of the way by Neil Roberts (Minister for Police, Emergency and Corrective Services) who is extremely capable and well respected and has been there to support her throughout the past weeks events.

The Premier concluded by saying "You've Done Good".

The Minister for Police, Emergency and Corrective Services reinforced the statements made by the Premier and said the response has been spectacular from the leadership and cooperation throughout all government agencies and through the state. He finished by saying that he was tremendously proud and thanked every one for all of their efforts.

The SDMG chair made special mention of the leadership provided by Jim McGowan and the Commissioner, particularly with the implementation of the changes under the new *Disaster Management Act* and thanked them for the 24/7 focus (by them and their staff).

## 6. Future Meetings

- The members endorsed the proposal for the next meeting to be held on 17 January at 5 pm.

## 7. Meeting Closed

### NOTE:

[http://access.health.qld.gov.au/hid/InfectionsandParasites/BacterialInfections/melioidosis\\_is.asp](http://access.health.qld.gov.au/hid/InfectionsandParasites/BacterialInfections/melioidosis_is.asp)

Melioidosis is a disease caused by a bacterium called *Burkholderia pseudomallei*, a germ which is found in soil. The disease occurs mostly in tropical areas, including north Queensland, but it occasionally occurs in other places including southern parts of Queensland.



## Attendance Sheet

Meeting Date: Sunday 16th January 2011 Time: 9 am

Venue: Board Room

Queensland Emergency Operations Centre  
Level 3 Disaster Management Centre  
Emergency Services Complex  
Corner of Kedron Park Road and Parks Road, Kedron

Quorum = 8 Permanent Members

\* via teleconference

Members		Agency	Attending
		Premier of Queensland	Anna Bligh MP
		Deputy Premier and Minister for Health	Paul Lucas MP
		Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services	Neil Roberts MP
		Department of the Premier and Cabinet <i>Chairperson</i>	Ken Smith
		Department of Community Safety <i>Deputy Chairperson</i>	Jim McGowan
		Department of Communities	Linda Apelt
		Department of Education and Training	Julie Grantham
		Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation	Ian Fletcher
		Department of Environment and Resource Management	John Bradley
		Department of Infrastructure and Planning	Graeme Newton
		Department of Justice and Attorney General	Philip Reed
		Department of Public Works	Mal Grieron
		Department of Transport and Main Roads	Dave Stewart
		Emergency Management Queensland	Warren Bridson
		Local Government Association of Queensland <i>SDMG Member Representative</i>	Greg Hallam
		Queensland Health	Mick Reid
		Queensland Police Service	Bob Atkinson
		Queensland Treasury	Gerard Bradley
		Recovery Task Force Commander <i>Australian Defence Force</i>	Mick Slater
Other Attendees			
		State Disaster Coordinator <i>Queensland Police Service</i>	Ian Stewart
		State Recovery Coordinator <i>Emergency Management Queensland</i>	Bruce Grady
		SDMG Executive Officer <i>Queensland Police Service</i>	Brett Pointing
		SDMG Secretariat <i>Queensland Police Service</i>	Deb Watkins
		XO and Secretariat Support Officer <i>Queensland Police Service</i>	Richard Hahn
		State Disaster Coordination Group (chair) <i>Queensland Police Service</i>	Alistair Dawson
			BRIAN COO



[illegible]



**State Disaster Management Group  
Extraordinary Meeting Minutes  
5 pm Monday 17 January 2011**

Queensland Emergency Operations Centre (QEOC) Board Room  
Level 3  
Disaster Management Centre  
Emergency Services Complex Kedron  
Corner of Kedron Park Road and Parks Road, Kedron

Responsible  
Agency

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed:

Chair

The Premier of Queensland, the Hon Anna Bligh MP (via teleconference)

The Deputy Premier and Minister for Health, the Hon Paul Lucas MP (via teleconference)

Deputy Mayor of Brisbane, Graham Quirk (by teleconference)

Somerset Regional Council Local Disaster Coordinator– Tonya Jacobs (via teleconference)

Mayor of Western Downs Regional Council – Ray Brown (via teleconference)

Ipswich City Council Representative – Trevor Jacob (via teleconference)

Recovery Task Force Commander – Major General Mick Slater

Commander 7 Brigade – Brigadier Paul McLachlan

District Disaster Coordinator for Brisbane – Peter Martin (via teleconference)

District Disaster Coordinator for Toowoomba – Brett Schafferius (via teleconference)

District Disaster Coordinator for Ipswich – Garth Pitman (via teleconference)

District Disaster Coordinator for Dalby – Michael Bianchi (via teleconference)

The Chair welcomed members and their respective agency representatives.

The Chair also welcomed Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) representatives:

Mr Jim Davidson (via teleconference)



Mr Jim Stewart (via teleconference)

The Chair welcomed Brigadier Paul McLaughlan who replaces Colonel Luke Foster. That chair thanked Colonel Foster and the ADF who have been with us since day one.

The Chair acknowledged Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS) Deputy Commissioner Iain McKenzie who has been appointed as Acting Assistant Director General, Emergency Management Queensland, whilst Bruce Grady is the State Recovery Coordinator.

A quorum was achieved at this meeting through attendance by SDMG Members or appointed SDMG Member Deputies as follows:

SDMG Member – Department of the Premier and Cabinet - Ken Smith

SDMG Member – Department of Community Safety - Jim McGowan

SDMG Member – Department of Communities – Linda Apelt

SDMG Member Deputy– Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation – Trevor Van Dam

SDMG Member – Department Education and Training – Julie Grantham

SDMG Member – Department of Environment and Resource Management – John Bradley

SDMG Member – Department of Justice and Attorney General – Philip Reed

SDMG Member – Department of Public Works – Mal Grierson

SDMG Member – Department of Transport and Main Roads – David Stewart

SDMG Member – Emergency Management Queensland – Iain Mackenzie

SDMG Member – Local Government Association of QLD – Greg Hallam

SDMG Member Deputy – Queensland Health – Jeannette Young

SDMG Member – Department of Infrastructure and Planning – Graeme Newton

## **2. Bureau of Meteorology Presentation**

Mr Davidson provided a briefing on the current weather situation and the updated weather forecast.

Mr Stewart provided a briefing on the river system flood levels and predicted peaks over the coming days.

**Jim Davidson and  
Jim Stewart**





Both Mr Davidson and Mr Stewart answered questions from the SDMG members and were thanked for their presentation.

The Deputy Mayor of Brisbane advised that the clearing of drains was expected to be completed late tonight or early tomorrow ahead of the forecasted storms for Brisbane.

### **3. State Disaster Coordinator – Situation Update**

Deputy  
Commissioner Ian  
Stewart

Deputy Commissioner Stewart advised the following:

- 20 people deceased
- 12 people missing (for whom grave fears are held)
- Over 400 missing people have been located and identified

Deputy Commissioner Stewart invited reports from the various District Disaster Coordinators from various flood effect areas as follows:

#### **District Disaster Coordinator Ipswich – Superintendent Garth Pitman**

The Ipswich District Disaster Coordinator reported the following:

- There are 3 evacuation centres operating in Ipswich and 1 in Somerset which are expect to have 200 persons or less accommodated over night tonight.
- The various Community Recovery Centres are working exceptionally well with the issues of money storage on site being rectified (post risk assessment).
- The road network is operating well with a few minor traffic matters that are being addressed by local police.
- There were significant numbers of volunteers assisting in the clean up areas.
- 8 small communities still remain isolated as a result of the continuing releases from Wivenhoe Dam. They have been provided with power and food and are in regular communication with the various relevant agencies.

The representative from Ipswich Council, Mr Trevor Mardi, advised that they were currently identifying the numbers of residents who will be requiring temporary housing. He also added that the restoration of power (including the inspections of houses prior to connection) was now a priority and proceeding well.

Mr Tony Jacobs from the Somerset Local Disaster Management Group advised that there were still 3 communities isolated within their area. He advised that they had received the required equipment to sustain the communities and had a 10 day supply of food airlifted in.

The Fernvale Evacuation Centre is still operating but is only supplying meals to volunteers and residents of houses with no power.

The Lowood evacuation centre is currently in the school and will be moved to an alternate venue by Thursday (possibly the Lowood show grounds). This will allow enough time for the school to be cleaned ahead of the commencement of





classes today week.

When asked by the Premier which communities were still isolated Mr Mardi advised that the Lindville farming community with a population of 45 was isolated along with 2 smaller communities west of Harland with approximately 15 – 20 residents.

He advised that communications were in place via UHF radio, through the Rural Fire Service and contact between the relevant local families.

The ADF through Brigadier McLaghlan advised that the ADF are able to assist in resupply if required.

**District Disaster Coordinator Dalby–  
Inspector Michael Bianchi**

The District Disaster Coordinator for Dalby reported the following:

- The Mooney Highway at Dalby was open.
- 2 residents were evacuated and are staying in private accommodation.
- the town currently has 100% water capacity.
- In Chinchilla the evacuation centre is expected to remain open for a few more days while they look at the more medium to long term accommodation for those effected.
- The Warrego highway was open to traffic.
- In Condamine planning had commenced on repatriating the town on Wednesday morning once power and water had be re instated.

The Mayor of the Western Downs Regional Council advised that:

- The Mooney Highway was open but load restrictions were in place.
- They are still awaiting the peak at Condamine.
- Suitable places for helicopters to land and for the establishment of the flexible habitat to be erected (to accommodate support crew) had been sourced.
- The lofw of the river is substantially faster this time compared to early floods.
- A short tem Recovery Centre has been established.
- The ADF continue to provide air support with a team of 60 ADF members to be used in the clean up efforts.

**District Disaster Coordinator Toowoomba –  
Superintendent Brett Scharrerius**

The District Disaster Coordinator for Toowoomba reported the following:

- The searches continue with 95% of the foot search completed.
- Points of Interest that require further searching include the areas at Postman Ridge and Helidon where the focus is expected to be on the recovery of bodies.
- All assets have been redeployed to Grantham with a full time police presence in place along with temporary housing.
- Engineers are currently checking houses and will advise residents through the regional director of the Dept of Communities which residents will require medium to long term accommodation.



**District Disaster Coordinator Brisbane –  
Assistant Commissioner Peter Martin**

The District Disaster Coordinator for Brisbane reported the following:

- There are 180 persons in attendance at the RNA Showground Evacuation centre and 122 in the evacuation centre at QEII.
- They are hoping that these centres will be closed by Wednesday.
- An assessment of the evacuation centres has shown that there are very few true evacuees in residence (there are many homeless/students etc).
- Traffic congestion was a large concern with the impending return to work today but through the implementation of a major traffic plan which required a large number of recourses there were only minor disruptions throughout the day.
- Thanks to the efforts of Queensland Fire and Rescue Service / Queensland Police Service / Australian Defence Force and State Emergency Service worked the Rocklea Markets has been partially restored.
- Power resupply to the majority of the CBD has occurred with 16000 people without power as at 0900hrs.
- The survey of the Brisbane River is under with the Harbour Master reporting 1/3 of port capacity restored which includes the resupply of fuel.
- Public transport is working well with buses running fine with only a few restrictions of the Ipswich rail line. The City Cat service is still non operational.
- Operation Safe Guard starts tomorrow with the aim of building community confidence and safeguarding the effected areas.
- A strategic intelligence assessment was conducted to ensure that there were no residences overlooked (without contact and support in effected areas). The assessment showed that there was no evidence to suggest such isolated persons.

The Deputy Lord Mayor of Brisbane, Mr Graham Quirk advised that the engineering testing of the Coronation Drive infrastructure has been complete with all lanes now fully operational. He also advised the 770 traffic signals had been restored with 70 still off line (some due to power outages). The deputy advised that the resupply of food and fuel was a priority and with the Rocklea Markets now partially on line and the resupply of fuel through the Port of Brisbane recovery is continuing well.

**4. Agency Reports**

The Chair called for agency / utilities reports by exception:

All Members

**ENERGEX –  
Chris Arnold**

Mr Arnold advised that:

- ENERGEX are continuing to make progress with 4000 sites reconnected yesterday.
- Its anticipated that an additional 5000 to 6000 will be restored today.
- By close of business on Thursday 10000 – 15000 of houses will be deemed uninhabitable and unable to have power restored in the short term.





- There are currently 19000 residences without power and this is dropping at a steady rate.
- In the CBD there are 4 substations that are impacted with Stamford and Riverside buildings most difficult to reinstate.
- A good return to power has been established in the Lockyer Valley with Fernvale required to remain on generator power up until Thursday.
- The restoration to some assets in Grantham will be dependent on the rebuilding of some ENERGEX assets.
- The Master Electricians program (inspections of houses before restoration of power) is working well with 1000 electricians currently involved.

### **Telecommunications**

#### **Kim Graham – Optus.**

Mr Graham advised that 18 sites were still down, 9 were still under water with the remaining 9 expected to be up some time soon.

A mobile communication station has been deployed to the Lockyer Valley with mobile phones be provided to persons within the effected areas.

### **Water –**

#### **Director General Department of Environment and Resource Management – Mr John Bradley**

Mr Bradley advised that;

- Somerset and North Pine Dams are at 100%
- Wivenhoe is currently at 117%
- There have been a few complaints about low water pressure at Mt Ommaney.
- There has been a report of ecoli and poor water quality but that is being investigated.

### **Department of Transport and Main Roads**

#### **Director General Mr Dave Stewart**

Mr Stewart advised that:

- the Royal Australian Navy had commenced work in the Brisbane River; and
- it is anticipated that the first product tanker will be allowed access tomorrow.

### **Queensland Health**

#### **Director General Mick Reid**

Dr Jeannette Young advised that:

- Evacuees from Goondiwindi will be returning to their residences tomorrow and that Theodore has been restored.
- All other hospitals are operational and returning to normal.
- The vaccination program has seen 3500 conducted in hospitals and 2500 conducted by GP's.
- Nurses are also being placed into some recovery centres.
- Public health messages continue to be circulated.



**Department of Education and Training**  
**Director General Julie Grantham**

Mrs Grantham advised that:

- The status report on schools will be provided on Wednesday, around lunch and will then be part of a media release at 3pm.
- Schools will be starting back on the 24th January with contingency plans for four schools (Brassall, Rocklea, Milperra and Milton).

**Department of Public Works**  
**Director General Mal Grierson**

Mr Grierson advised that:

- 8 building were out in the CBD; and
- 9 buildings still out in Ipswich.

**Department of Communities**  
**Director General Linda Apelt**

The Mrs Apelt advised;

- there are currently 62000 volunteers registered with volunteering Queensland; and
- the recovery centres all appear to be working well.

**Australian Defence Force**  
**Brigadier Paul McLachlan**

Brigadier McLauchlan advised:

- There were currently 1550 ADF staff deployed to the regional in support of the flood response and recovery.
- There will be 1700 by the end of the week.
- 700 are in the Brisbane area.
- 340 in the Ipswich area which will grow by 150 by Wednesday.
- 230 in the Lockyer Valley.
- Additional staff are in the Dirranbandi / Condamine /St George areas.
- The Navy mine sweeper arrived today and is working on surveying the north west passage.
- Engineering liaison officers will be deployed to help in Somerset.

**Department of the Premier and Cabinet**  
**Brad Smith**

Mr Smith advised that the National Crisis Committee met earlier today and will continue to provide support to all jurisdictions. The Commonwealth through Emergency Management Australia has offered to work as a broker of requests for assistance and offers of help.



## 5. Premiers Address

The Premier addressed the group and articulated that:

- A *Commissions of Inquiry Order (no 1) 2011* has been launched into the 2010/2011 flood events.
- The Honourable Justice Catherine Holmes has been appointed as the Commissioner for the inquiry with Mr James O'Sullivan AC and Mr Phillip Cummins as deputies to the commission.
- The Commission has been ordered in recognition to the size of the event, the loss of life and community concerns.
- The commission will look at the following:
  - Preparation, Planning and Response by Local, State, Federal Governments*
  - Early warning and forecasting*
  - Dam operations (release strategies)*
  - Performance of insurance companies*
  - Local area planning / construction in flood prone area*

\*a copy of the Commissions of Inquiry Order (no. 1) 2011 and the Terms of Reference were to be circulated post meeting via email to all SDMG members.

- This is not a criticism about what we have done. It will identify what we did well and what we can do better.
- The Commissions of Inquiry interim report is due pre storm season 1 August 2011 with the final report due 17 January 2012 (of course these dates can be changed if required).

Graham Hallam, Local Government Association of Queensland advised that they will provide support to Justice Homes.

Mr Philip Reed, Department of Justice and Attorney General also mentioned that there will be close liaison between the Coroner who is undertaking the coronial inquest and the Commission.

## 6. Chairs Address

The Chair thanked the following people:

- The **State Disaster Coordinator, Deputy Commissioner Ian Stewart** and noted that this is the first time we have had a State Disaster Coordinator and Deputy Steward provided clear direction and clarity in the conduct of his role
- The **Executive Officer of the State Disaster Management Group, Assistant Commissioner Brett Pointing** and noted the seamless transition from Emergency Management Queensland to Queensland Police Service
- The **Chair of the State Disaster Coordination Group, Chief Superintendent Alistair Dawson** and noted his dedication to the task and professionalism throughout this event.
- The **Secretariat of the State Disaster Management Group, Ms Deb Watkins.**



- Ms **Peta Robertson** for her knowledge and support provided to the State Recovery Coordinator and Emergency Management Queensland.

The chair thanked all of the SDMG Members and ADF for their continuing hard work and dedication.

#### **7. Future Meetings**

The Chair noted that for the foreseeable future there is a requirement for the Deputy Commissioner Mr Ian Stewart to remain on as the State Disaster Coordinator. The decision to stand down the State Disaster Coordinator will be made through consultation with the State Disaster Coordinator, State Recovery Coordinator, Commissioner of Police and the Chair of the SDMG.

- Chair

The State Disaster Coordinator is to contact the Chair if he feels there is a matter that warrants the calling of a SDMG meeting.

The Chair noted that he would take his lead from the State Disaster Coordinator as to the requirement to call an extraordinary meeting in the interim and as such no further SDMG meeting dates have been proposed at this time.

#### **8. Meeting Closed**





## Attendance Sheet

Meeting Date: Monday 17th January 2011

Time: 5 pm

Venue: Board Room

Queensland Emergency Operations Centre  
 Level 3 Disaster Management Centre  
 Emergency Services Complex  
 Corner of Kedron Park Road and Parks Road, Kedron

Quorum = 8 Permanent Members

\* via teleconference

	Agency	Attending	Signature
Members	Premier of Queensland	Anna Bligh MP	
	Deputy Premier and Minister for Health	Paul Lucas MP	
	Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services	Neil Roberts MP	
	Department of the Premier and Cabinet <i>Chairperson</i>	Ken Smith	
	Department of Community Safety <i>Deputy Chairperson</i>	Jim McGowan	
	Department of Communities	Linda Apelt	
	Department of Education and Training	Julie Grantham	
	Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation	Ian Fletcher <i>Ian Van Dam</i>	
	Department of Environment and Resource Management	John Bradley	
	Department of Infrastructure and Planning	Graeme Newton	
	Department of Justice and Attorney General	Philip Reed	
	Department of Public Works	Mal Grierson	
	Department of Transport and Main Roads	Dave Stewart	
	Emergency Management Queensland	Ian Mackenzie	
	Local Government Association of Queensland	Greg Hallam	
Other Attendees	Queensland Health	Mick Reid	
	Queensland Police Service	Bob Atkinson	
	Queensland Treasury	Gerard Bradley	
	Recovery Task Force Commander <i>Australian Defence Force</i>	Mick Slater	
	State Disaster Coordinator <i>Queensland Police Service</i>	Ian Stewart	
	State Recovery Coordinator <i>Emergency Management Queensland</i>	Bruce Grady	
	SDMG Executive Officer <i>Queensland Police Service</i>	Brett Pointing	
	SDMG Secretariat <i>Queensland Police Service</i>	Deb Watkins	
	XO and Secretariat Support Officer <i>Queensland Police Service</i>	Richard Hahn	
	State Disaster Coordination Group (chair) <i>Queensland Police Service</i>	Alistair Dawson	

	*Teleconference	✓
	*Teleconference	✓
	*Teleconference	✓
	*Teleconference	✓
	*Teleconference	✓
an	*Teleconference	
	*Teleconference	
1	*Teleconference	
	*Teleconference	
	*Teleconference	
	*Teleconference	



**State Disaster Management Group  
Extraordinary Meeting Minutes  
10 am Friday 21 January 2011**

Queensland Emergency Operations Centre (QEOC) Board Room  
Level 3  
Disaster Management Centre  
Emergency Services Complex Kedron  
Corner of Kedron Park Road and Parks Road, Kedron

**Responsible  
Agency**

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed:

Chair

The Premier of Queensland, the Hon Anna Bligh MP

The Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services, the Hon Neil Roberts MP

The Chair welcomed State Disaster Management Group (SDMG) members and their respective agency representatives.

The Chair also welcomed Bureau of Meteorology representatives:

Mr Jim Davidson

Mr Jim Stewart

A quorum was achieved at this meeting through attendance by SDMG Members or appointed SDMG Member Deputies as follows:

SDMG Member – Department of the Premier and Cabinet - Ken Smith

SDMG Member – Department of Community Safety - Jim McGowan

SDMG Member Deputy – Department of Communities – Bette Kill

SDMG Member Deputy– Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation – Trevor Van Dam

SDMG Member Deputy– Department Education and Training – Graham Atkins

SDMG Member – Department of Environment and Resource Management – John Bradley (via teleconference)

SDMG Member – Department of Justice and Attorney General – Philip Reed





SDMG Member – Department of Public Works – Mal Grierson

SDMG Member – Department of Transport and Main Roads – David Stewart

SDMG Member – Emergency Management Queensland – Iain Mackenzie

SDMG Member – Local Government Association of QLD – Greg Hallam (via teleconference)

SDMG Member Deputy – Queensland Health – Jeannette Young

SDMG Member – Department of Infrastructure and Planning – Graeme Newton

## **2. The Premiers Address**

The Premier

The Premier addressed the group and acknowledged that for nearly one month the SDMG have been overseeing the management of this disaster and she thanks all those present and the people within their departments for all of their hard work. The Premier noted that this disaster not only tested our systems but tested the entire state as well. She acknowledged that it was now time to formally move from response to recovery and on behalf of herself and the people of Queensland she thanks all those involved.

## **3. Bureau of Meteorology Presentation**

Jim Davidson and  
Jim Stewart

Mr Davidson provided a briefing on the current weather situation and the updated weather forecast.

Mr Stewart provided a briefing on the river system flood levels and predicted peaks over the coming days.

Both Mr Davidson and Mr Stewart answered questions from the SDMG members and were thanked for their presentation.

## **4. State Disaster Coordinator – Situation Update**

Deputy  
Commissioner Ian  
Stewart

Deputy Commissioner Stewart advised the following:

- 20 people deceased (for Brisbane/Toowoomba and Lockyer Valley)
- 9 people missing (for whom grave fears are held)
- 489 missing people have been located and identified
- Since 30 Nov till 10 January 13 further flood related deaths
- Total number of death since 30 November - 33 deceased

Deputy Commissioner Stewart invited Chief Superintendent Alistair Dawson to provide an update on the current situation of the following towns:

Dalby / Condamine / Roma / Mungindi / Hebel / Thallon / Surat / St George / Dirranbandi / Brisbane / Ipswich / Toowoomba / Theodore and Rockhampton.

Deputy Commissioner Stewart thanked all those in attendance and their



relevant agency staff for the efforts and support they provided to the disaster response effort and to him in his capacity as the State Disaster Coordinator.

The Chair noted that he had undertaken discussion with the Premier, Minister for Police, Emergency and Corrective Services and the Commissioner of Police and they were all in agreement that it was time to move forward from response and as such paper work will now be drawn up to officially stand down Deputy Commissioner Ian Stewart as the State Disaster Coordinator.

## **5. Summary of Disaster Response**

XO SDMG

The Executive Officer for the SDMG, Assistance Commissioner Brett Pointing, provided a summary of events to date. This covered the period of time from 8 December where the first Bureau of Meteorology presentation on the impending storm season was provided to the SDMG up to this current situation. The XO drew upon statistics (that were yet to be validated officially) collected during the event to highlight the scale of this event.

The Chair has requested that all agencies who have relevant flood related statistics provide them to the Executive Officer (via email) for collection and collation.

XO

## **6. Recovery Arrangements**

Chair

The Chair articulated that after the events on 10<sup>th</sup> January in the Lockyer Valley, Brisbane and Ipswich the task of recovery grew substantial and now includes a larger element of reconstruction. In order to ensure the Emergency Management Queensland can continue to provide a response in light of the possibility of another event occurring and in light of the magnitude of the recovery (especially the duration it is expected to span) after discussion with the Director General Department of Community Safety the decision was made to stand down the position of the State Recovery Coordinator currently held by the Assistant Director General Emergency Management Queensland Mr Bruce Grady.

The Chair spoke of the government move to establish a Reconstruction Authority with staff already working on drafting the relevant legislation. Cabinet are considering membership of the Queensland Reconstruction Authority Board which is to be chaired by Major General Mick Slater. SDMG Member and Director General of Department of Infrastructure and Planning, Mr Graeme Newton, will be taken off line as part of the authority board and will be replaced by Paul Low who will be Acting Director General for the foreseeable future. The Federal Government have also been asked to nominate a member to be represented on the Authority. The Authority will have legislative power under the State Development and Public Works Act and be responsible for prioritising, coordinating, funding and monitoring all recovery and reconstruction work.

It was noted that recovery efforts are to continue under the current arrangements until the authority has been fully established.

The Director General Department of Infrastructure and Planning provided the members with a brief "first draft" outline of the structure of the Authority and its reporting responsibilities (see attached) and gave a explanation about the various functional cells and their core business.

It was requested that each department provide a senior liaison officer who is able to speak on behalf of their department's Director General to be part of the





Authority structure.

The Chair expressed that the governance arrangements need more clarity and that work on this will occur on a full time basis as of Monday 24 January.

The Premier raised the issue of numerous 1800 help and assistance numbers currently in place to aid the community in the recovery phase and asked if this could possibly be streamlined to a single number under the new authority arrangements (if not substantially reduced).

Graeme Newton took this point on board for further follow up

## **7. Agency Reports**

The Chair called for agency / utilities reports by exception:

All Members

### **ENERGEX –**

Mr Arnold advised that the resupply and reconnection of power to Queensland was going well. He advised that there were 1000 customers with supply issues, in the areas of Oxley, Archerfield, Sumner Park and Yeerongpilly. There were 2870 that have power supply available but currently have a defence notice and are awaiting the relevant electrical work to be completed before it is safe to reinstate the supply. There are 571 with a form 2 providing clearance for reconnection and this is expected to occur by close of business today. Energex advised that they have 470 crews in the field with the capacity of completing 1400 jobs.

There are still several premises within the CBD without power but this is not a supply issue but a reconnection issue as major electrical work needs to be undertaken to make it safe to reinstate the power.

The Rocklea markets are expected to be off generator power by tomorrow

### **Water –**

#### **Director General Department of Environment and Resource Management – Mr John Bradley**

Mr Bradley advised that;

- Operations at the Lockyer Valley treatment plant were intermittent but that was not due to problems with the pump but with the fluctuating water levels.
- Mt Crosby Treatment Plant will be off line due to a high level of turbidity. Once the levels reduce the plant will be brought back on line. Reservoir supplies will be used in the interim.

### **Queensland Treasury**

#### **Mr John O'Connell**

Mr O'Connell advised:

That the Director General was currently meeting with the Minister with regards to streamlining the funding application process for urgent work that must be undertaken. Outcomes of this process will be forward to members out of session.





**Department of Justice and Attorney General  
Director General Mr Philip Reed**

Mr Reed tabled a paper entitled "*coverage for post flood recovery volunteers under Queensland's Workers' Compensation Scheme*"

The members noted the compensation coverage arrangement for government employees and community volunteers working on Queensland Government managed flood recovery projects with agreement with the Department of Communities to enter into a contract of insurance to provide compensation coverage for community volunteers working on Queensland government managed flood recovery.

**Queensland Health  
Director General Mick Reid**

Dr Jeannette Young advised that:

- All hospitals are operational and returning to normal.
- Mental health response teams have been identified and may be needed for a period of up to 2 years.
- Environment health officers have been deployed throughout the state.
- Assistance has been provided from other states in the areas of mental health and environmental health.
- Queensland Health is working closely with GPs as a number of rarer medical conditions are appearing as a result of the floods.

**Department of Education and Training  
Mr Graham Atkins**

Mr Atkins advised that:

- There are 3 schools that won't be opening on Monday 24th January (Milton, Rocklea and Milperra), but all students will be accommodated in alternate venues.
- The department is working on expectation managements as some of the schools are without carpets / cupboards etc but are safe and fully operational.

**Department of Communities  
Mrs Bette Kill**

The Mrs Kill advised:

- There are currently 543 Department of Communities staff, 182 Red Cross Staff and 114 Life Line staff working in Recovery Centres or Out Reach programmes throughout the state.
- Medium and Long term housing issues were still being addressed.
- The Minister is announcing this morning "mortgage relief" and "rental assistance" for flood effected Queenslanders.

**Australian Defence Force  
Nathan Archer – Chief of staff to Brigadier Paul McLachlan**

Nathan Archer advised:

- The ADF had made excellent progress in Brisbane with a reduction in numbers to occur over the coming days.
- The survey of Moreton Bay by the Royal Australian Navy is continuing with an additional smaller naval vessel being deployed today to assist in the clearing of the Brisbane River.
- ADF are increasing their numbers in Grantham with the Brigadier to visit the area tomorrow.

## **8. Other Business**

The Premier spoke with the CEO of the Local Government Association of Queensland, Greg Hallam, about getting the Queensland mayors together late next week for a planning meeting to discuss the reconstruction arrangements and how it related to them.

Premier / LGAQ

Greg Hallam also advised that the Governor had proposed a reception for regional mayor and councils on or around 14 March 2011.

Director General, Department of Public Works, raised the issue of price extortion and noted an instance of a local builder reporting that he had been charged \$400 per hour for a general service. The premier noted that a summary of fair and reasonable prices be placed on the reconstruction web site and in addition perhaps an add in the Courier Mail.

## **9. Future Meetings**

The Chair noted that unless there was a need for the group to respond to another event, the SDMG would not need to meet again in the foreseeable short term. As such no further SDMG meeting dates have been proposed at this time.

Chair

## **10. Meeting Closed**





## Attendance Sheet

Meeting Date: Friday 21 January 2011

Time: 10 am

Venue: Board Room

Queensland Emergency Operations Centre  
 Level 3 Disaster Management Centre  
 Emergency Services Complex  
 Corner of Kedron Park Road and Parks Road, Kedron

Quorum = 8 Permanent Members

Agency		Attending	
Members	Premier of Queensland	Anna Bligh MP	
	<del>Deputy Premier and Minister for Health</del>	<del>Paul Lucas MP</del>	
	Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services	Neil Roberts MP	
	Department of the Premier and Cabinet <i>Chairperson</i>	Ken Smith	
	Department of Community Safety <i>Deputy Chairperson</i>	Jim McGowan	
	Department of Communities <i>SDMG Deputy Member</i>	Bette Kiill	
	Department of Education and Training <i>SDMG Deputy Member</i>	Graham Atkins	
	Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation <i>SDMG Deputy Member</i>	Trevor VanDam	
	Department of Environment and Resource Management	John Bradley	
	Department of Infrastructure and Planning	Graeme Newton	
	Department of Justice and Attorney General	Philip Reed	
	Department of Public Works	Mal Grierson	
	Department of Transport and Main Roads	Dave Stewart	
	Emergency Management Queensland	Ian Mackenzie	
	Local Government Association of Queensland	Greg Hallam	
Other Attendees	Queensland Health <i>SDMG Deputy Member</i>	Jeannette Young	
	Queensland Police Service	Bob Atkinson	
	Queensland Treasury	Apologies <i>SOLAN O'CONNELL</i>	
	<del>Recovery Task Force Commander</del> <i>Australian Defence Force</i>	<del>Mick Slater</del>	
	State Disaster Coordinator <i>Queensland Police Service</i>	Ian Stewart	
	State Recovery Coordinator <i>Emergency Management Queensland</i>	Bruce Grady	
	SDMG Executive Officer <i>Queensland Police Service</i>	Brett Pointing	
	SDMG Secretariat <i>Queensland Police Service</i>	Deb Watkins	





## Attendance Sheet

XO and Secretariat Support Officer <i>Queensland Police Service</i>	Richard Hahn	
State Disaster Coordination Group (chair) <i>Queensland Police Service</i>	Alistair Dawson	
Australian Defence Force	Nathan Archer	
Bureau of Meteorology	Jim Davidson	
Bureau of Meteorology <i>JAMES STUART</i>	<del>Peter Baddiley</del>	
Department of the Premier and Cabinet	Brad Smith	
Department of Transport and Main Roads	Don Blechley	
Department of Infrastructure and Planning	Michael Kinnane	
Emergency Management Queensland	Peta Robertson	
Queensland Treasury	John O'Connell	
Queensland Fire and Rescue Service	Lee Johnson	
Local Government Association of Queensland	Greg Hoffman	
ENERGEX	Chris Arnold	
ENERGEX <i>TERRY OFFICER</i>	<del>Ron Watson</del>	
Red Cross	Greg Goebel	
Queensland Ambulance Service	Chris Broomfield	
EMQ	<del>MIKE SHAPLAND</del>	
EMA	<del>James Gustus</del>	
Fire - Emergency Services Authority WA	<del>John Burdett</del>	
RED CROSS	<del>GREG GOEBEL</del>	
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SAFETY	<del>PAUL HICKERSON</del>	
QUEENSLAND AMBULANCE SERVICE	<del>CHRIS BROOMFIELD</del>	
PREMIERS OFFICE	<del>DAVID BLECHLEY</del>	

P.O. Box 205, BELROSE WEST NSW 2085  
 phone: [REDACTED]  
 mobile: [REDACTED]  
 email: brian.cooper.consult@brian.cooper.consult  
 ABN: 56154707619

brian  
cooper  
consulting

12 January 2011

Mr. Barry Dennien  
 CEO, SEQ Water Grid Manager  
 PO Box 16205  
 City East QLD 4002

Dear Barry,

This letter report:

- presents my final findings on a review of the operation of Wivenhoe Dam (including controlled releases) for compliance against the Flood Mitigation Manual for the period 12 December 2010 to date (Flood Event), and;
- provides advice on the prudence and appropriateness of the decisions and actions taken during the Flood Event regarding the operation of Wivenhoe Dam in light of the Flood Mitigation Manual's requirements and the circumstances of the Flood Event.

The report follows on from my preliminary report sent to you earlier today. The findings and advice are provided on the basis of information provided by SEQ Water Grid Manager which comprised the Flood Mitigation Manual and Technical Situation Reports. The latter were daily (sometimes twice daily) reports for the subject period. They gave a log of rainfall over the dam catchments and the downstream river (Lockyer Ck. and Bremer R.) catchments; inflows to Somerset and Wivenhoe Dams; storage levels; releases from the dams; details of the operation of gates and other outlets (gate openings/discharges); proposed changes in operating strategies and impacts on the various access crossings downstream of Wivenhoe Dam. In reviewing the Technical Situation Reports, I prepared a spreadsheet (see separate attachment of Excel spreadsheet *Tech Reports – Summary*, summarising the reports so that a timeline of the Flood Event could be seen at a glance. This provided a good overview of the Flood Event as it unfolded and showed what information may or may not have been included in a particular report. The Queensland Director Dam Safety (Water Supply) informed me that the Flood Operation Logs contain much more detailed information including details of the communications that were carried out and some of the more detailed information that is not necessarily included in the Technical Situation Reports. I have been provided with a draft of the "Protocol for the Communication of Flooding Information for the Brisbane River Catchment – Including Floodwater Releases from Wivenhoe and Somerset Dams" developed in October/November last year and currently being used. The Technical Situation Reports appear to have been an outcome of that Protocol.

The various requirements and required actions detailed in the Flood Mitigation Manual are summarised in the Table given in Attachment A. The Table also gives my comments (where appropriate) on whether there is evidence from the information presented to me, that there is satisfactory compliance with these requirements and actions.

The main aspects of the Flood Mitigation Manual are the various strategies for operating Wivenhoe Dam and Somerset Dam as well as a number of requirements relating to flood operations personnel, flood preparedness and flood training.

At Wivenhoe Dam there are four main strategies for operating the dam (W1 to W4) and at Dam there are three (S1 to S3). These strategies are hierarchical and are based on a number of flood objectives. These in descending order of importance, are:

- Ensure the structural safety of the dams;
- Provide optimum protection of urbanised areas from inundation;
- Minimise disruption to rural life in the valleys of the Brisbane and Stanley Rivers;
- Retain the storage at Full Supply Level (FSL) at the conclusion of the Flood Event, and;
- Minimise impacts to riparian flora and fauna during the drain down phase of the Flood Event.

Normal procedures require a return to FSL within 7 days of the flood event peak passing through the dams so that the potential effects of closely spaced Flood Events can be allowed for.

It is apparent from the Technical Situation Reports that emphasis has been given to communicating changes in flood operations strategies with local authorities and the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM).

Until the last day or so, Wivenhoe Dam has been below EL74.0 and accordingly, would be operating under Strategy W1 i.e. make releases such that bridges downstream of the dam do not have to be closed prematurely. For a few days at the end of December and for the last day or so before yesterday's big rise, Strategy W2 would be in place (restrain releases from Wivenhoe Dam such that Brisbane River flows are maintained within the upper limit of non-damaging floods at Lowood (3,500 m<sup>3</sup>/s)). At various times during the Flood Event some of the downstream bridges have been closed. However, it is evident that action has been taken to vary dam releases such that various bridges could be re-opened as soon as possible. This appears to have been done in accordance with the flood operating strategies. The operations then moved onto Strategy W4 when the storage in Wivenhoe Dam reached about EL 73.5 (before the W4 trigger level of EL 74) when yesterday's heavy rain came on and it was assessed that there was a chance that the first (central) fuse plug could be triggered. It was then a matter of juggling the radial gate openings in an attempt to circumvent any fuse plug triggering. A graph of storage levels for Wivenhoe and Somerset Dams (from information taken from the Technical Situation Reports) showing the limits for the various Wivenhoe Dam flood strategies is given in Attachment A. It is apparent from this graph, that the appropriate flood operation strategies were adopted. The Technical Situation Reports indicate that proposed changes in strategy were appropriately communicated with appropriate authorities in accordance with the new Communication Protocol.

#### *Summary:*

The Technical Situation Reports comply with the requirements of the new Communication Protocol. However, I feel that there could be more consistency in the information presented. There seem to be gaps in information presented such as storage levels (see spreadsheet and graph in Attachment A). It would be useful to specify the minimum information required to be presented in the Technical Situation Reports (storage levels, inflows, recent/current rainfall, forecast rainfall, releases from dams, estimated flows from downstream tributaries, current flood operating strategy for each dam and proposed change in strategy, gate and regulator operations, state of downstream road crossings etc). Most of the minimum information is already given, but not in a consistent manner. As a means of reviewing processes followed during a flood, it would be useful to present a timeline of the flood event showing graphs of storage levels and other data that can be easily presented in a graphical manner.

I am informed by the Queensland Director Dam Safety (Water Supply) that the various requirements of the Flood Mitigation Manual relating to requirements for flood operations personnel, flood preparedness and flood training have been adhered to. There are a number of other requirements however, that I am not able to say whether they were satisfied as I had insufficient information. These requirements (see Table in Attachment A) should be subject to a separate audit.

It appears to me that the decision to implement Strategy W4 was a prudent one. While it would cause some damage in the Brisbane River downstream, its implementation, considering forecast rainfalls and projected flows in Lockyer Ck. And the Bremer River, would allow reduction of the storage level in



brian cooper consulting

Wivenhoe Dam. This reduction in storage level would hopefully provide a sufficient buffer that would minimise the chance of a fuse plug triggering in the auxiliary spillway. Triggering of the first (central) fuse plug would cause a sudden increase of flow of some 2,000m<sup>3</sup>/s from Wivenhoe Dam. This increase in flow would cause significantly more flooding in the lower Brisbane River than that caused by early implementation of Strategy W4.

### Conclusions:

The strategies as set out in the Flood Mitigation Manual have been followed, allowing for the discretion given to making variations in order to maximise flood mitigation effects. The actions taken and decisions made during the Flood Event appear to have been prudent and appropriate in the context of the available knowledge available to those responsible for flood operations and the way events unfolded.

There are a number of requirements where there was insufficient time given the urgency of this review, to source the necessary information for me to demonstrate compliance. However, satisfaction or otherwise of these requirements would have had little impact on the operation of the two dams during this particular Flood Event. It is intended that they be audited when time permits, after the Flood Event.

There are aspects of the Technical Situation Reports that could be improved and these have been discussed above.

Regards,

Brian Cooper

ATTACHMENT A

Action Requirements extracted from the Flood Mitigation Manual:

Action	Comment
The Flood Mitigation Manual contains the operational procedures for Wivenhoe Dam and Somerset Dam for the purposes of flood mitigation and must be used for the operation of the dams during flood events.	Appears to have been done
Sufficient numbers of suitably qualified personnel are available to operate the dams if a Flood Event occurs.	Director of Dam Safety is satisfied
The level of flooding as a result of emptying stored floodwaters after the peak has passed is to be less than the flood peak unless accelerated release is necessary to reduce the risk of overtopping.	See Note 1
A regular process of internal audit and management review must be maintained by Seqwater to achieve improvements in the operation of the RTFM.	See Note 1
Seqwater must maintain a log of the performance of the data collection network. The log must include all revised field calibrations and changes to the number, type and locations of gauges. Senior Flood Operations and Flood Operations Engineers are to be notified of all significant changes to the Log.	See Note 1
Seqwater must maintain a log of the performance of the RTFM. Any faults to the computer hardware or software are to be noted and promptly and appropriately attend to.	See Note 1
Seqwater must ensure that all available data and other documentation is appropriately collected and catalogued for future use.	See Note 1
Seqwater must ensure that information relevant to the calibration of its field stations is shared with appropriate agencies.	See Note 1
Seqwater must liaise and consult with these agencies with a view to ensuring all information relative to the flood event is consistent and used in accordance with agreed responsibilities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bureau of Meteorology (issue of flood warnings for Brisbane River basin);</li> <li>Department of Environment and Resource Management (review of flood and discretionary powers);</li> <li>Somerset Regional Council (flood level information for upstream of Somerset Dam and upstream and downstream of Wivenhoe Dam);</li> <li>Ipswich City Council (flood level information for Ipswich), and;</li> <li>Brisbane City Council (flood level information for Brisbane City).</li> </ul>	Required also by draft of Communications Protocol. Technical Situation Reports infer compliance
Seqwater must report to the Chief Executive by 30 September each year on the training and state of preparedness of operations personnel.	See Note 1
Seqwater must provide a report to the Chief Executive by 30 September each year on the state of the Flood Monitoring and Forecasting System and Communication Networks.	See Note 1

Action	Comment
After each significant flood event, Seqwater must report to the Chief Executive on the effectiveness of the operational procedures contained in this manual.	It is too early for this action to be implemented. Will be implemented when the Flood Event is finished
Prior to the expiry of the approval period, Seqwater must review the Manual pursuant to provisions of the Act.	It is too early for this action to be implemented
Strategies are changed in response to changing rainfall forecasts and stream flow conditions to maximise the flood mitigation benefits of the dams.	Technical Situation Reports Indicate that this is done
When determining dam outflows within all strategies, peak outflow should generally not exceed peak inflow.	Information from Seqwater indicates that the requirement was satisfied
Protocol for use of discretionary powers (i.e. who gets told)	Director of Dam Safety is satisfied – I don't know whether Seqwater CEO or Chairperson approved – See Note 1

*Note1: For a number of the above actions, given the short time frame for the review on compliance of actual flood operations with the Flood Mitigation Manual, it was not possible to source some of the information required to confirm that requirements had been fulfilled. These actions will be audited separately, when time permits.*



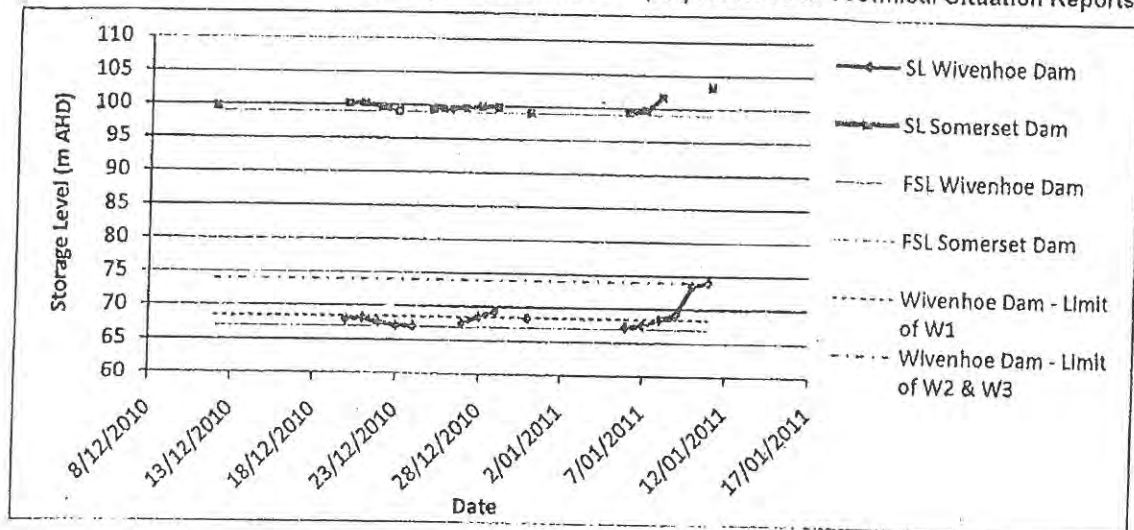
Action	Comment
<b>Flood Strategies for Wivenhoe Dam:</b>	
<p>The intent of Strategy W1 is to not to submerge the bridges downstream of the dam prematurely (see Appendix I). The limiting condition for Strategy W1 is the submergence of Mt Crosby Weir Bridge that occurs at approximately 1,900 m<sup>3</sup>/s.</p> <p>For situations where flood rains are occurring on the catchment upstream of Wivenhoe Dam and only minor rainfall is occurring downstream of the dam, releases are to be regulated to limit, as much as appropriate in the circumstances, downstream flooding.</p>	Technical Situation Reports indicate that every attempt was made to keep the specified road crossings open
<p>The intent of Strategy W2 is limit the flow in the Brisbane River to less than the naturally occurring peaks at Lowood and Moggill, while remaining within the upper limit of non-damaging floods at Lowood (3,500 m<sup>3</sup>/s). In these instances, the combined peak river flows should not exceed those shown in the following table:</p>	Technical Situation Reports indicate that Wivenhoe Dam releases were made considering concurrent flows in the Bremer River & Lockyer Ck. To delay damaging floods as long as possible
<p>The intent of Strategy W3 is to limit the flow in the Brisbane River at Moggill to less than 4000 m<sup>3</sup>/s, noting that 4000 m<sup>3</sup>/s at Moggill is the upper limit of non-damaging floods downstream. The combined peak river flow targets for Strategy W3 are shown in the following table. In relation to these targets, it should be noted that depending on natural flows from the Lockyer and Bremer catchments, it may not be possible to limit the flow at Moggill to below 4000 m<sup>3</sup>/s. In these instances, the flow at Moggill is to be kept as low as possible.</p>	
<p>The intent of Strategy W4 is to ensure the safety of the dam while limiting downstream impacts as much as possible.</p> <p>This strategy normally comes into effect when the water level in Wivenhoe Dam reaches EL74.0 m AHD. However the Senior Flood Operations Engineer may seek to invoke the discretionary powers of Section 2.8 if earlier commencement is able to prevent triggering of a fuse plug.</p> <p>There are no restrictions on gate opening increments or gate operating frequency once the storage level exceeds EL74.0 AHD, as the safety of the dam is of primary concern at these storage levels.</p>	Technical Situation Reports indicate that Wivenhoe Dam releases were such as to delay adopting this strategy as long as possible
Where possible, total releases during closure should not produce greater flood levels downstream than occurred during the flood event.	Technical Situation Reports indicate that this requirement was satisfied
The aim should always be to empty stored floodwaters stored above EL 67.0m within seven days after the flood peak has passed through the dams.	Technical Situation Reports indicate that

Action	Comment
	emphasis was given to satisfying this requirement
Flow in the spillway to be as symmetrical as possible with the centre gates opened first.	Technical Situation Reports indicate that this was done
The bottom edge of the radial gates must always be at least 500mm below the release flow surface.	See Note 1 above

Action	Comment
<b><i>Flood Strategies for Somerset Dam:</i></b>	
The intent of Strategy S1 (Somerset Dam Level expected to exceed EL 99.0 and Wivenhoe Dam not expected to reach EL 67.0 (FSL) during the course of the Flood Event) is to return the dam to full supply level while minimising the impact on rural life upstream of the dam. Consideration is also given to minimising the downstream environmental impacts from the release.	Technical Situation Reports indicate that this was done
The intent of Strategy S2 (Somerset Dam Level expected to exceed EL 99.0 and Wivenhoe Dam level expected to exceed EL 67.0 (FSL) but not exceed EL 75.5 (fuse plug initiation) during the course of the Flood Event). This to maximise the benefits of the flood storage capabilities of the dam while protecting the structural safety of both dams. The Flood Mitigation Manual contains a graph that shows the intended interaction of the Wivenhoe Dam and Somerset Dam storage levels.	Technical Situation Reports indicate that this was done – little information on the operation of the radial gates at Somerset Dam. How the graph was followed not really demonstrated
The intent of Strategy S3 (Somerset Dam Level expected to exceed EL 99.0 and Wivenhoe Dam level expected to exceed EL 75.5 (fuse plug initiation) during the course of the Flood Event) is to maximise the benefits of the flood storage capabilities of the dam while protecting the structural safety of both dams.	Not relevant at this stage
The safety of Somerset Dam is the primary consideration and cannot be compromised and its peak level cannot exceed EL 109.7.	Maximum level only EL103.3

brian cooper consulting

Wivenhoe & Somerset Dams – Storage Level Behaviour (as presented in Technical Situation Reports)





[illegible]





# Brian Cooper

Dams Engineer



## Qualifications & Affiliations

Short courses on finite element analysis, embankment dam engineering, earthquake engineering. Published technical papers – ICOLD, ANCOLD and I.E. Aust. Attended dam safety course at USBR (Denver, USA) in 2002

Bachelor of Engineering (B.E. Hons), 1968 and Master of Engineering Science (M.Eng.Sc.), 1971  
University of New South Wales

Graduate Diploma of Engineering Management, 1994 Deakin University

F.I.E. Aust., C.P.Eng. RPEQ

## Expertise

Brian has approximately 40 years experience in investigation and design of major dams, weirs and hydraulic structures, having started his career designing farm dams and small irrigation schemes. He retired from NSW Department of Commerce in 2005. Brian now works as a private consultant specialising in dams engineering and fish passage at dams and weirs. He has a special interest in risk assessment and computer modelling in general and the seismic analysis of dams in particular. Engineering software (concrete dam stability analysis and flood routing) written by Brian is still used extensively in the Dams & Civil Group of the Department of Commerce. He also has particular experience with concrete dams and the use of post tensioned ground anchors for strengthening those dams. He was a member of the Australian National Committee on Large Dams (ANCOLD) Working Group that developed guidelines for 'Design of Dams for Earthquakes' and a member of the Working Group that revised the guidelines for 'Risk Assessment for Dams'. He has been a guest lecturer for a number of years (most recently in 2009) on concrete dam engineering for the University of NSW post graduate Embankment Dam Engineering Course, and on the history of dams in NSW at Sydney University.

He has been the project director and project manager for a number of feasibility studies, design reviews, site investigations and detail design consultancies for major dams and weirs including the direction and co-ordination of all specialist services including dambreak studies, preparation of dam safety emergency plans and risk assessments. He is currently an expert reviewer for a number of Australian water authorities and consultants (State Water Corporation (NSW), Hydro Tasmania, SunWater (Queensland), Brisbane City Council, Goulburn-Murray Water, Goulburn Valley Water, WA Water Corporation, Southern Rural Water (Victoria), URS, GHD, Hobart Water, NT PowerWater, and TrustPower (NZ)). He has also worked as a sub-consultant for a number of consulting firms (URS, MWH, GHD).

Brian is the Engineers Australia representative for the NSW Dams Safety Committee (the dam safety regulator in NSW) and is currently the Chairman of that organisation. He has been a member of the Murray Darling Basin Authority's Fish Passage Task Force which advises inter alia on the installation of fishways on the Murray River as part of the Living Murray Program.

Brian is a registered engineer in Queensland (RPEQ No. 6819). He started his own consulting business in 2008, advising on dam safety, dam design and analysis, dam risk assessments and dam upgrades as well as fish passage for dams. He is providing specialist advice through *Brian Cooper Consulting* as a sole trader.



## Professional Experience

2008 to Present: Principal of Brian Cooper Consulting

- 2010
- Five yearly comprehensive dam safety inspection of Carcoar Dam (double curvature arch dam).
  - Internal reviewer to URS (Melbourne) on concept design of regulator structures and associated fishways for the Hipwell Road project for watering the Gunbower Forest
  - Specialist adviser to Melbourne Water – valve behaviour on Sugarloaf Dam pipeline, structural behaviour of pumping station floor slab and pump bases at Cardinia Dam Pumping Station
  - Commenced work as member of ANCOLD working group re-writing the Earthquake Guidelines – responsible for re-writing sections relating to concrete dams.
  - Continuing involvement with Alluvium in the design of the weir upgrade and the new fishway for Boolgal Weir.
  - Continuing external peer review services to State Water Corporation for the detail design of new auxiliary fuse plug spillways for Copeton and Chaffey Dams, detail design of raising and post tensioned strengthening of Keepit Dam, detail design of upgrade works for Wyangala Dam, finite element analysis of Carcoar Dam (double curvature arch dam).
  - Further work with GHD (Perth) on risk assessment for Serpentine Dam.
  - Continuing involvement with Hydro Tasmania, as Chair of external review panel for Catagunya Dam.
- 2009
- Part of URS' comprehensive inspection team for Melbourne Water's Maroondah Dam.
  - Part of URS' business risk assessment team for Southern Rural Water's Cowwarr and Maffra Weirs.
  - Part of Alluvium's design team upgrading Boolgal Weir and providing a fishway at the weir, for State Water Corporation.
  - Part of GHD's design team for Lower Fitzroy River Infrastructure Project designing fishways for Rookwood and Eden Bann Weirs near Rockhampton in Queensland.
  - Project Manager on behalf of SA Water and reviewer for study into vibration of a crane rail beam at Lock 5 on the River Murray.
  - Expert reviewer for State Water Corporation for 3D finite element analysis of Carcoar Dam (double curvature arch dam).
  - Internal reviewer for URS on Laanecoorie Dam Upgrade.
  - Expert reviewer for State Water Corporation for risk assessments for Oberon and Rydal Dams.
  - Member of GHD's Serpentine Dam risk assessment team for WA WaterCorp.
  - Expert reviewer for SunWater in Queensland for the comprehensive risk assessment undertaken for Fairbairn Dam and Coolmunda Dam.
  - Expert reviewer for State Water Corporation for major upgrade works at Keepit, Copeton, Chaffey and Wyangala Dams.
  - Appointed as Chairman of the NSW Dams Safety Committee (the dam safety regulator in NSW).
  - Provided external peer review for Goulburn Valley Water, on Nine Mile Creek Dam Upgrade.
  - Internal reviewer for URS (Adelaide) for Lake Victoria Outlet Regulator options studies.
  - Provided advice to URS (Melbourne) on the Mildura Weir Fishway design.
  - Member of expert panel advising State Water Corporation on revised dam surveillance regime.
  - Part of Ecosmart bid team - prepared concept designs for fish passage facility at proposed Wyaralong Dam in Queensland.
  - Continuing expert review role for Catagunya Dam upgrade.
- 2008
- Started as a private specialist dams consultant - *Brian Cooper Consulting*.
  - Worked through the URS Corporation for the USBR and the USACE in developing a risk toolbox for lined spillways.
  - Advised TrustPower in New Zealand on replacement of post tensioned anchors at Mahinerangi No. 1 Dam.
  - Adviser to State Water Corporation and to URS on further upgrade works for Hume Dam.
  - Provided specialist advice to WA Water Corporation on Wellington Dam post tensioning.
  - Peer reviewer on behalf of URS for Warren Dam in South Australia.
  - Part of URS team carrying out portfolio risk assessment of Melbourne Water's dams.
  - Member of Expert Review Panel for Darwin River and Manton Dams for NT PowerWater.

*1987 to 2008: Dams & Civil Section of NSW Department of Public Works and Services/NSW Department of Commerce.*

- 2008 Carried out detailed 3D finite element analysis of radial gate at Wyangala Dam spillway for State Water Corporation.  
Continuing review role for Tillegra Dam.  
Continuing review role for Hinze and Lake Manchester Dams in Queensland and Catagunya Dam in Tasmania.  
Prepared options report on Burrendong Dam spillway modifications for State Water Corporation.
- 2007 Continuing roles on Lake Manchester, Hinze, Catagunya and Redbank Ck. Dams.  
Internal peer reviewer for NSW Dept. of Commerce regarding design of Tillegra Dam.  
Advised State Water on feasibility of fish passage facilities at a number of their major Irrigation dams.  
Expert reviewer for GHD on a flood retarding basin in south west Sydney.  
Part of expert panel for River Murray Water risk assessments for Hume and Dartmouth Dams, Torrumbarry and Yarrowonga Weirs and Lake Victoria.  
Re-elected as Deputy Chairman of the Dams Safety Committee
- 2006 Project director for 3D finite element analysis of Bendora Dam (double curvature arch dam)  
Chair of external peer review panel for upgrading of Lake Manchester Dam (concrete gravity dam) in Queensland  
Internal peer reviewer and senior consultant for the raising of Hinze Dam (earth and rockfill embankment) in Queensland  
Project director for preliminary and detailed design of Redbank Creek Dam (single curvature arch dam) upgrading  
Project director for Keepit Dam fish passage investigations  
Part of expert panel for URS undertaking portfolio risk assessment for dams owned by River Murray Water  
External peer reviewer for Hydro Tasmania for Catagunya Dam (concrete gravity dam) upgrading;  
Project director for 3D finite element analysis of Upper Cordeaux No. 2 Dam (single curvature arch dam owned by SCA) for BHP Billiton
- 2005 Project design engineer for dam related aspects of Nepean Dam Deepwater Access Project:  
Pipeline crossing end of spillway; outlet works for end of pipeline  
Project design engineer for Avon Dam Deepwater Access Project: tunnel design through rockfill buttressing; new low level outlet works
- 2004 Internal reviewer to URS Australia for Pykes Ck Dam Investigations (Southern Rural Water, Victoria)  
Internal reviewer to URS Australia for Lower Reservoir Dam (Hobart Water, Tasmania)  
Member of expert review panel for the Melton Dam upgrade design (Southern Rural Water, Victoria)
- 2003/04 Designer for retrofitting multi-level offtake for Tallowa Dam (Sydney Catchment Authority).  
Member of the Independent Technical Expert Panel for the Eildon Dam Upgrading in Victoria for Goulburn-Murray Water.  
Currently the design director for the Wivenhoe Dam Alliance carrying out the flood capacity upgrading for Wivenhoe Dam in Queensland – included directing major computational fluid dynamics modelling investigations of existing spillway
- 2003 Carried out options study for environmental upgrading works at Keepit Dam (selective withdrawal facility, additional outlet works and fish passage)  
Carried out assessment of spillway capacity for Hume Dam using computational fluid dynamics modelling (by a sub-consultant)  
Carried out detail design for anchoring Bellfield Dam (Victoria) Intake Tower  
Carried out detailed finite element analysis of Keepit Dam radial gates
- 2002 Carried out review of large farm dam with seepage problems. Directed computational fluid dynamics modelling of drum gate and radial gates at Warragamba Dam together with structural analysis of gates (modelling carried out by sub-consultant) to ensure gates can handle more

- rigorous operating conditions  
 Adviser to the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) on civil engineering matters related to the replacement reactor project at Lucas Heights  
 Expert reviewer for Goulburn-Murray Water for remedial works at Cairn Curran Dam in Victoria  
 Project Director for Lerderberg Weir safety review and risk assessment for Southern Rural Water (Victoria). Carried out finite element analysis of radial gate
- 2001  
 Project Director for design of further remedial works at Hume Dam.  
 Technical director on behalf of NPWS for quantitative risk assessment for Snowy Mountains roads  
 Chairman of the committee producing a geotechnical response plan for the Alpine Way in the Snowy Region for NPWS  
 Carried out non-linear finite element analysis (earthquake loading) for outlet tower at Bellfield Dam for Wimmera-Mallee Water (Victoria)  
 Joined the MDBC's Fish Passage Reference Group and reviewed fishway designs  
 Consultant to DLWC for their portfolio risk assessment of thirty dams  
 Provided advice on the post tensioning system at Waitakere Dam in New Zealand.
- Director of Dam Surveillance Group responsible for the surveillance of DLWC dams and participant of a number of 5 yearly surveillance inspections  
 Project Director of review of DLWC Intake Towers Earthquake Stability Review  
 Directed DPWS input into the Earthquake Stability of the structural elements of Yarrawonga Weir as sub-consultant to URS Australia - included detail design of anchoring system for the weir.  
 Also provided design advice on design of stone columns to provide protection against liquefaction of alluvial foundations.  
 Member of the expert panel for the risk assessment studies being undertaken for Goulburn-Murray Water  
 Project Director for safety review and preliminary design of remedial options for Blowering Dam (DLWC)  
 Acted as reviewer for a number of projects carried out by URS (incl. Cardinia Dam outlet tower, Bellfield Dam embankment/spillway)  
 Directed functionality study (including business risk assessment) for Yallourn Weir for Southern Rural Water (Victoria)
- 2000  
 Project Director for design of further investigations and remedial works at Hume Dam.  
 Safety reviews for Bamarang and Flat Rock Dams  
 Director of Dam Surveillance Group responsible for the surveillance of DLWC dams and participant of a number of 5 yearly surveillance inspections  
 Project Director for earthquake studies on Intake towers and appurtenant works at DLWC dams  
 Consultant to DLWC to manage their portfolio risk assessment  
 Project Director for a number of dambreak studies and preparation of dam safety emergency plans  
 Member of the consulting team carrying out risk assessments for Goulburn-Murray Water (Victoria) for Eppalock Dam  
 Carried out review of Earthquake Stability Review of the Outlet Tower at Eppalock Dam in Victoria for G-MW.  
 Reviewed URS Australia designs for Alpine Way remedial works
- 1999  
 Project Director of earthquake studies on Wyangala Dam  
 Project Director for design of further remedial works at Hume Dam. Included design of ground improvement works (stone columns) for protecting alluvial foundations against liquefaction  
 Peer reviewer of Leslie Dam (Queensland) Safety Report.  
 Peer reviewer of DLWC's Screening Level Risk Assessment
- 1998  
 Project Director for portfolio risk assessment for six dams owned by a Southern Rural Water in Victoria.  
 Directed structural analysis of spillway gates on Narracan Dam for Southern Rural Water  
 Project Director for concept design and DD&C contract documentation for Warragamba Dam auxiliary spillway. Dam to be upgraded the dam to cater for increased inflow flood estimates. Upgrading works estimated to cost \$135M. An auxiliary spillway is to be constructed adjacent to the existing dam - involves excavating some 2,000,000m<sup>3</sup> of rock and constructing concrete lining, training walls, fuse plug embankments, large scale cement stabilised sandstone fill, a multi



span bridge across the spillway, post tensioned ground anchors for dissipator/training walls, modifications of existing spillway gates. Design involved extensive physical hydraulic model testing.

- 1997 Feasibility options study for remediation of Redbank Ck. Dam near Mudgee (NSW) Karapiro Dam, New Zealand - Part of international consulting team reviewing this concrete arch dam's security and determining appropriate remedial options (mass concrete buttressing). Director of risk assessment studies for Tenterfield Dam
- 1993-1997 Hume Dam Investigations - Project Manager of Investigation and Design Studies for the embankments at the dam. Work involves:
- review of the stability of the embankments under static and earthquake loadings
  - investigation of liquefaction
  - potential of embankments' foundations
  - development of stabilising options
  - development of options to provide increased flood security including provision of new auxiliary spillways and modifications to existing works
- detail design and documentation of stabilising works for the embankments including a key trench into the dam's foundations, stabilising berms, slurry wall cut-offs, drainage/filter curtains and strengthening of critical gravity training walls with both horizontal and vertical post tensioning.
- part of advisory and review team for the risk assessment of the dam and its components.
- 1990-1996 Warragamba Dam Upgrading for Sydney Water Corporation - Project Manager of Investigation Concept Design Studies for upgrading the dam to cater for increased inflow flood estimates and provide substantial flood mitigation. Upgrading works estimated to cost \$280M. The existing dam was to be strengthened with mass concrete buttressing - some 600,000m<sup>3</sup>.
- 1996 Project Director for Safety Review (including Finite Element Analysis) of Wellington Dam
- 1993-1996 Hume Dam Gates for Department of Water Resources - Project Manager for the design of new maintenance baulks and emergency closure gates. Involves development of proposals for underwater installation.
- 1995 Redbank Creek Dam and Lithgow No. 2 Dam for NSW Public Works Dams Surveillance - Project Manager for safety reviews and finite element analysis of two 15m high arch dams. Clarrie Hall Dam for NSW Public Works Dams Surveillance - Project Manager for dambreak studies.
- 1994 Burrinjuck Dam Gates for NSW Department of Water Resources - Project Manager for the design of new control and emergency closure gates. Involves underwater installation. Karangi Dam for Coffs Harbour City Water Project - Project Manager for dambreak studies.
- 1993 Mardi Dam for Wyong Council - Project Manager for safety review of earth embankment.
- 1988-1990 Nepean Dam Remedial Works for Sydney Water Corporation - Project Manager for investigation studies, design development and detail design. Work involved:
- Initial flood security studies and development of options
  - co-ordination of hydraulic model studies
  - detail design and contract documentation for modified spillway, large size post-tensioned ground anchors and rockfill buttressing.
- 1987-1989 Boggabilla Weir for NSW Department of Water Resources - Project Manager for detail design and contract documentation of a large gated re-regulation weir with fishway. Involved liaison with fisheries expert in developing optimum geometry for fish ladder.

Chaffey Dam for NSW Department of Water Resources - Project Manager for upgrading of dam.  
Work involved:

- development of options and preliminary design
- finite element analyses for raised morning glory spillway
- stability analyses for raised earth/rockfill embankment
- co-ordination of hydraulic model studies for raised spillway.

1969-1987: *Water Resources Commission of NSW (WRC) (now Department of Land and Water Conservation).*

1986-1987 Flood Security studies for WRC - Project Design Engineer for investigation into flood security of Chaffey and Glennies Creek Dams. Involved co-ordinating dambreak studies, development of remedial options, economic risk studies.

- 1985-1987 Hume Dam Strengthening for WRC - Project Design Engineer for detail design and contract documentation. Work included:
- design of large size post-tensioned ground anchors including development of appropriate grouting procedures
  - design of structural modifications to the concrete gravity dam
  - design of a new road bridge over the dam.
  - establishing the rationale for replacing the existing post tensioning system

Contact





**TRANSCRIPT**  
**THE TODAY SHOW CAMERON WILLIAMS 0709**  
**FRIDAY 07 JANUARY 2011**  
**INTV: PREMIER ANNA BLIGH**  
**RE: QUEENSLAND FLOODS**

Williams: Of course this is not just measured in terms of cash but this is a big problem to be left with for you. As the cleanup begins in some communities, how are you going to rebuild houses, jobs infrastructure?

Bligh: Well good morning Cameron and you're right. We are now seeing the water stabilise and if Mother Nature leaves us alone now we can start the heartbreaking job of the cleanup, the recovery and the rebuilding. I've just appointed a Major General, Mick Slater; a very senior army officer with a lot of experience whose job it will be to develop a road map for recovery and work with the Queensland government and the Federal government and all of our agencies and the local areas to start this process. This is a massive logistical exercise unlike anything we've ever seen and we will need to make it the number one priority for the government.

Williams: Premier, how do people apply for relief? Because a lot of people will be thinking will you know I need some help, how do I go about actually getting it in terms of cash injections into businesses and other kinds of lives that they need? People need money now I guess in many instances.

Bligh: That's right. In all of the centres that have major inundation we have now established recovery centres. They are one stop shops where people can access the entitlements; whether it's a business grant, ah emergency relief for families, we've got all levels of government there – Centrelink as well as state government departments and the insurance council will be there as well helping people make it as easy as possible to access those areas of assistance. We're also so grateful for the response that we're getting to the relief appeal. The Premier's relief appeal is now over \$14 million. We've got a number of things like a telethon, we've got Cricket Australia dedicating one of the days. We can see the money coming in in large amounts and it's just so heart warming to see Australians dig deep and we say thank you and it really matters to those people out there in those flooded areas. They know that you care and as we start the process of rebuilding we will work out how we can distribute those funds to the families and the people who need it the most.

Williams: Well it looks like the worst of it is over in places like Rockhampton but of course we're all waiting with fingers crossed the hope that St George on the Balonne River will escape without too much damage. Are you confident that there are enough people and supplies and support in place to cope with that one?

Bligh: Between Queensland's emergency services and the Australian Defence force we've had plenty of opportunity to prepare St George and we've got all the assets; all the equipment there that we need if it's any worse than we're currently predicting. While it may not be as bad in St George as we originally thought it's nevertheless on track to be a record flood and we will see significant property and infrastructure damage. And I should say that in cities like Rockhampton while the waters have peaked, it's a long road there before we start to see Rockhampton return to normal. The water is like to stay at 8.5 metres around the town for up to 7 or 8 days. The

airport will not open to commercial flight for perhaps 3 weeks. So we've still got an immediate response that we're dealing with in a number of centres like that. But towns like Theodore that were completely evacuated – we removed every single person out of the town – start the process today of bringing them back home. And they're coming home to a lot of heartache, a lot of suffering and for many of them the glimpse of what's been left behind, what was once their precious possessions, their home and I think that's going to be a very painful process.

Williams: That's right. There's a lot of things that can't be measured in strictly dollar terms. Thank you very much Premier.

Bligh: That's alright

Williams: As you mentioned the flood relief telethon will be live all across Australia on the 9<sup>th</sup> and we networks this Sunday evening from 7:30 eastern daylight saving time and if you'd like to be in the studio audience you can be. Head to [courier.com.au](http://courier.com.au).

ENDS  
AJ

Produced by the Government Media Monitoring Unit
--

**TRANSCRIPT  
PRESS CONFERENCE  
FRIDAY 7 JANUARY 2011  
INTV: PREMIER ANNA BLIGH; ACTING CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT  
BRIAN CODD; WARREN BRIDSON, EMERGENCY SERVICES  
QUEENSLAND ACTING ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-GENERAL  
RE: FLOODS**

Bligh:

We are starting to see the situation stabilise across most of regional Queensland affected by floods but that does not mean that we are out of the woods yet. We're seeing very heavy rainfall in the Bundaberg and Burnett area. And we've seen some very heavy rainfall here in the southeast, with more heavy rain predicted. There is a very close watch being kept on the community of St George today as they face a very long, slow wait for waters to reach their peak. They will then face a very long slow wait for the waters to recede. We expect to see the peak in St George sometime between Sunday and Monday. We could then see those waters stay at those levels for anywhere up to seven days. So, the flood waters around St George are there for the foreseeable future.

As we start to see the water recede in many parts of our flood affected regions, it's very important to understand that as the waters go down, the need for patience is only just beginning. As the water recedes, it doesn't necessarily mean that life returns to normal. Because water has receded off our roads does not mean that they will be immediately reopened. They will have to be tested and cleared before we can put traffic on them and we will put safety first. Similarly, the fact that waters have receded from peoples neighbourhoods does not mean that they can immediately get into their homes. They will have to be certified as safe by an electrician. Again, we will put safety first. We certainly understand that people are impatient, frustrated, wanting to get across flooded roads and want to get back into their homes. We ask now, more than ever, for patience as our emergency authorities make sure that all of these places are safe before vehicles are back on those roads and people are back in their homes.

Listening this morning to the state-wide hook up it's clear that a number of communities are starting the process of cleanup. I'm very pleased to see the efforts on the ground to make sure that we continue to have a good supply of food and fuel in all of these areas. We still have more than 600 homes disconnected from power because of flood water around those homes. We have teams of electricians out clearing and certifying the



houses that can be accessed and those teams are on the job today.

We are seeing the people of Condamine and the people of Theodore start the process of repatriation. For the first time in Queensland history we've had to evacuate two whole towns, Theodore and Condamine. Those people are now starting to come back into those towns and face the heartbreaking reality of what they left behind several days ago when they were evacuated. Our thoughts go out to everybody facing this terrible crisis, but I'd like to say to the people of Condamine and Theodore, "We understand that your whole town is suffering and we'll be paying careful attention over the next few days as you start to be together again."

Can I thank everybody who has put their hands in their pockets and donated to the Premier's Flood Relief Appeal? Today the Appeal stands at \$17.8 million. \$5.3 million has come in through the banks – that is overwhelmingly mums and dads digging into their own purses and wallets. So more than \$5 million from ordinary Australians. Close to 12 or 13 million dollars now from corporate Australia and government. \$17.8 million will make a difference but we still need more. I look forward to the upcoming events that are designed to raise more funds and, I thank those who have donated to date.

As we see the waters recede, it will be tempting for people to start to try and cross roads. We need a very big safety message out there. I'd like to invite Superintendent Brian Codd to make some comments in this regard because our Police and Emergency Workers have been facing some issues as people try to battle floodwaters.

Codd:

Thank you Premier. Good morning. One of the inspirational things that you see in times of devastation is just how well people come together. We've seen that across the length and breadth of Queensland where communities, emergency services and other agencies have come together and supported each other. Unfortunately, this is not a time to be complacent and rest in the glow of community coming together. There are still many, many challenges that will be in front of us as this disaster is enduring. It will be a prolonged disaster. We are still some way away from full recovery and, in some aspects, months and perhaps even years. It is unfortunate, in that context, that we still have to deal with people who are prepared to put themselves before their community and before emergency services by making ridiculous choices. In many instances by entering flood ways against the best advice from those who are 'in the know' about what to do in these situations. In the last 24 hours alone we have had two instances

where people have chosen to ignore the advice for their own safety and the safety of others by driving into floodwaters – on one occasion requiring the assistance of the swift water rescue efforts to save that person. This is not just a simple process of those people taking up time for their safety. It is compromising the ability of the Emergency Services that put their time and energies into where it's needed. There's a message that I would like to get across: This is not a time to be complacent. Please revisit those messages that we have been sending out about avoiding going into floodwaters.

Another message that I would like to reinforce is the Premier's words about expectations. Yes, we are hopeful and we are very fortunate that the worst has not beset us. Those things that we were anticipating as worse-case scenarios have not hit us as yet. But it's not a time to become complacent. People are very frustrated. We know that they want to get back into their homes. But it's going to be some time before we're able to do that. Just because the water recedes from roads or if it recedes beneath the floors of homes does not mean that we're ready to immediately move into those areas. The public safety choices will be made here and we will do everything we can to return people to their homes and to their loved ones as soon as we can.

The last message that I would convey is: Please all be aware that we have deployed extra police throughout the state. Those extra police are there to support the efforts of local communities in recovering, but they are also there to do their job; to maintain public safety and security. If that means enforcing the law then that will be the case. That extends to the routes, in terms of transport, that have been used since the highways have closed. I don't mean to be the bearer of bad news but we need to remind ourselves that we've had a bit of luck so far. There is still more to come and unless we stay vigilant about those safety messages, we put people's lives at risk.

Thank you Premier. Now I'd invite Mr Warren Bridson from Emergency Management Queensland.

Bridson:

Thank you and good afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen. As we've been speaking about over a number of days now, you will be aware that we are trying to manage very carefully the deployment of our State Emergency Service Volunteers across Queensland to assist communities in need. We've also pointed out that a number of State Emergency Volunteers have remained in places where we thought they would be needed. That has been born out yesterday, last night and again this morning, where we've had 350 jobs for the State Emergency Service in South East Queensland alone. That's on top of the

services we are providing to flood-affected areas. We had 34 jobs this morning in Brisbane and 20% of all the calls yesterday actually came from Brisbane. So, our strategy in sending State Emergency Service people forward to the flood affected areas, while maintaining a presence in places where we thought that they would be needed, has paid off. That reinforces the need for people, such as the 23 SES volunteers who are coming from Victoria to provide some assistance to us, to do that. I've also accepted the offer of four Victorian SES persons to work in my State Disaster Coordination Centre. They've just arrived so that's more support. We're also looking forward to 15 New Zealanders arriving on Saturday and we're going to ask them to assist in Theodore.

In closing, can I say that State Emergency Service Volunteers are out there preparing to assist people cleaning up their homes but, as the Premier and the Superintendent have said, the State Emergency Volunteers should not be expected to enter communities or homes until they've been made safe by the Authorities?

Thank you.

Journalist: Premier, given that (inaudible) fair way into this disaster, what sort of a scale do you think we're at with (inaudible).

Bligh: We are now starting to see the situation stabilise but we are very, very mindful that we've still got some heavy weather around. I don't think we're out of the woods by a long way. This is a long, slow recovery but we may see further incidents requiring emergency response before we're in full recovery mode. But the scale of this incident cannot be underestimated. It is the single largest event that Queensland has had to face in its history. The magnitude of the area that is covered, the number of roads that are cut off and the logistical supply issues are without precedent. We can be very proud of the emergency response out there; our Volunteers, our Emergency Personnel, our Police and our Defence Force who are all working on the ground in an unprecedented way and keeping people safe. And that's what we want to continue.

Journalist: We still won't know the full budget implications until the flood waters go down, but it would have to be one of the toughest budgets.

Bligh: I don't want to start comparing it to budgets post-war, for example, but with every disaster there are many implications and our priority is fixing the issues that are out there and important for people. If that will have some budgetary implications, so be it. We're going to put people first.



Journalist: Tony Abbott's dam idea (inaudible)

Bligh: There'll be many people with ideas out of this incident and, of course, we'll look at them. But our first priority, without any apologies is to rebuild regional Queensland. Regional Queensland has been hit harder than it's ever been hit before. We need to put all of our efforts into rebuilding and getting these communities back on their feet as soon as possible. And, to finding the resources to do that first. I won't be diverted from that task. Tony Abbott can have ideas – I welcome anybody who wants to talk about the issue. But our task, right now, is to rebuild and that's what we're going to do.

Journalist: Are Cabinet members out on the ground today, Premier?

Bligh: We have the Minister for Emergency Services in Brisbane today. We've had an opportunity to sit down together and to start, with the Treasurer, looking at some of the cost issues and that's been important in leading up to the work that Mick Slater will do. We've got the Governor General visiting the people of Condamine today and we have Major General Mick Slater visiting people in Rockhampton.

Journalist: What are you putting the cost at currently?

Bligh: It is still far too early to give any accurate predictions on cost. The costs will not only fall to governments. There will be costs for governments at the local, state and federal level, but there'll be costs for insurance companies, there'll be costs for major employers – like the mining industry and the agricultural sector. And there'll be costs to many families and individuals. Even with insurance and government assistance there'll be financial pressures on those families that have been affected by this. That's why the Premier's Relief Appeal is important and it will make a difference.

Journalist: A figure of \$6 billion is being bandied around. Is that a ballpark figure, do you think?

Bligh: Every day we're going to see people putting figures into the arena. Until we see the waters go down and all of the assessments are done, it's going to be hard to be precise about this. If you add the costs to everybody, not only government; but costs to families, insurers, industry and all three levels of government - then we are talking about a multibillion dollar price tag.

Journalist: You mentioned the bad weather that's still to come, given how long this has already been going for, are you confident that we can maintain such a response?

Bligh: We are very fortunate to have good friends in other states of Australia. All of the states of Australia who are able to offer us support have done so. We are seeing great work being done to bring extra assistance in to relieve our emergency crews. What we're worried about with some of the rainfall is not so much greater swelling in the rivers, but downfalls in places that are so saturated that they might see some flash flooding in places that they normally wouldn't. So, while we don't expect major events, it could be difficult for people. We did see some evacuations last night from the caravan park in Dalby as a result of flash flooding. So, just as people were coming back into the caravan park after the flood last week, they've had to move back to the showgrounds. That's the sort of issue that's still happening out there on the ground.

Journalist: Mr Bridson, you're expecting more heavy rain over the South East over the weekend. Are you expecting flash flooding and will you be expecting more calls for help?

Bridson: We do expect more calls for help from the State Emergency Service and that's why our strategy has been to maintain a presence in those areas where the bureau has predicted that there will be heavy rain, yes.

Journalist: And so Superintendent, the missing woman in Rockhampton, are you thinking that's flood related at all?

Codd: I'm not in a position to provide any information on that at this stage. I'd direct you to the local and district management groups. They'll be able to assist you with more detail.

Journalist: Thank you.

Journalist: Premier, you must be heartened with people like (inaudible).

Bligh: I'm very heartened by the generosity of Australians and people around the world who are donating to the appeal. It was terrific to see Rod Laver add his support. Rod Laver's one of Queensland's legends. I met with him last year in Los Angeles and I can tell you that his heart is never very far from Rockhampton. And, when it goes through an issue like this it's great to see people like Rod Laver come out in support of the people of Rockhampton and encouraging others to help them at their time of need. So, thanks to Rod Laver.

Journalist:

How much are you hoping to reach for the Appeal? Clearly the more the better but realistically what are you hoping for?

Bligh:

I've been very, very heartened by the response we've got to the Appeal. Many people are yet to come back from holiday and work and start to contemplate making a donation. So we've got a long way to go here. The rate at which people are donating is overwhelming. I thank them and we'll wait and see where we get to.

ENDS  
SH

Produced by the Government Media Monitoring Unit



**TRANSCRIPT**  
**INTERVIEW WITH COURIER MAIL, ALISON SANDY**  
**MONDAY 7 JANUARY 2011**  
**INTV: PREMIER ANNA BLIGH**  
**RE: FLOODS**

- Sandy: How's it all going out there? What's the latest that you can tell me?
- Bligh: Well I've just done a press conference out of Kedron and said you know "the situation is beginning to stabilize, with the exception of St. George we now have water in a stable, or starting to recede. St. George is the only place where it is still rising. Although we're not out of the woods, we're so saturated that we don't have much capacity to take anymore, so Dalby last night took a downfall and they had to evacuate the caravan park again because it got some flash flooding in an area that was only because they were so saturated. So that really depends on what Mother Nature does next.
- Sandy: We're doing a regional breakdown as you know, so if you know exactly, I know I you can't anticipate certainly St. George and Rockhampton you know the damage bill or whatever, but like will they be the hardest hit in these floods do you think?
- Bligh: In terms of numbers, I think Emerald you'd have to put in that list and Bundaberg, I mean clearly you know, the bigger population centres ultimately have more damage but, you know it's sort of hard to say, I'm sort of off the record here Alison, I mean in Rockhampton we've got the biggest sort of group affected, but as a proportion of a city of seventy-five thousand it's very difficult to somewhere like Alpha that only has three-hundred people, but one-hundred and fifty were taken out of their homes, you know? So it's very hard to say what's worse, or Condamine where there's, or Theodore, where there's three-hundred people and everybody went, so everybody sort of has to help themselves and each other, you know? So there's disproportionate effect.
- Sandy: You're obviously going through; you know a (inaudible).
- Bligh: The other thing of course, and I think you've been given a road map is some of the very big expenses will be in places where nobody lives, but it connects two major centres, so you know in terms of state expense, where a lot of our money will go, will be into road and rail, and in many of them, places where there's very little population but it connects population centres, but some of them are cut off and we just can't get in there. The other, just for your background. When assessing road damage, it's when the water goes down, there will be big pot-holes, but that's not actually the worst of it, what will happen is as we put traffic on it, that's when you'll start to see the really big damage done, and main roads will be making decisions that you'll probably get phone calls about across the state about when they will open roads. So they will look like they are drivable, but they haven't been fully assessed, and you don't want big semi-trailers on them unless they are safe, but the semi trailers will do damage. But we've got to get the food out and in. So you know the damage is often done after the water goes down.
- Sandy: But we're back on the record now, aren't we, about that part what you just said about the road?

Bligh: Well I'm happy to give it to you in a more concise way.

Sandy: Because I mean, that's really interesting.

Bligh: It is.

Sandy: Because a lot of people need to know, that because it looks drivable.

Bligh: That's right. Much of damage and the costs will come, so damage and cost to roads will come after the waters recede. As traffic gets back onto those roads, further damage is likely because the roads aren't that stable.

Sandy: So then, the one-point five billion then is premature?

Bligh: Well, I think we would describe it as preliminary. So I don't think it's going to be less than that, so it's not premature in that sense. It's preliminary, it's what we know, but that's only roads. The other major one will be rail, and we know that the rail line from Brisbane to Longreach is seriously damaged in several locations.

Sandy: So, the damage bill then, I mean you know is at one-point five at the very least for roads, and then we've got all these other places, I've just got that list which you'd be aware of then too, the minor-moderate significant risk damage. You're looking, I mean is it possible to you know, gauge you know how many billions at this stage. But, it would have to be obviously quite a few by looking at all this infrastructure.

Bligh: Look, I think it's clear to me that we are talking a price tag in the multi-billion range. That's just the price state for the state and federal governments. When you count the cost of something like this, you have to also factor in major economic loss to industries like agriculture and mining, the economic loss to small businesses, in particularly, little towns, and the insurance costs.

Sandy: The state opposition put out a release today, it's in relation to saying the states record debt has wiped another one-point five billion from the states flood relief capacity. What would you say in relation to that? They are obviously criticizing your governments financial ability in this, and you know that the flood ridden communities are going to pay the price for that. What are your thoughts on that?

Bligh: Well I'll send you, I don't know if you've seen the release the treasurer has put out in response to those claims, but I would just say, the budget decisions we've made as a government, or some of the decisions we've made as a government has increased Queensland's resilience in events like this, for example it's clear out there that on the ground that council amalgamations have made emergency response easier to deal with, so police and emergency workers are dealing with one large council, instead four, or five or sometimes six small ones. Similarly, our budget strategy of reducing debt puts us in a much better position to cope with a disaster like this. If we had not taken some of the decisions we had over the last two years as a result of the GFC, Queensland would be crippled by a disaster like this. As it is, we are now well placed.

Sandy: What will you have to forgo? I mean obviously our budget was made without the knowledge of these floods, and the extra expense. I mean, I

know that we are looking one million in a fund, that obviously the infrastructure damage, petrol will be a lot more. So what will we have to forgo when, and will everything have to be reassessed in terms of what we've budgeted in Queensland to pay for these floods.

Bligh: So, I should say a few things. Firstly, the premiers relief fund won't be funding public infrastructure. It will be for providing assistance to individuals and families to get their lives back on track, so it won't be funding railway-lines and etc, but in this year's budget we put aside a contingency fund of six-hundred and eighty million dollars to cater for disaster relief. Clearly, the bill is going to be more than that, but we certainly have that contingency fund to base our response on. The national disaster relief arrangements provide for a seventy-five/twenty-five split between the Federal Government and the State Government on infrastructure replacement. So while this won't be easy, you know Australia and Queensland have the capacity to meet this challenge.

Sandy: But we'll have to reassess surely. I mean there's no way we could foot the bill under the current parameters, even with the assistance of you know, the Federal Government.

Bligh: I think it's too early to speculate for the budget for 2011/2012, but I can say treasury is right at this moment, working on the full implications of this disaster, but we will put the recovery as our number one priority.

Sandy: Yeah, I mean because I'm not talking about the next budget, I'm talking about this one, whether it would need to be reassessed.

Bligh: As I said, we are working through the financial implications as this disaster unfolds. I have absolute confidence of our ability to rise to the needs of this disaster. It may mean some reprioritisation, but I think that Queenslanders would expect us to put flood victims and regional Queensland first.

ENDS  
LM

Produced by the Government Media Monitoring Unit
--



**TRANSCRIPT  
PRESS CONFERENCE  
MONDAY 10 JANUARY 2011  
INTV: PREMIER ANNA BLIGH; DEPUTY COMMISSIONER IAN  
STEWART, STATE DISASTER COORDINATOR  
RE: FLOODS; BETTY KIERNAN ON LEAVE**

Bligh:

Firstly, this morning we held the first meeting of the Flood Recovery Cabinet Committee with Major General Mick Slater and began the process of mapping out a blueprint for rebuilding those flood-affected areas of Queensland. While the Cabinet committee was meeting, we have seen further events start to unfold across other parts of Queensland. Just as we thought we might be moving to a stabilised situation we have seen huge and torrential downpours of rain from the border to the Fraser Coast, bringing more rainfall and putting more communities in the south east at risk. This afternoon in an evolving and emerging situation there's been a massive deluge in the city of Toowoomba. The creek through the centre of city has overflowed. There are swift water rescues being undertaken and the city of Toowoomba is effectively split down through the main centre of town. The Deputy Commissioner will make a few more comments in relation to the emerging situation in Toowoomba.

The town of Dalby is going through the heartbreaking business of experiencing a second peak of flooding. We've seen, to date, some 29 evacuations to the agricultural college and we expect that to grow in the rest of the evening. The current, current situation in the river at Dalby is that it is now over the peak that it experienced last week. So the town of Dalby that has just started to get people back into homes is going through another flood situation that is likely to see between two and three hundred houses affected and many of them will be the same homes, the same families that lived through this just over 10 days ago. So I, I, I have to say that my heart particularly goes out to the people of Dalby. This is an awful circumstance and for them to be going through it again, I think we can all understand what that means for these, these people. The river, as I said, is now higher, slightly higher than the peak that it reached at 10 days ago but it is still rising. So we may, in fact, see more people affected with the Dalby situation than we saw at the beginning of these floods.

The town, the city of Gympie is also facing a 20 metre peak in its river, probably this evening. If it reaches that peak, we anticipate that we will see some 65 businesses in Gympie, and a further 50 residences affected and inundated with water. So the

people of Gympie are seeing the Mary River come and do what it's done to them in the past. And while we don't expect it to be record levels, a 20 metre peak in Gympie will still affect some 100 or more businesses and homes. The Bruce Highway is also cut at Gympie and likely to be for some time. People looking to travel north should please check all the road information. You will not be able to go further north on the Bruce Highway than just south of Gympie.

Here in the south east, we're now seeing substantial rainfall caused (?) flooding across a number of parts of our catchment. We've seen flooding on the Sunshine Coast that has all but isolated a number of townships in the Hinterland of the Sunshine Coast. Town like Conondale and Kenilworth are cut off and we don't (?) expect to see those rivers flood, but the flash flooding there has cut roads and those townships are now isolated. But the two major hotspots now in the south east are the city of Ipswich and the city of Brisbane. The Wivenhoe catchment is now seeing massive inflows. The inflows into the Wivenhoe catchment now rival the inflows in the 1974 flood. What that means is that we are now seeing 1 million mega litres, or two Sydney Harbours, flow into the Wivenhoe catchment every day. We've seen massive rainfalls that have accelerated that in the last 24 hours and we've seen further rainfall forecast over the 24 to 48 hours.

There is now a major rainfall cell sitting off the coast and is expected to approach over the Brisbane and southern, southern Brisbane and Ipswich areas this evening. I have to stress that we are now in unprecedented territory. The Wivenhoe dam has never see releases of the size and scale that it will see over the next couple of days and, as I said, the water coming into the catchment is now of slightly higher than the 1974 inflows.

There are a number of variables, as you would anticipate; higher rainfall, continued flow into the catchment and tidal activity in the Brisbane River, as well as the activity we're seeing in the Bremer River, combining across that catchment. So while I'm giving you as much information as I can, we need to all understand that this is a very rapidly changing situation. It is already significantly different than the briefing I received this morning. So we do need to anticipate that there may be continued changes in this information.

At Ipswich we are anticipating a peak in the Ipswich River between 11.7 metres and 12 metres but that is based on an assumption of no further major rainfall into the Ipswich or Bremer River. If that cell that's approaching the coast is realised in that Ipswich catchment, then we could see the river go as high as 13 or 14 metres. Clearly that is a very significant

flooding activity in and around the city of Ipswich. Here in Brisbane we expect to see some flooding around, particularly on Wednesday and Wednesday afternoon will be a particularly difficult time for many people in low lying areas of Brisbane. I, I endorse the Lord Mayor's advice that people in the low-lying areas around the city, whether it's your home or your business, should take every possible precaution over the next 24 to 48 hours; sandbag where that is appropriate, move your valuables to higher territory if you can, and be prepared for significant flooding in some areas, particularly in the lower-lying parks and some of the streets in and around those areas. Many of the people who are likely to be affected are those who have been through these events before and are often very, very good at being well-prepared and we encourage them to that again. Similarly, Brisbane faces a king tide next Friday, and we expect that if we continue to see this sort of rainfall and this sort of, this sort of weather in the catchment, next Friday could also be a point at which we see some flooding in parts of Brisbane. So what we're seeing is an unprecedented event here in the Brisbane catchment. Wivenhoe Dam is now doing what it was built to do. Without a doubt the Wivenhoe Dam has already saved Brisbane from a catastrophic flood in the next 48 hours. But we have to keep releasing water from it so that it can keep doing the job that it needs to do. As I said, the dam is now seeing releases... sorry. The dam will see releases over the next two to three days, larger than it has ever seen in its history since it was fully operational in 1984.

So there is now a number of other communities across southeast Queensland, in the southwest we're seeing Dalby hit again. We're also seeing centres, such as Gympie, in the Fraser Coast area. So just as we started to think that Mother Nature might leave us alone for a little while, it has come back with a full force into new parts of the Queensland regions.

I have to say that, like everybody else who's been living with this rain for literally weeks, I understand how sick and tired everybody is getting of it. Can I just please encourage people to keep, keep listening to radio, keep making sure you're well informed. This is a very rapidly changing situation and we want to keep people as safe as we possibly can.

I might invite the... sorry I'll just make two other points before inviting the Deputy Commissioner to make some comments. Firstly, I welcome news from the federal government today, from the Prime Minister, that they will be making income support arrangements available to people in flood-affected areas. This sort of support helps those people who have a job but actually can't work, either because their workplace has been destroyed or they are physically unable to get to their



workplace because it's cut-off by flood water, and will make a big difference in the recovery effort. I understand that this sort of assistance has not been activated by the Commonwealth, in Queensland, since Cyclone Larry, and the only other time was in relation to the Victorian Bushfires. So I think the fact that this is being activated indicates to us the enormity of the issue that we're facing here, and I'm very pleased to see the Commonwealth making that support available. I know, I've already been speaking to some small businesses and primary producers who I know that will make a difference to.

And finally, I'm absolutely delighted that we've seen such a big response to the Premier's Flood Relief Appeal. It's now sitting close to the \$30 million mark and that's before we've had the update from the banks today. Can I say, this appeal is now way over where the appeal for Cyclone Larry was and is headed further north, and that's a good thing. But given the size of this fund I have today resolved to put in place a Premier's Disaster Relief Appeal Fund Distribution Committee. This is similar to the arrangements that we made in relation to the Cyclone Larry appeal fund. It will be chaired by former Treasurer of Queensland, David Hamill. David Hamill has been a member of the Red Cross board for a number of years as well as brining, as I've said, his experience as a former treasurer. I'm very pleased he'll be joined in that effort by Robert Schwarten, the Member for Rockhampton, and Vaughan Johnson, the Member for Gregory, Mr Alan Clayton, the chair of the Australian Red Cross Queensland branch. Alan Clayton was a member of the Cyclone Larry fund so he will play, I think, a very important role with his experience with that previous fund. They'll be joined by Mr John Gaskin who has helped lead building reconstruction programs in previous floods and is the chair of the Building Services Authority, by Paul Bell, who is the president of the LGAQ, and a representative of the Australian Government. So the importance of getting that distribution committee up and running means that they can start putting in place the guidelines for people to access these funds. Australians have opened their hearts and opened their pockets – we thank them for that. We want to see these funds get to people in need as quickly as possible. That committee is charged with the job of determining priorities, putting in place the guidelines and getting that money out there, and I look forward to it making a big difference. I'll invite Deputy Commissioner Ian Stewart to make some comments, particularly in relation to the situation in Toowoomba.

Stewart:

Premier thank you. Good afternoon everyone. The Toowoomba situation is evolving as we're standing here. This afternoon, and probably only in the last hour or so, there has been a major deluge on Toowoomba and, in particular, it has impacted on the

centre of Toowoomba, the creek that many of you would know runs directly through the middle of Toowoomba, but also the Murphy's Creek area and as you're travelling towards the, Toowoomba, that is the creek system that's on the right-hand side at the Toowoomba Range. That creek runs from the top of the range from the Mt (inaudible) area, right down to the bottom and into the Lockyer Valley. There have been emergency telephone calls from that, Triple 0 calls for people caught in houses, cars swept away and certainly police are now assisting the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service with swift water rescue in that area, and in other areas of Toowoomba. It is an evolving and obviously quite a desperate situation for them up there this afternoon. But I think what it does, it underscores the volatility of the environment that we're currently dealing with. And as the Premier quite rightly said, whilst we're looking at Dalby, certainly Gympie, we now have Ipswich and, and Brisbane itself to look towards to plan for the levels of flooding that we're expecting over the next few days. I'm certainly happy to join the Premier in taking any questions.

Journalist: Are lives under threat in Toowoomba?

Stewart: My understanding is yes. We've had multiple Triple-0 calls requesting urgent assistance to people caught in vehicles, caught on the street, caught in floodway's.

Journalist: Were you aware that Murphy's Creek would be a problem or (inaudible)

Stewart: Um this has just evolved. Certainly um there has been no warning of this event. It is just a large deluge which has, at this time, rained on Toowoomba, and caused this situation.

Journalist: Is that one of the biggest problems, that this is all happening too quickly to get the (inaudible)

Stewart: Well certainly we have no...sorry. To my knowledge we had no understanding or pre-warning of the size of this deluge on Toowoomba; it has just occurred, the heavens have opened up and now we have to deal with it. And obviously our primary concern is for personal safety.

Journalist: Does that mean (inaudible)

Bligh: Well I think it's important to realise the flooding is coming for two reasons. One, massive downpours into catchments – and we can have some planning and prediction about that. We know, you know, with a reasonable degree of precision, when we expect to see the peak in those rising rivers. What you cannot predict is a one-off massive deluge that can cause chaos

and put people at risk and we can certainly predict heavy rainfall, you can never be absolutely precise about exactly where it will fall. So where we're seeing water come into catchments, then people can have a degree of confidence about the predictions, about the peak and when they can expect to see that peak, and I think if you look across the state over the last couple of weeks the hydrology predictions on those river systems have been remarkably precise, but you cannot rule out one-off deluges, as Toowoomba has seen this afternoon, that puts everybody in a state of some risk.

Journalist: There's no doubt that (inaudible) catastrophic flood that you will have to release more water. What's going to (inaudible)

Bligh: Without Wivenhoe Dam we would be seeing two Sydney Harbour's full of water flowing down the Brisbane River, picking up with the Bremer flood and inundating the city of Brisbane to a greater extent than we saw in 1974. So having the dam there is having exactly the effect that it was meant to have, but it can only keep doing its job if we keep releasing water so that it can continue to operate as a dam that saves us from a flood. That means that as we see some water released into those already swollen rivers, that will have the impact of some slight increases in river levels, but that is the way the dam is meant to work and to make sure it keeps preventing that massive flood, we will have to keep seeing those releases. This is, as I've said, an unprecedented situation but this is how this dam was always meant to protect our city.

Journalist: When will that (inaudible)

Bligh: Releases are happening at the moment. The size of the releases will build up over the next 24 to 48 hours so that when we get to Wednesday and see those very big inflows, the dam will be able to cope with them.

Journalist: Premier, what came out of this first meeting of the (inaudible)

Bligh: The first meeting of the Cabinet Flood Committee this morning considered some preliminary, very preliminary work by Major General Mick Slater. As you can understand, he's only been, had his feet under the desk for a couple of days and he spent a lot of that, quite appropriately, on the road, meeting with Mayor's and other community members. But the beginnings of the first roadmap to the rebuilding of regional Queensland – obviously, while he's getting on with that job, we're dealing with some of the immediate response issues that we're seeing now emerge with a second wave of flooding here in the southeast.



Journalist: (inaudible)

Bligh: That's right.

Journalist: Ian, what's the resources (?) (inaudible)

Stewart: Oh as the Premier said, the difference in the two situations we're dealing with conjointly is that places like Dalby, which is at-risk right now, our response is very planned and practiced and it's in conjunction with the LDMG's, so the Local Disaster Management Groups. What's occurring in Toowoomba is an emergent response, and that's what police, fire and ambulance and SES personnel are trained for. That urgent emergent response situation and we have extra resources going in there from around, around the area. That's our normal process of bringing in urgent, extra resources to deal with the situation as is necessary.

Journalist: Can you give us an idea of what sort of level (inaudible)

Stewart: I can't answer that because I've only just been made aware of the situation. Certainly, I can get that information and give it to you after the conference.

Journalist: Has Toowoomba been declared a disaster area (inaudible)

Bligh: Premature – literally going through it as we speak. I should say, fire and rescue have called on police for police rescue assistance because of the size of the issue they're facing.

Journalist: Have you had any briefing on (inaudible) how many houses will be inundated in Ipswich or/and Toowoomba (inaudible)

Stewart: Toowoomba, no. But certainly Ipswich, my understanding is that ahh at certain levels of water... so Ipswich is, was looking at about 11.7 – um a few streets and a few houses with water in the yards. Once you start to get up in to the 13-plus level, there is a trigger point at which evacuations will start, and houses, and I think it's up to about 25 houses, would be affected before that 13 metre level. But after that the modelling shows a much greater level of houses involved and I don't have that figure with but I certainly can give you that afterwards.

Bligh: So what happens in Ipswich over the next 24 hours really depends on what happens with the storm cell that's sitting off the coast and heading this way.

Journalist: Premier, given the recent deluge, just how important was last night's (inaudible) flood appeal, the money raised?

Bligh: I thank... I say 'thank you Australia' for the tremendous support we saw on last night's telethon. I was staffing phones and I just had incredible support from people from New South Wales, Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria, a number of Victorians saying quite openly 'Queensland helped us when we had our hour of need and we want to pay back what we, what we got'. So I do thank Australia for digging deep. As you see, we are not out of this crisis by any means and we've got new communities at risk that last night, you know, were not facing what they're now facing. So, I think particularly as I said, for the town of Dalby to go through this a second time in a little under a fortnight really tells you that mother nature is really dishing up something that is just awful, frankly. I just, having talked to the Mayor over the weekend, and being out there at Condamine and seeing people starting to go back into their homes, to have them taken out again, you know, it's really going to call (?) on something deep (?) for all of them.

Journalist: Premier, with the advice you've been given, have you (inaudible) about what this massive cell is going to do to the Gold Coast?

Bligh: It's not clear at this stage exactly where we will see this rainfall, but it is likely it is to be in the southern suburbs of Brisbane and then obviously over in the northern parts of the Gold Coast and I'm happy to get you a bit further advice, but I haven't got any indications at this stage that the river systems at the Gold Coast are at risk of swelling further from this particular rainfall, although it might start to see inflows into the catchment that you know, would perhaps make them a little more at risk next week, so I'm happy to get you some specific Gold Coast advice.

Journalist: (inaudible)

Bligh: That's certainly my understanding in terms of the emergency relief. Obviously we haven't started working on the houses yet, so we haven't started that process. They were still in very much in cleanup mode. So there will be some people I think in Dalby that hadn't even got back into their houses and were probably still staying with relatives, but some had certainly started to get back into their homes. This is very much an evolving situation in Dalby. The waters are still rising so we could expect to see some people affected this time that weren't last time in addition to second time experiences.

Journalist: (inaudible) some houses evacuated in Toowoomba.

Stewart: No, I mean this whole situation happened so quickly it's more the emergent (?) response phase they're in at the moment.

Bligh: And it's the creek in the middle of the city, so it's more around that business area at this stage.

Journalist: Last week you estimated the bill to be around five billion dollars, now that (inaudible) it's spread out even further how much (inaudible)?

Bligh: Look, it's just too... Everything that I've, just about everything I've briefed you on this afternoon has happened in the space of the last six to eight hours. So the downfall that we've seen, particularly across the Fraser Coast to the South East in the last twenty-four hours has been absolutely torrential and it's had a huge impact on these catchments. So this is, we're just focused right now on emergency response. We will start thinking about the costs when we've got everybody safe.

Journalist: How worried should Brisbane people be about (inaudible).

Bligh: The advice that we have from Brisbane City Council who have done modelling on the basis of our current planned releases from Wivenhoe, their, the information we have about likely increased river flow from rainfall, and the tidal information, if you put all of that together the information I have from Brisbane City Council is that we will see some flooding in low-lying areas, but that it is unlikely to be, you know, beyond what we would see in any flash flooding situation. However, and I stress this is still an emerging situation and we will continue to refine the hydrology over the next couple of days. So I endorse the Lord Mayor's comments. Now is the time for anyone in a low-lying area to take the appropriate precautions, to take this issue seriously. This is a changing, rapidly changing situation and it's better to be safe than sorry.

Journalist: Whereabouts is Major General Slater at the moment? Where is he based?

Bligh: He'll be based here in this building but right at this moment he's in Bundaberg meeting with the Bundaberg council and, as I understand it, inspecting road damage in the Burnett region.

Ok?

Journalist: (inaudible)

Bligh: As you would expect at this time of year there are a number of people who are on leave, including emergency service personnel and we'll need them to have that leave because this is a marathon, not a sprint. The recovery effort here will continue for weeks and months. Betty Kiernan will be back on duty next



week and she'll be part of the recovery response, as I would expect her to be.

Journalist: But there has been flooding in her electorate, hasn't there?

Bligh: Not of any significance, that I'm aware of. Okay?

ENDS  
SH

Produced by the Government Media Monitoring Unit

**TRANSCRIPT  
JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE  
EMQ, KEDRON  
10PM MONDAY  
10 JANUARY 2011**

**PREMIER ANNA BLIGH:** The flood crisis in Queensland has deepened, seriously over the past several hours. We now have serious flooding return to the southwest of our state and return with a vengeance.

If I can take you through some of the incidents we're managing overnight.

We're now seeing the waters peaking in the town of Dalby higher than they did in the previous event in Dalby. Two evacuation centres have been set up in the last few hours and we now have 165 people out of their homes and in evacuation centres in the town of Dalby.

Similarly in Chinchilla, we now have the river rising very quickly and we anticipate it will be at 7 metres by early tomorrow morning. By way of contrast on the 28<sup>th</sup> of December it peaked at 7.25. It will continue to rise above 7 metres throughout the rest of tomorrow. Again, evacuations are occurring in Chinchilla at the moment; 30 homes have already been evacuated. These are the same 30 homes that were evacuated some 10 or 11 days ago and there are further evacuations occurring.

The town of Condamine is now on serious watch. The river at Condamine is also rising very quickly and is now at about 9 metres. But models are showing that it could by the end of this week get to the 14 and 15 metre mark which is the point at which we triggered evacuation of the whole town some eight or nine days ago.

So across Dalby, Chinchilla and Condamine and we also have reports tonight, we are monitoring very closely at Meandarra, we are seeing new peaks and new flood records being set overnight and evacuations occurring.

But by far the most critical incident that we are managing this evening is the incident that started this afternoon in Toowoomba and has been making its way with a very large body of water down the Toowoomba range and into the Lockyer Valley.

What we saw in Toowoomba was the water rise at lightning speed. Mother Nature has unleashed something shocking on the Toowoomba region and we've seen it move very quickly down the range. The river in Gatton this afternoon, over the course of the afternoon, has risen nine metres.

I can confirm, tragically, that we have now got confirmation of four deaths arising out of this incident. A woman and a male child deceased in the Toowoomba CBD with no other missing persons reported at this stage in the Toowoomba CBD. At Murphy's Creek in Toowoomba we have confirmed the death of one man and a male child both of whom believed to have been washed away from a house.

We are unable to reach some 30 people in the town of Grantham. They have gathered together in a primary school at Grantham. They are completely isolated by fast moving floodwaters. We have unconfirmed reports out of Grantham that have us holding very grave fears for the safety of a number of people in the Grantham Township. The waters are however starting to recede at Grantham and emergency workers are trying to get into that town tonight to make sure those people are safe and to confirm some of those reports.

We also have further reports of another six people missing in and around the Withcott area. We believe we are looking for at least three young pedestrians and 2 vehicles that were seen to be washed away.

We also have numerous people who have been stranded on rooftops as the water has moved in very quickly. There have to date been 43 rescues of people from rooftops in the Withcott Valley by EMQ helicopters. Unfortunately heavy fog and weather have now grounded those helicopters but we do have one helicopter with night vision on standby ready to go in if we see any clearance in that weather at any point overnight. We do believe we still have a large number of people stranded on those rooftops. I should say that as fast as that water has been moving up, as its moving way down the Valley we're also seeing those waters going down. So we do hold very grave fears for those confirmed stranded on rooftops although there have been 43 very dramatic rooftop rescues by helicopter and emergency services personnel in the last few hours.

We have now set up a major incident room here in Brisbane's CBD in relation to this issue. I should say we also have a number of roads cut, the Warrego Highway cut in a number of places. This will mean, and we'll have to reassess it tomorrow, but with the Bruce Highway cut and the Western route now cut we will see significant supply issues into Central and Northern Queensland.

So, in total, all possible resources, including ADF resources, will be activated at first light tomorrow to begin further search and rescue. We will be getting out at first light to continue the search for those that have been notified as missing and to continue the rescue efforts of those that have been stranded on rooftops.

What we have here in Queensland tonight is a very grim and desperate situation. There are many Queenslanders tonight in critical and dire circumstances; emergency workers out facing risky situations and many people facing a very terrifying night. I think we can all say that our thoughts are with them over the coming hours and we pray and hope they'll be safe when first light comes tomorrow morning.

I will invite the Commissioner of Police to make some comments. This is now a very large Police operation; there are many emergency services personnel deployed right across the southwest and into the Lockyer Valley region. As I said, a desperate and grim situation being managed tonight by our emergency people.

**POLICE COMMISSIONER, BOB ATKINSON:** Thank you Premier. The Premier has summed that up comprehensively. This has been a terrible day, a terrible day. Early reports indicate that what hit Toowoomba could perhaps best be described as an inland instant tsunami with a massive wall of water that has gone straight down through the Lockyer Valley. And as the Premier said, whilst we have confirmed advice of four people deceased, we have grave concerns for the safety of others at Grantham and Withcott. We're doing all we can tonight but again, as the Premier indicated, we won't have a full appreciation of this until at least first light. Happy to take any questions

**JOURNALIST:** Grantham and Withcott, 30 people isolated, do we know where they are?

**POLICE COMMISSIONER:** Yes, very difficult set of circumstances. The weather is atrocious, communications are bad and they are cut off. What we believe is that 30 people are together in the primary school. We think that about another dozen or so are at a private residence but that's yet to be confirmed. We're not in a position yet to know precise numbers or identities of people missing but the circumstances are such that we have grave concerns for the safety of people in the Grantham area generally.



**JOURNALIST:** Premier, have you asked the question as to why there wasn't more warning?

**PREMIER:** Clearly, as the Commissioner said, all indications at this stage are that the event that started in Toowoomba can only be described as a complete freak of nature. An extraordinary deluge that almost came out of nowhere, in an otherwise very heavy rainfall deluge. Obviously, we'll be working with the weather Bureau to understand this event more carefully tomorrow but right now we are concerned for the safety of many people in this area who are stranded in desperate and dangerous circumstances and for our emergency services and police who are out at the frontline in some of the most unsafe conditions. This is without doubt our darkest hour of the last fortnight.

**JOURNALIST:** What are communications like with those areas?

**POLICE COMMISSIONER:** Very difficult but we're doing all we can in that regard and certainly in all of those places that the Premier mentioned can I say to you that in Chinchilla, Condamine, Dalby, Withcott, Grantham, Gatton, Toowoomba itself; everything possible is being done tonight to...for example in Toowoomba a number of vehicles were swept away and many of you, not all of you would have seen the footage and I doubt that in the history of Toowoomba anything like that has ever happened in Toowoomba, it's quite extraordinary. So every vehicle that was swept away, no matter what the circumstances, of where that vehicle is, we're endeavouring to get into those vehicles and see if there is anyone trapped inside. So we're doing all we can tonight but it's just impossible to complete this tonight and only tomorrow will we know the full extent of this in that area.

**JOURNALIST:** And is part of that, and I know you mentioned the fog, but is part of that, is the water still raging?

**POLICE COMMISSIONER:** As the Premier indicated, fortunately its dropping almost as rapidly as it accelerated in the first place. But we're tracking the movement at the moment its heading towards Lowood and that area, ultimately it will join up with the Brisbane River. We think somewhere in between six and 12 hours time, then about 12 hours after that we think it'll probably reach Moggill. The Bureau of Meteorology are working with us to do modelling in terms of what that is likely to mean and we hope to have those results in the next three to four hours.

**PREMIER:** Effectively what we've seen is a wall of water, in some places up to eight metres at a time, coming down that Valley. So as it moves through, the water is dropping reasonably quickly behind it but leaving a trail of destruction and leaving people isolated. This will affect the modelling I talked about this afternoon for Ipswich and Brisbane, more likely implications for Brisbane but that is still being worked through. As we said, the meeting tonight has been connecting with all of the local disaster committees that have now activated or re-activated in every one of these areas. There is a disaster co-ordination centre being established in Toowoomba and a major Police incidence room here in Brisbane to manage this.

**JOURNALIST:** And have you been warned of any more rainfall for the region?

**PREMIER:** Yes, we're expecting significant new rainfall. If you look at the BOM site, you'll see a very significant storm cell moving across. So the rescue operations have been seriously hampered by rainfall. What we're also seeing in Chinchilla, Dalby and Condamine further rain that's complicating the rise of those rivers.

**JOURNALIST:** Premier, are you confident that the resources you have in Queensland are sufficient or will you call on other states?

**PREMIER:** We have deployed every possible asset into the Valley this evening. What is hampering operations is the weather and further resources would not change that. We've already called on helicopters from northern New South Wales and they're stationed here ready to take off at first light. The scale of what is unfolding in the Lockyer Valley and again in the southwest will test our resources and we have plenty of offers of help from other states and we will certainly call on those as we need them.

**JOURNALIST:** Will you be travelling to Toowoomba tomorrow?

**PREMIER:** I will be out in these areas as quickly as possible tomorrow but we'll just have to see what first light brings and we certainly won't be doing anything that would hamper rescue operations; that will be our first priority.

**JOURNALIST:** Premier, can you just clarify that there are 30 people missing?

**PREMIER:** No, we have 30 people isolated at Grantham. But in addition to that we have reports of six missing persons that we are continuing to search for and we have four confirmed deaths. But as I said in the Grantham area, while we know there are 30 people, we have had some other unconfirmed reports potentially of other missing people. So we hold very grave concerns, communications are basically non-existent so we are doing our best to get people in there tonight and we hope to be able to reach those people and get a better assessment of the condition they're in, if there are injuries, whether there are any other safety concerns.

**JOURNALIST:** Will the flood gates to Wivenhoe Dam be closed?

**PREMIER:** No, we'll continue to...at this stage we will continue to plan releases over the next few days. That's absolutely critical to managing the water that's coming into the Wivenhoe catchment. Obviously the modellers will have to look at what the implications of this weather event are and what that might mean for the release strategy but my understanding is that if we closed the gates we would certainly see the dam reach a critical overspill.

**POLICE COMMISSIONER:** Thank you for covering this, as soon as we are able to we will keep you advised of latest developments. That may be during the course of the night but may not be possible until daybreak.

**JOURNALIST:** Just one last one. Are there concerns that more people may (inaudible)

**POLICE COMMISSIONER:** Yes, I think that is what we were trying to indicate. The six that are missing are the six that are definitively known, reported to us. That's one definitely at Grantham and then five at Withcott. They're minimum numbers, absolute minimums. As the Premier indicated there are other less specific reports that cause us to have grave fears and concerns for people at Grantham particularly. We're not in a position to give detail.

**PREMIER:** Partly because they've been isolated. We can't get an official report that we can confirm for you but we've certainly had unconfirmed reports of further missing people in the Grantham area.

Thank you.

**ENDS.**

**Kimberley Gardiner**

Director, Government Media Unit

**Office of the Premier of Queensland**

P [REDACTED]

M [REDACTED]

E kimberley.gardiner [REDACTED]



**TRANSCRIPT  
PRESS CONFERENCE  
TUESDAY 11 JANUARY 2011 0930  
INTV: PREMIER ANNA BLIGH; IAN STEWART, DEPUTY POLICE  
COMMISSIONER  
RE: FLOOD CRISIS; TOOWOOMBA, LOCKYER VALLEY**

Bligh:

Good morning. As you know, Queensland's flood crisis deepened overnight and the situation continues to worsen today. We are seeing between 80 and 100 mm fall into the catchment around the Toowoomba and Lockyer Valley and into the Wivenhoe system and then into the south-west into towns like Dalby, Chinchilla and others. What this current bad weather is doing is hampering our search and rescue efforts, particularly into that Lockyer Valley area where we know we have people stranded in dire and critical circumstances. The constant rainfall also means that our modelling is seeing factors constantly change. And some of the predictions that I will talk to you about in a few moments need to be understood as of now and they will depend on continued rainfall. We have a grim and desperate situation in the Toowoomba and Lockyer Valley region.

We have eight confirmed deaths at this point but we expect that figure to rise and potentially quite dramatically. We have 72 people as of an hour ago who are unaccounted for and we fully expect (inaudible) may see that figure rise as well. We are hoping and praying that many of those 72 people have gone to safety overnight and will be found safe and (inaudible). But given the circumstances we hold very grave concerns for many of those people who are unaccounted for in this region. Many of the people who are stranded or unaccounted for are families and young children and some of those who have lost their lives overnight are young children including a mother and two children in a vehicle.

We have specialist teams who are all on standby in the region. The SERT team, the Queensland Police SERT team have been deployed overnight. We have specialist swift water rescue teams on standby. We also have additional fire and rescue teams. We are finding it very difficult to get these teams out and deployed because of the weather and the constantly changing water system. They are however, as I said, ready to deploy into that region as soon as we see any of this weather lift. We are also seeing flood levels rise in river systems right across the south-west, not only Dalby and Chinchilla evacuating people overnight... We now expect to see Warwick reach a peak equal to or greater than the peak last week by

lunchtime today. Similarly we will see those waters affecting Stanthorpe, Goondiwindi, Texas, Yelarbon, Inglewood and all of those towns in those regions. The Condamine, the town of Condamine is also flooding with waters rapidly rising and we'll be watching that town very, very closely. All vehicles that were damaged in Toowoomba in the CBD yesterday have now been searched by police and I'm relieved to say that we have not found anyone in those vehicles who is deceased or seriously...or anyone at all in those vehicles.

I can confirm that we have had one helicopter be able to get into the air briefly this morning who has confirmed that there appear to be no further people on rooftops in settled areas like Helidon and in the Grantham area however we cannot rule out that there may be people stranded on the rooftops of outlying properties and as soon as we can get helicopters into the air we intend to search those areas for those people.

Into the Wivenhoe system we've now seen because of continued heavy rainfall overnight further revised predictions about the Ipswich and Brisbane areas. Ipswich is now likely to see a flood river, level in the river hit about at least 16 metres. The hydrology reports indicate however that if the rain continues, and the Bureau is advising that it is set to continue, then we are likely to see anywhere up to 18m in the Ipswich river system. By comparison the 1974 flood saw close to 20m in Ipswich. What all of this means for the Wivenhoe catchment is that we will now have to remodel and plan for larger releases out of the Wivenhoe Dam to manage this in-flow. That means that the Brisbane area will now have to reconsider the implications of the water likely to come down out of Wivenhoe and revise up the weather that we are seeing swelling the Brisbane River and this in-stream flows will also increase.

The Brisbane Local Disaster Management Group will meet for the first time this morning at 10am. They will consider further the implications of this new modelling and advise residents accordingly. I say to all residents in the Brisbane, Ipswich and Lockyer Valleys for those of you who can please listen to radio reports. We will be updating people throughout the day. It is a constantly changing situation. I stress that the releases being made from Wivenhoe Dam are not optional. There is no discretion here. This is how this dam operates. We need to make sure that we protect people down this river system by operating the dam safely and appropriately.

Ladies and gentlemen as you will hear from further reports from the Deputy Commissioner of Police this has been a night of extraordinary events. We've seen acts of extraordinary bravery and courage from our emergency workers. We know

they are out there on the frontline desperately trying to begin their search and rescue efforts and we know that we have people stranded and people lost. We are doing our best to protect our emergency workers during this severe weather. We are equally doing our best to get everything that we can into that region to save and rescue people.

There's no doubt that we are now in I think a very different sort of disaster. And what it is doing is testing our emergency response and it will test us as communities and as people. This weather I think is...it might be breaking our hearts at the moment but it will not break our will. What we have out there on the frontline is some of the best trained people in Australia. And they are going to protect these communities and we are going to make sure that we keep everybody that we can as safe as humanly possible. I'd like to ask the Deputy Commissioner to make some comments.

Stewart:

Thank you Premier, good morning everyone. Certainly our focus at the moment is as it always is in response, personal safety. We have a major search and rescue operation underway right throughout the Lockyer Valley. As the Premier said Toowoomba is fairly stable – we don't think that we will see any further deaths out of the Toowoomba CBD. But our search and rescue activities in the Murphys Creek and Grantham area in particular certainly it is expected that we will find further persons deceased in those areas. The numbers we just don't know at this stage.

What I would ask though is one thing – the rain and the weather pattern at the moment is variable, it is hampering our search and rescue operations. Access to the area through roads is very difficult for us. Our helicopter assets are having difficulty because of the rain pattern moving around that area. But the one contributing factor which is getting in our road is onlookers now. And I would stress to people that any diversion of our precious emergency services to deal with simple rubberneckers and onlookers could cost a life. I would ask people to be sensible and if they have no reason to be there stay out and get out of those areas. Thank you.

ENDS  
BS

Produced by the Government Media Monitoring Unit



**TRANSCRIPT**  
**PRESS CONFERENCE**  
**TUESDAY 11 JANUARY 2011 0930**  
**INTV: PREMIER ANNA BLIGH; IAN STEWART, DEPUTY POLICE**  
**COMMISSIONER; JIM DAVIDSON, BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY**  
**RE: FLOOD CRISIS; TOOWOOMBA, LOCKYER VALLEY**

Bligh:

Good morning. As you know, Queensland's flood crisis deepened overnight and the situation continues to worsen today. We are seeing between 80 and 100 mm fall into the catchment around the Toowoomba and Lockyer Valley and into the Wivenhoe system and then into the south-west into towns like Dalby, Chinchilla and others. What this current bad weather is doing is hampering our search and rescue efforts, particularly into that Lockyer Valley area where we know we have people stranded in dire and critical circumstances. The constant rainfall also means that our modelling is seeing factors constantly change. And some of the predictions that I will talk to you about in a few moments need to be understood as of now and they will depend on continued rainfall. We have a grim and desperate situation in the Toowoomba and Lockyer Valley region.

We have eight confirmed deaths at this point but we expect that figure to rise and potentially quite dramatically. We have 72 people as of an hour ago who are unaccounted for and we fully expect (inaudible) may see that figure rise as well. We are hoping and praying that many of those 72 people have gone to safety overnight and will be found safe and (inaudible). But given the circumstances we hold very grave concerns for many of those people who are unaccounted for in this region. Many of the people who are stranded or unaccounted for are families and young children and some of those who have lost their lives overnight are young children including a mother and two children in a vehicle.

We have specialist teams who are all on standby in the region. The SERT team, the Queensland Police SERT team have been deployed overnight. We have specialist swift water rescue teams on standby. We also have additional fire and rescue teams. We are finding it very difficult to get these teams out and deployed because of the weather and the constantly changing water system. They are however, as I said, ready to deploy into that region as soon as we see any of this weather lift. We are also seeing flood levels rise in river systems right across the south-west, not only Dalby and Chinchilla evacuating people overnight... We now expect to see Warwick reach a peak equal to or greater than the peak last week by

lunchtime today. Similarly we will see those waters affecting Stanthorpe, Goondiwindi, Texas, Yelarbon, Inglewood and all of those towns in those regions. The Condamine, the town of Condamine is also flooding with waters rapidly rising and we'll be watching that town very, very closely. All vehicles that were damaged in Toowoomba in the CBD yesterday have now been searched by police and I'm relieved to say that we have not found anyone in those vehicles who is deceased or seriously...or anyone at all in those vehicles.

I can confirm that we have had one helicopter be able to get into the air briefly this morning who has confirmed that there appear to be no further people on rooftops in settled areas like Helidon and in the Grantham area however we cannot rule out that there may be people stranded on the rooftops of outlying properties and as soon as we can get helicopters into the air we intend to search those areas for those people.

Into the Wivenhoe system we've now seen because of continued heavy rainfall overnight further revised predictions about the Ipswich and Brisbane areas. Ipswich is now likely to see a flood river, level in the river hit about at least 16 metres. The hydrology reports indicate however that if the rain continues, and the Bureau is advising that it is set to continue, then we are likely to see anywhere up to 18m in the Ipswich river system. By comparison the 1974 flood saw close to 20m in Ipswich. What all of this means for the Wivenhoe catchment is that we will now have to remodel and plan for larger releases out of the Wivenhoe Dam to manage this in-flow. That means that the Brisbane area will now have to reconsider the implications of the water likely to come down out of Wivenhoe and revise up the weather that we are seeing swelling the Brisbane River and this in-stream flows will also increase.

The Brisbane Local Disaster Management Group will meet for the first time this morning at 10am. They will consider further the implications of this new modelling and advise residents accordingly. I say to all residents in the Brisbane, Ipswich and Lockyer Valleys for those of you who can please listen to radio reports. We will be updating people throughout the day. It is a constantly changing situation. I stress that the releases being made from Wivenhoe Dam are not optional. There is no discretion here. This is how this dam operates. We need to make sure that we protect people down this river system by operating the dam safely and appropriately.

Ladies and gentlemen as you will hear from further reports from the Deputy Commissioner of Police this has been a night of extraordinary events. We've seen acts of extraordinary bravery and courage from our emergency workers. We know

they are out there on the frontline desperately trying to begin their search and rescue efforts and we know that we have people stranded and people lost. We are doing our best to protect our emergency workers during this severe weather. We are equally doing our best to get everything that we can into that region to save and rescue people.

There's no doubt that we are now in I think a very different sort of disaster. And what it is doing is testing our emergency response and it will test us as communities and as people. This weather I think is...it might be breaking our hearts at the moment but it will not break our will. What we have out there on the frontline is some of the best trained people in Australia. And they are going to protect these communities and we are going to make sure that we keep everybody that we can as safe as humanly possible. I'd like to ask the Deputy Commissioner to make some comments.

Stewart:

Thank you Premier, good morning everyone. Certainly our focus at the moment is as it always is in response, personal safety. We have a major search and rescue operation underway right throughout the Lockyer Valley. As the Premier said Toowoomba is fairly stable – we don't think that we will see any further deaths out of the Toowoomba CBD. But our search and rescue activities in the Murphys Creek and Grantham area in particular certainly it is expected that we will find further persons deceased in those areas. The numbers we just don't know at this stage.

What I would ask though is one thing – the rain and the weather pattern at the moment is variable, it is hampering our search and rescue operations. Access to the area through roads is very difficult for us. Our helicopter assets are having difficulty because of the rain pattern moving around that area. But the one contributing factor which is getting in our road is onlookers now. And I would stress to people that any diversion of our precious emergency services to deal with simple rubberneckers and onlookers could cost a life. I would ask people to be sensible and if they have no reason to be there stay out and get out of those areas. Thank you.

Bligh:

Just before calling Jim Davidson I should have also said that we are continuing to make evacuations across the Lockyer Valley area. We have people being evacuated from Toogoolawah and Esk, 200 evacuations likely to occur this morning at Forest Hill, although we expect they'll be evacuated into a, an evacuation centre in a higher ground at Forest Hill. We have also seen overnight evacuations in Nanango. We also have the community of Cherbourg now completely cut-off and food supplies being taken in. there are multiple breaks in the



road between Ipswich and Toowoomba; people should not be driving on those roads and we are, continue to need those roads to be free from other vehicles than emergency vehicles.

I'll ask Jim Davidson to give us a bit of an update of what the weather is doing and some background to the event that has led to this terrible tragedy.

Davidson:

Thank you Premier. Good morning everyone. The super rainstorm we saw yesterday over Toowoomba and the Lockyer Valley was an extreme event. And you'd say it was towards the top of the severe weather and flash flooding scale. It was very unique. What were the circumstances that set up this particular event? It all started, I guess, a few days ago with that upper low which we're all tracking, the one that moved out to see off Capricornia then moved back onshore again. So that was the, the synoptic (?), the larger scale um feature which produced this exceptional storm, but there were other considerations all on the local scale – the saturated catchments; of course we've had flooding now for many weeks, many months and Toowoomba itself actually had upwards, I think, of 100mm on the previous day so the ground was very wet. The escarpment (?), the rain's just on, on the doorstep of Toowoomba, that would have served to produce uplift for the rain and precipitation. So once again, it was a local factor which contributed. The relatively large area of this rainstorm, the, the rainstorm itself wasn't that exceptional in terms of appearance on radar and satellite but it did cover a fairly large area. The, the rainfall reports we did get from Toowoomba said they received about 80mm in half an hour, or a little bit more than half an hour. We're, we're fairly confident that if we had rainfall reports on a much tighter scale, smaller scale, we would have seen 100 to 150mm easy in that general area. And of course the other consideration was the funnelling into Lockyer Creek, having Toowoomba situated where it is, Lockyer Creek immediately underneath the range, it all came together, as I said, on a very local scale. Now when it comes to forecasting, the computer models that we use aren't run at a high enough resolution to pick up these (?) sort of very small-scale weather features. Every now and again – I hope it doesn't happen very often, it won't happen very often, I can reassure people that - we will get one of these very extreme events which fall within our resolution of our computer models. But our forecasters are ever on the alert, monitoring the weather as it happens, and yesterday we were monitoring that particular rainstorm as it moved across South East Queensland, but as I said earlier, for all intents and purposes, we were satisfied at the time that the severe weather warning, which spoke about potential flash flooding in the Toowoomba region would cover that circumstance. As we know now it didn't. Umm, when, when

we did become aware that um the rainfall was extreme in the Toowoomba area and that flooding was starting to occur, we immediately jumped into flash flood warnings and we turned on the standard emergency warning signal, and we made calls to numerous agencies, relevant agencies, authorities responsible for policing the Lockyer Valley and surrounds – the police for example and Emergency Management Queensland – and alerted to the fact that we were, that we did have a serious situation on our hands. I might stop there but I'm happy for any questions. Thank you.

Journalist: Jim can I just get you, did you say that this could not be forecast (inaudible)

Davidson: Perhaps I shouldn't say it could not be forecast but I think it's important to say that it's very difficult to forecast. It's, I'm not saying we miss all events of this nature but every now and again one will be, the combination of factors on the local scale will produce an extreme event of this nature. And it's not always we have the science and the capacity to see this before it happens.

Journalist: What were the exceptional circumstances here? Are you saying that, you know, it was heavy rain, but you've seen heavy rain before, it's a bit larger than normal but that's about all really?

Davidson: Well not, not really because, I said before, there were those other factors operating; that saturation... everything was saturated. So this rain, when it fell, it wasn't absorbed into the ground. It stayed on top of the ground and eventually moved into Lockyer Creek. The escarpment (?) um, having that storm approach the escarpment, I guess even on that particular angle meant the uplift was, was very strong. So the cloud (?) and precipitation uplifted and when cloud and precipitation lift like that it drops huge amounts of rain. So it all came together in a very local area within a short period of time. It could well be that the entire storm didn't really impact on the, on the Toowoomba area. But just for half an hour or so... the actual rainstorm took much longer than half an hour to actually pass over Toowoomba, whereas the rain event was more like 30 minutes or so.

Journalist: And (inaudible) I didn't quite follow you. You said it measured 80 mm in 30 minutes but it was more likely to be 100 to 150?

Davidson: Yeah, because of the very small scale of what occurred, we do have a fairly good network of rainfall reporting in that area but not dense enough to pick up everything that fell on the ground. So we suspect with what we saw, the 8 metre wall of water going down the Lockyer Creek, there much have been falls,

maybe even of 200mm in places, perhaps on top of the range or just down from the range at Toowoomba. Now that, if I could just say, a fall of 80 mm in half an hour or so, we're looking at about a 1 in 100 year event for that area. Now we get 1 in 100 year events fairly frequently across Queensland for a particular town or city. So not great, but as I said we're almost certain there were much higher falls close by.

Journalist: Premier, you said last night that you were fearful there could still be people spending the night on rooftops. You've said that that, for the greater residential areas has got the all clear. Are we sure that those people are safe? (inaudible)

Bligh: We can say that we don't have any visual sightings from helicopter of people on rooftops in Helidon or Grantham. We are unable to say that there may not be some people on rooftops in more isolated, rural properties. Remember that this is a rural part of Queensland. There are many people who do not live in town. Similarly, we don't know necessarily where those people, if there were any people, who have subsequently got back into the buildings there were sitting on top of as some of the water's gone down and we won't know that until we can get either water boats or a helicopter in there.

Journalist: In some of those pictures (?) that we've seen have just been so heartbreaking. You said earlier that a lot of those missing are young families.

Bligh: We have some 72 people unaccounted for an obviously they span from the very young right through to the very old but we do have some whole families who, at this stage, are unaccounted for. We, I think, have already seen absolute tragedy with the 8 deaths that are known; it does include 2 children who are quite young. But we know that at least one...sorry. The first four were two children who were quite young. In the second four, a mother and two children. So half of the 8 so far are children. This took everybody so unawares that there was no opportunity, in most cases, for people to get to safety. So we do anticipate that these numbers are very preliminary. Until we get our emergency people into those areas, we really can't give you anything more certain, other than to say, in all honesty, we hold very grave concerns for a number of these people who are not accounted for and we are anxiously, anxiously worrying that we will see this toll rise.

Journalist: At what point did the message go out to evacuate those residents, and why did it take so long?

Stewart: Are you talking in terms of the emergency evacuation signal? That was enacted as soon as we could but there is a time-lag



from when that goes, when the process starts to when it actually physically goes out. Certainly there was no evacuation in Toowoomba. There was no warning in Toowoomba because of the nature of event. And as I've explained previously, when we're dealing with floods like we've seen throughout the state over the last couple of weeks, most of that we can predict, we have time to get in to deal with it. This was purely an emergency response situation with no warning at all, basically, to emergency services. We simply had to react the best way we could. And all emergency services swung into action as they would normally do in any such event.

Journalist: There's been more warning though for Grantham and further down, after Toowoomba?

Stewart: Um certainly the volume of water caught, I think, most people surprise and I am not yet sure, because we haven't been able to go back and tally this up, what emergency warnings went out to the lower, lower Lockyer area.

Journalist: (inaudible) I know last night you were saying there were 30 or so people in the school hall (inaudible)

Stewart: No. Certainly Grantham is one of the focus but the other one is that Murphy's Creek and Withcott area. That's the other area we're having difficulty getting in to and as most of that area is, not isolated, but rural property on acreages and that sort of thing and it's going to take us a long time today to get to every one of those areas. I mean, the sheer scale of this operation is quite daunting when you look at the number of places, areas and creeks that have been affected.

Journalist: Can you give us any more information on the 8 victims? We know that there were four children and two mothers (inaudible)

Stewart: Certainly there was an elderly lady in house at Helidon who was found deceased as a result of the flood, a gentleman, and a middle-age man and a younger male in the Murphy's Creek area have been confirmed deceased and, as you said, then there were the two mothers and their children. They were both in vehicles. One was in Toowoomba in the initial, the initial phase and the second vehicle was down at Grantham.

Bligh: Can I say these tragic deaths overnight are a very timely reminder to everybody that this fast-moving water kills. I saw images on every news station last night in other parts of Queensland of people jumping off bridges into this sort of water and people attempting to drive through quite heavy water over bridges and over roads. Our emergency services are up to this task but we do not need to challenge them further with

people doing stupid things. I just send out the most heartfelt appeal, please do not cross roads that is (?) flooded and do not jump into these waters. We need no more timely reminder than the shocking tragedies last night that this water is deadly and it's not to be played with.

Journalist: There's been reports of freezers and larger objects floating down the river near Coronation Drive as well. People around Brisbane should be (inaudible)

Stewart: Oh certainly and we know that in the last couple of weeks there have been times, because of the debris coming down the Brisbane River, Brisbane River even, that the City Cat service has to be suspended and that's done by the Brisbane City Council. So anywhere where there are flood waters, people do not know what's under that surface; it could be anything. We, as the Premier said, we're pleading to people, do not become a statistic. There is no need to go into this flood water. As we've said all the way along, we can replace fridges, freezers, houses, we just cannot replace people.

Journalist: (inaudible) the rain that today that we're seeing, is that likely to produce another (inaudible)

Davidson: The simple answer is no. I think I said before, I can reassure people that it's very unlikely that we'll see an event of this magnitude again, particularly in the short-term, like this season. However, there is a fairly decent rainband at the moment between the Sunshine Coast and the Granite Belt and we are monitoring that very closely. We're getting reports in that rainband of up to 80mm an hour and we do have the standard emergency warning signal turned on. We do expect though that this particular rainband will be the last in the series. Once we see this weaken in the next few hours, we should then enter a period where we just generally see the rain easing over South East Queensland and tomorrow should be a much better day than today.

Journalist: (inaudible)

Davidson: That's correct.

Journalist: (inaudible)

Davidson: Sorry?

Journalist: We were looking at possible worse conditions tomorrow?

Davidson: Not weather wise. Just a shower or two, or a few showers for the rest of the week.

- Journalist: And Jim, the incident in Murphy Creek, is that making you look at things differently and put out warnings more quickly, even if it isn't as much rain as what you initially think?
- Davidson: Well we issue warnings always as quickly as we can, and as I think I explained, this one was different, this super rainstorm, it was something which any forecaster in the world may, you know, may not have issued a warning for. So, you know, it was exceptional. But at the same time I should add that, like all events of this nature, we will be reviewing the situation in partnership with our colleagues, our state government colleagues and the like, and looking at ways that perhaps we might improve the warning system in the future. But every now and again, very rarely, we might see something like this happen. It's unfortunate umm... hopefully in the future the computer models will be run at tighter resolution and these sort of very local features will be picked up. Thank you.
- Journalist: (inaudible) Toowoomba been declared a disaster zone?
- Bligh: We've had a number of incidents overnight that we're now looking at declaring, rather than local government areas, a significant region of Queensland as a disaster zone. So we'll advise you a little further this morning. We're just looking for an appropriate northern line and everything south of that will just be declared because we expect to see, as I said, over the next few days not only Toowoomba but Warwick, Stanthorpe, Condamine and other areas back into the disaster range. I should say that we do expect to see both, in terms of things getting worse – and you might have been thinking about what we said yesterday, Cathy – what we're expecting is that Ipswich over the next 24 hours is likely to start to see the waters peaking, and in the Brisbane area Wednesday/Thursday will be the time when we see the waters hit their high mark for this week. So over the next two to three days Ipswich and Brisbane will be our high watch areas here in the South East, but equally we've got a number of places in the South West where we anticipate evacuations and continued problems in some small and quite large communities.
- Journalist: (inaudible)
- Bligh: I'm double checking that for you but I suspect yes.
- Journalist: (inaudible) 18 metres in Ipswich, do you have any modelling of how many homes will be inundated then?
- Bligh: No, the Ipswich City Council is doing that work at the moment. Clearly there are many more parts that have been settled since



1974 or since we've seen rivers at that height. The current hydrology indicates that we, we will expect to see 16 metres. The rise from 16 to 18 will depend very much on the rainfall and as you've just heard from Jim there's, you know, that that's not entirely clear because the catchment that's feeding this is not just here in Brisbane, it's way up into the Lockyer Valley. So what's happened to the flash flooding in the Lockyer River is now turning into a significant river flood as it gathers strength coming down that system.

Journalist: And are you looking at problems with getting supplies into that Lockyer Valley (inaudible) what's the situation?

Bligh: We've got challenges getting into a number of these communities, getting our emergency personnel in and getting supplies in and yes, they will be issues that have got... this is our number one priority this morning and we have an entire strategic team in the major incident rooms, with (?) Queensland Police working on these issues. We also anticipate that we may see supply issues into parts of central and northern Queensland, given that we have now seen cuts to the inland highway that was taking supplies as an alternative to the Bruce Highway. So we've got quite a lot of work ahead of us ensuring basic supplies are logistically into (?) a number of those communities.

Journalist: There is a fair amount of panic I think for Brisbane now. How many homes, do we know how many homes stand to be affected when it peaks tomorrow?

Bligh: The Brisbane Local Disaster Management Group are meeting at 10am this morning. The purpose of that meeting is to look at the new data and advise people accordingly. So, in the interests of accuracy I think it's important that we wait until the Lord Mayor and the local disaster management group here in Brisbane meets for the first time this morning. I do think that it's important to understand that without Wivenhoe we would have this, a very significant flood in Brisbane right now. That dam is keeping that 1,200 mega litres, a million litres a day, off and out of our streets but the circumstances with this continued rainfall are putting pressure on all parts of that system. So there's no need to panic in Brisbane but there is a need to get good, accurate information and listen to the bulletins. This is a changing situation, but one that is being managed.

Journalist: Are you happy with how emergency services handled this situation (inaudible) emergency services in the chopper that we had for a long looking for those people on top of roofs before they could actually get (inaudible)

Bligh: We will have a total review of all of the disaster response over the last, for this entire event. Given what's happened in the Toowoomba and Lockyer Valley, that review will have a particular focus on that event. But I have to say the extreme nature of this event, the rapid escalation of it in a very short period of time, did require every effort to be made and I recognise that in some cases news helicopters were also being used. That is, I think, an appropriate response and I thank those news helicopters who made them available. This was an all hands on deck, no questions asked, get in and do whatever you can event. And that's what we saw. There are people alive today because of that attitude that prevailed yesterday evening and I thank everybody who was part of it and assisted in any way in any of those rescues. As I said, and you saw it last night, it happened so quickly it was every, every hand to the wheel and I'm very pleased that we managed to get so many people, 43 rooftop rescues, many of them at night time, done overnight. It's, it's very heartening to see that sort of response, and as I said, many, many acts of courage and bravery behind every one of those rescues.

Journalist: Premier, what are your plans for today now?

Bligh: I'm here today working with the Disaster Management Coordinating group. It had been my intention to try and get into these areas – that's not possible. This is still an operational zone and it's not appropriate and not possible at this stage to get in. We expect to see, potentially... well we know that there are between four and five areas where the road is cut from Ipswich to Toowoomba. It's not clear that they'll be clear for some time. Similarly, airflight into the region is not possible. But even if it was, frankly, we are still in a desperate search and rescue phase. This is not the time for me to visiting and talking to locals. I'll do that as soon as it's appropriate.

Journalist: (inaudible) are we still looking at a three metre peak tomorrow afternoon? Has that changed?

Davidson: Okay. The answer to that, the answer to that one is the hydrologists are now working with Brisbane City Council and ahh SEQ Water and we do expect the next warning out very shortly. So they're recalculating because the rain fall is changing all the time and the releases from Wivenhoe. So there's all those factors operating.

Journalist: (inaudible)

Bligh: Potentially. We'll let you know. It is a rapidly changing situation. The extent of the rainfall last night has changed all of

the models and we'll be updating people as soon as we can.  
Thank you.

ENDS  
BS/SH

Produced by the Government Media Monitoring Unit



**TRANSCRIPT**  
**PRESS CONFERENCE**  
**TUESDAY 11 JANUARY 2011 3PM**  
**INTV: PREMIER ANNA BLIGH; IAN STEWART, DEPUTY POLICE**  
**COMMISSIONER; BRUCE GRADY, EMQ**  
**RE: SEQ FLOOD EMERGENCY**

Bligh:

...has been revised down to 66. Thankfully we found five people safe but we have confirmed one further death. That brings the total death toll in this incident to nine. Tragically the police believe that that will climb and could be almost more than double that number. We continue to hold very grave fears for the people who are missing. To everyone who has lost a loved one, you are in our thoughts and the thoughts of all Queenslanders and Australians. We know that you are going through just a horridness of circumstances. The majority of those who are missing are missing from the Murphys Creek, Grantham and Withcott areas. In Grantham and Withcott we have police and search and rescue teams on the ground undertaking search and rescue activities. We do have police on the ground in Murphys Creek but they have been unable to continue their search and rescue because the weather has significantly worsened in Murphys Creek.

In Forest Hill which is a town of between three and four hundred people between Laidley and Gatton we have seen dramatic scenes this afternoon with 300 people being airlifted and evacuated to Gatton. They are being evacuated on Black Hawk helicopters. We have, my last report was 126 people remaining on the ground still to be airlifted out of Forest Hill. So almost all of Forest Hill being evacuated, some 300 people. In relation to the Brisbane and Ipswich area and the Wivenhoe Catchment, I'm afraid we have some very bad news this afternoon. Ipswich and Brisbane are now facing their greatest threat and their toughest test in more than 35 years. The latest advice that I have in relation to the inflows in the Wivenhoe is that we can expect overnight tonight in Brisbane to see flood levels reach about three metres. By Wednesday high tide, tomorrow afternoon at about three o'clock we will see it at 4.5m and the current predictions indicate that the river will continue to rise into Thursday with flood levels expected higher than the 1974 peak. The flood reached a peak of 5.45m in 1975.

Our current modelling shows that with continued rain into Thursday we will see the levels of the river reach higher than that. In Ipswich we expect to see overnight with continued heavy rainfall in the region that by midnight tonight the river levels in Ipswich will reach around the 18 to 19 metre mark and

peaking some time during Wednesday at around 21 to 22 metres. By comparison the 1974 peak was 20.6 metres. So in both Ipswich and in Brisbane we are anticipating the flood levels across the areas of '74 levels and above. As I said the situation continues to deteriorate and I have to say that I understand that for many, many people in Ipswich and in Brisbane, particularly those who endured the 1974 flood that we are now in a very frightening experience. Can I appeal to everybody that it's times like this where we all need to make an effort to stay calm, to be patient and to stick together. Now is a time to be checking on neighbours, on elderly people in your neighbourhood, to be checking on family and friends.

If you live on high ground in Brisbane now is a time to be reaching out to friends and offering help and offering where necessary a bed for the night over the coming two to three days. For those who are living in some of the lower lying areas and the identified suburbs, now is the time to be making whatever preparations you can and I would encourage you to be overly cautious. It's better to be inconvenienced and find that your preparations were not necessary than the alternative. For those who are unlikely to be directly affected, I think the entire city of Brisbane, the Ipswich region and most of the south-east needs to prepare ourselves for enormous disruption. We will anticipate that we're starting to see it now, that over the next couple of days we will see workplaces closed and unreachable, we will see major shopping centres closed, flooded and cut off. People need to be taking preparations and keeping off the roads as much as possible.

An evacuation strategy is being prepared and an evacuation centre is being activated at the showgrounds at the RNA. This centre can take up to 3,000 people and bedding and provisions are being provided into that centre this afternoon. Given the emerging information and I know that there's been other data in the public arena earlier this afternoon, you get a sense I think of just how quickly this is changing, how rapidly the rainfall that continues into the Lockyer Valley and into the Wivenhoe catchment, how quickly that is changing the modelling.

Given the seriousness of the situation and given how quickly the data is changing, we will now hold two- hourly media conferences and those media conferences will be attended by either myself, the minister, the commissioner or deputy commissioner of police. We'll be holding those press conferences throughout this evening and two-hourly tomorrow and more frequently if necessary if further data comes to hand. I might turn to Ian Stewart, the deputy commissioner, to make some further comments. But can I just acknowledge we are facing one of our toughest ever tests. We will only pass this

test if we are calm, if we are patient with each other, if we're patient holding on phone lines and if we listen carefully to the instructions we're being given. Now is not a time for panic, it is a time for us to stick together, to reach out to each other, and to listen to the advice from our emergency workers. Ian.

Stewart: Thank you Premier. As you are aware earlier today a statewide disaster declaration was made by the Premier and our minister for the lower half of the state. That includes obviously all of the Brisbane, Greater Brisbane area. We would hope that police, emergency workers don't have to use any of those powers because as the Premier said this is not the time to baulk when you are asked to leave or asked to support emergency workers in the way that we will help prepare the city for this certain, certain flood event which will hit us over the next couple of days. I think one of the really key messages is that this is the information with the best information we have at the moment. It is a changing and a moving feast. We would hope that we don't have to revise these figures up but that is a real possibility depending on the inflows into the dam area and the rain systems that are currently above the Wivenhoe Dam catchment. So by giving you regular updates we hope to prepare the city and the surrounding areas including obviously Ipswich for what is going to be a significant emergency for our community of Queensland.

Journalist: Premier, Michael Usher from Channel 9 (inaudible) equipped to handle this. Have you got the resources? (inaudible) cut off. Can you get the emergency services to them to help them?

Bligh: We are bringing additional personnel to the task over the next couple of days to Ipswich and Brisbane. These are the sorts of events that our emergency staff prepare for on a regular basis. You've seen them out there doing an extraordinary job in places like Rockhampton and Emerald. They are up to this task but they will need your cooperation. If you are asked to leave your property please do not make the job harder for our emergency workers. They will not ask you to do this unless it is absolutely necessary.

Journalist: Are you now talking...the sort of numbers that you're talking about is this beyond what has ever been planned for?

Bligh: This is an extreme event. The emergency services plan for these sort of events on a regular basis. They hope never to have to put those plans into place but they are ready and prepared to do so when we get confirmation as we have in the last half hour of this sort of an event. I might invite Bruce Grady from Emergency Management Queensland to give you a bit more



detail about the sort of preparation and training that's led up to this sort of ability.

Journalist:

And could we address also (inaudible) number of homes that might be affected in the Brisbane area. There were talks of six and half thousand homes being flooded – do we know whether that's on the money or not?

Grady:

The number of homes is currently being assessed by Brisbane City Council. They have the plans for that. I think the sorts of numbers you're talking about are at the lower end. There's (?) certainly be a lot more properties than that affected; whether the water gets over their floorboards or not you know is the work that the Brisbane City Council is currently doing. In terms of preparations we do plan for devastating events. We've run scenarios as little as six to eight weeks ago where that was based on numbers around the flood in 1890 which was bigger than '74. So it's always difficult to deal with these things because they unfold so rapidly but the plans are in place, we're confident that people know their roles, their responsibilities and what to do. Now there's...as deputy commissioner Stewart said, it's time for the community to come together and for us to all pull in the same direction... you know, the emergency services can't do this job by themselves and they need the cooperation of the community to make an effective response.

Journalist:

(inaudible) deaths now and that is heart-breaking but you're saying that might double?

Bligh:

Yes, I invite the deputy commissioner to make some further comments. But police obviously have a number of reports which they are seeking to absolutely confirm and on the basis of that they believe that these numbers could double or even a little higher on that on current known information. So I do think we need to brace ourselves for a significant death toll here and as I've said earlier there are a number of children involved in this incident so it is a heart-breaking toll already from these waters and a very powerful reminder to us all, particularly people here in Brisbane and Ipswich. As these waters make their way through our streets, keep your children away from parks, gutters, drains. Keep your older children from jumping into waters and take extra care driving on our roads.

Stewart:

Thanks Premier. Earlier this morning we had 72 people unaccounted for in the Lockyer area. Predominantly Grantham and the Murphys Creek areas. We have been able to trace five of those, sorry, six of those people so we're down to 66 who we are still working on and whilst that's, you know, a wonderful outcome we have grave concerns particularly in the Murphys

Creek area where because of this, the very severe weather events that are still occurring there the safety of our officers and the ability for them to go in to check isolated houses and also the creek area has been, it's become very difficult for us.

Journalist: Can you get them in or is it just too hard and too risky right now?

Stewart: It's too risky and we've had to hold back our staff with the planning at the moment being more for tomorrow morning when we hope that the weather will have abated enough to make it safe. I mean the creeks are still overflowing – it's still flooding in that area. It is a very, very high risk for our people.

Journalist: (inaudible) are there stranded people that you just can't get to that you're aware are stuck on roofs or in buildings?

Stewart: We don't believe so but we can't absolutely discount that. Obviously we've been checking a range of other areas in the Lockyer Valley throughout the day, the areas that are more safe for our people to operate in and at Grantham that is one of the areas that we have been able to enter some of the homes. But there are still places in Grantham because of the flooding, the continued flooding we haven't been able to check in some of the houses that have been damaged or destroyed.

Journalist: What about that operation at Forest Hill which is quite extraordinary – getting three hundred people out (inaudible)

Stewart: Absolutely. As I believe right at this moment we are still taking people out of Forest Hill. And that was caused by the fact that the waters rose there quite suddenly this morning and it was felt the best way to manage their safety was to actually evacuate them.

Journalist: What is the situation with (inaudible)

Stewart: At Grantham where we had people earlier today, Grantham actually has a safe area. There is an area that's above the water and we're quite, in fact I think there's about 60 people currently in that safe area. We're quite happy for them to stay and they're quite happy to be there.

Journalist: There's rumours going around that you're evacuating the evacuation (inaudible)

Stewart: Well, we're hoping not but that will depend on services as well. I mean water, sewerage, power, all of those issues are going to be critical in the next few days. We are hoping that once this rain event abates and we hope that that will happen over the

next 24 hours, that's what we're being told, we're hoping that people will be able to access that area by road. The difficulty we're then going to have of course is that if more bodies are located in any of these areas it becomes a crime scene and we have to then go in with a full investigation process. So this is not going to be fixed tonight or tomorrow or the next day and all of this time is then taken up in terms of the onflow of the water down through Ipswich and Brisbane which we have to manage as well.

Journalist: (inaudible) disaster zone (inaudible) get more powers with this?

Stewart: That's exactly right and that is the only time that we...sorry, that's the only reason that the declaration is made, to provide us special powers to forcibly evacuate people if necessary in the best interests of their safety and the community as a whole.

Bligh: And also just to add to that Sue it also provides with other powers to do whatever is necessary for safety, for example, in the evacuation at Theodore last week emergency service workers chainsawed down electricity poles and didn't have to seek authority to do so so the powers are quite extraordinary, they are there so that emergency workers can bulldoze buildings to get things out of the way if they need to. Can I just make another comment – we've all watched over the last couple of weeks as water gradually rose in rivers affecting Emerald, Rockhampton, St George for example. In all of those events if you all think back, rain had actually stopped in the catchment area and so we could predict with a degree of precision what was happening.

The difference here and why it's moving so rapidly is we are seeing extraordinarily heavy rainfalls continuing into the catchment area and the bureau indicated this afternoon that they expect that rain to continue for at least the next six to twelve hours. We're starting to see a couple of small breaks every now and then which indicates it might be starting to break up but heavy rainfalls for the next six to twelve hours is partly (inaudible) into the catchment not so much here in Brisbane but in the catchment. That is what is driving some of the rapid change in this modelling and the dramatically deteriorating situation.

Journalist: (inaudible)

Bligh: (inaudible)

Stewart: Certainly in the main. We have strategic planning cells with us embedded with us in our areas that are planning and managing all of this process. But the major thing that the military is



providing is the heavy lift air assets. We've also used their vehicles, they're very unique vehicles, to try and get into very difficult terrain. So that's been part of it and we've borrowed extra vehicles, 4WDs in particular from them. That is the best support that they can provide us at the moment.

Journalist: (inaudible) personnel at this stage?

Stewart: Well we have a large number of their personnel but mainly in the planning and logistics stage.

Journalist: Premier really just finally for people (inaudible) anxious (inaudible) what do you say right now who are listening to you just wanting to know exactly what to do?

Bligh: To the people here in the south-east who are facing an anxious time in the next day or two days in Brisbane and in Ipswich, I understand that you may be very frightened by what is happening around you. What we need now is calm and I am here to reassure you that our emergency response is doing everything it can to keep you updated, to protect your homes and your properties and your neighbourhoods. But we do have a very serious natural disaster on our doorstep and we will all have to work together. Our commitment to you is that we will provide you with information as regularly as we get it. As soon as we know it we'll be telling it to you and to that end we'll be here every two hours to update. Sometimes there won't be much to say that's new but other times there might be quite dramatic information. So people should certainly be listening to media and I thank the media for the job they're doing today to make sure people know what's happening. Okay, thank you.

ENDS  
BS

Produced by the Government Media Monitoring Unit
--

## Anna Bligh

---

**From:** Jaxen Wood  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 12 January 2011 8:02 AM  
**To:** Ministers; Parliamentary Secretaries; Caucus Members  
**Cc:** Media Advisors; Principal Advisors; Premiers Office  
**Subject:** TRANSCRIPT: PREMIER ANNA BLIGH JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE 11 JANUARY 2011

**EXECUTIVE BUILDING, BRISBANE**  
**3:00PM TUESDAY**

**PREMIER ANNA BLIGH:** The situation across Queensland's south east continues to deteriorate. In relation to the Lockyer Valley, I can now confirm that the number of people unaccounted for or missing has been revised down to 66. Thankfully we found five people safe but we have confirmed one further death. That brings the total death toll in this incident to nine. Tragically the police believe that that will climb and could be almost more than double that number. We continue to hold very grave fears for the people who are missing. To everyone who has lost a loved one, you are in our thoughts and the thoughts of all Queenslanders and Australians. We know that you are going through just horrendous circumstances. The majority of those who are missing are missing from the Murphys Creek, Grantham and Withcott areas. In Grantham and Withcott we have police and search and rescue teams on the ground undertaking search and rescue activities. We do have police on the ground in Murphys Creek but they have been unable to continue their search and rescue because the weather has significantly worsened in Murphys Creek.

In Forest Hill which is a town of between three and four hundred people between Laidley and Gatton we have seen dramatic scenes this afternoon with 300 people being airlifted and evacuated to Gatton. They are being evacuated on Black Hawk helicopters. We have, my last report was 126 people remaining on the ground still to be airlifted out of Forest Hill. So almost all of Forest Hill being evacuated, some 300 people. In relation to the Brisbane and Ipswich area and the Wivenhoe Catchment, I'm afraid we have some very bad news this afternoon. Ipswich and Brisbane are now facing their greatest threat and their toughest test in more than 35 years. The latest advice that I have in relation to the inflows in the Wivenhoe is that we can expect overnight tonight in Brisbane to see flood levels reach about three metres. By Wednesday high tide, tomorrow afternoon at about three o'clock we will see it at 4.5m and the current predictions indicate that the river will continue to rise into Thursday with flood levels expected higher than the 1974 peak. The flood reached a peak of 5.45m in 1975.

Our current modelling shows that with continued rain into Thursday we will see the levels of the river reach higher than that. In Ipswich we expect to see overnight with continued heavy rainfall in the region that by midnight tonight the river levels in Ipswich will reach around the 18 to 19 metre mark and peaking some time during Wednesday at around 21 to 22 metres. By comparison the 1974 peak was 20.6 metres. So in both Ipswich and in Brisbane we are anticipating the flood levels across the areas of '74 levels and above. As I said the situation continues to deteriorate and I have to say that I understand that for many, many people in Ipswich and in Brisbane, particularly those who endured the 1974 flood that we are now in a very frightening experience. Can I appeal to everybody that it's times like this where we all need to make an effort to stay calm, to be patient and to stick together. Now is a time to be checking on neighbours, on elderly people in your neighbourhood, to be checking on family and friends.

If you live on high ground in Brisbane now is a time to be reaching out to friends and offering help and offering where necessary a bed for the night over the coming two to three days. For those who are living in some of the lower lying areas and the identified suburbs, now is the time to be making whatever preparations you can and I would encourage you to be overly cautious. It's better to be inconvenienced and find that your preparations were not necessary than the alternative. For those who are unlikely to be directly affected, I think the entire city of Brisbane, the Ipswich region and most of the south-east needs to prepare ourselves for enormous disruption. We will anticipate that we're starting to see it now, that over the next couple of days we will see workplaces closed and unreachable, we will see major shopping centres closed, flooded and cut off. People need to be taking preparations and keeping off the roads as much as possible.

An evacuation strategy is being prepared and an evacuation centre is being activated at the showgrounds at the RNA. This centre can take up to 3,000 people and bedding and provisions are being provided into that centre this afternoon. Given the emerging information and I know that there's been other data in the public arena earlier this afternoon, you get a sense I think of just how quickly this is changing, how rapidly the rainfall that continues into the Lockyer Valley and into the Wivenhoe catchment, how quickly that is changing the modelling.

Given the seriousness of the situation and given how quickly the data is changing, we will now hold two- hourly media conferences and those media conferences will be attended by either myself, the minister, the commissioner or deputy commissioner of police. We'll be holding those press conferences throughout this evening and two-hourly tomorrow and more frequently if necessary if further data comes to hand. I might turn to Ian Stewart, the deputy commissioner, to make some further comments. But can I just acknowledge we are facing one of our toughest ever tests. We will only pass this test if we are calm, if we are patient with each other, if we're patient holding on phone lines and if we listen carefully to the instructions we're being given. Now is not a time for panic, it is a time for us to stick together, to reach out to each other, and to listen to the advice from our emergency workers. Ian.

**IAN STEWART:**

Thank you Premier. As you were aware earlier today a statewide disaster declaration was made by the Premier and our minister for the lower half of the state. That includes obviously all of the Brisbane, Greater Brisbane area. We would hope that police, emergency workers don't have to use any of those powers because as the Premier said this is not the time to baulk when you are asked to leave or asked to support emergency workers in the way that we will help prepare the city for this certain, certain flood event which will hit us over the next couple of days. I think one of the really key messages is that this is the information with the best information we have at the moment. It is a changing and a moving feast. We would hope that we don't have to revise these figures up but that is a real possibility depending on the inflows into the dam area and the rain systems that are currently above the Wivenhoe Dam catchment. So by giving you regular updates we hope to prepare the city and the surrounding areas including obviously Ipswich for what is going to be a significant emergency for our community of Queensland.

**JOURNALIST:**

Premier, Michael Usher from Channel 9, what you're talking about is overwhelming. Are you equipped to handle this. Have you got the resources? Many people you're talking about are cut off. Can you get the emergency services to them to help them?

**PREMIER:**

We are bringing additional personnel to the task over the next couple of days to Ipswich and Brisbane. These are the sorts of events that our emergency staff prepare for on a regular basis. You've seen them out there doing an extraordinary job in places like Rockhampton and Emerald. They are up to this task but they will need your cooperation. If you are asked to leave your property please do not make the job harder for our emergency workers. They will not ask you to do this unless it is absolutely necessary.

**JOURNALIST:**

Are you now talking...the sort of numbers that you're talking about is this beyond what has ever been planned for?

**PREMIER:**

This is an extreme event. The emergency services plan for these sort of events on a regular basis. They hope never to have to put those plans into place but they are ready and prepared to do so when we get confirmation as we have in the last half hour of this sort of an event. I might invite Bruce Grady from Emergency Management Queensland to give you a bit more detail about the sort of preparation and training that's led up to this sort of ability.

**JOURNALIST:**

And could we address also in there the number of homes that might be affected in the Brisbane area. There were talks of six and half thousand homes being flooded – do we know whether that's on the money or not?

**BRUCE GRADY:**

The number of homes is currently being assessed by Brisbane City Council. They have the plans for that. I think the sorts of numbers you're talking about are at the lower end. There's certainly be a lot more properties than that affected; whether the water gets over their floorboards or not you know is the work that the Brisbane City Council is currently doing. In terms of preparations we do plan for devastating events. We've run scenarios as little as six to eight weeks ago where that was based on numbers around the flood in 1890 which was bigger than '74. So it's always difficult to deal with these things because they unfold so



rapidly but the plans are in place, we're confident that people know their roles, their responsibilities and what to do. Now there's...as deputy commissioner Stewart said, it's time for the community to come together and for us to all pull in the same direction... you know, the emergency services can't do this job by themselves and they need the cooperation of the community to make an effective response.

**JOURNALIST:** Because on that point Premier we're talking about 9 confirmed deaths now and that is heart-breaking but you're saying that might double?

**PREMIER:** Yes, I invite the deputy commissioner to make some further comments. But police obviously have a number of reports which they are seeking to absolutely confirm and on the basis of that they believe that these numbers could double or even a little higher on that on current known information. So I do think we need to brace ourselves for a significant death toll here and as I've said earlier there are a number of children involved in this incident so it is a heart-breaking toll already from these waters and a very powerful reminder to us all, particularly people here in Brisbane and Ipswich. As these waters make their way through our streets, keep your children away from parks, gutters, drains. Keep your older children from jumping into waters and take extra care driving on our roads.

**STEWART:** Thanks Premier. Earlier this morning we had 72 people unaccounted for in the Lockyer area. Predominantly Grantham and the Murphys Creek areas. We have been able to trace five of those, sorry, six of those people so we're down to 66 who we are still working on and whilst that's, you know, a wonderful outcome we have grave concerns particularly in the Murphys Creek area where because of this, the very severe weather events that are still occurring there the safety of our officers and the ability for them to go in to check isolated houses and also the creek area has been, it's become very difficult for us.

**JOURNALIST:** Can you get them in or is it just too hard and too risky right now?

**STEWART:** It's too risky and we've had to hold back our staff with the planning at the moment being more for tomorrow morning when we hope that the weather will have abated enough to make it safe. I mean the creeks are still overflowing – it's still flooding in that area. It is a very, very high risk for our people.

**JOURNALIST:** In any of these areas, are there stranded people that you just can't get to that you're aware are stuck on roofs or in buildings?

**STEWART:** We don't believe so but we can't absolutely discount that. Obviously we've been checking a range of other areas in the Lockyer Valley throughout the day, the areas that are more safe for our people to operate in and at Grantham that is one of the areas that we have been able to enter some of the homes. But there are still places in Grantham because of the flooding, the continued flooding we haven't been able to check in some of the houses that have been damaged or destroyed.

**JOURNALIST:** What about that operation at Forest Hill which is quite extraordinary – getting three hundred people out, mostly airlifted. Is that still going?

**STEWART:** Absolutely. As I believe right at this moment we are still taking people out of Forest Hill. And that was caused by the fact that the waters rose there quite suddenly this morning and it was felt the best way to manage their safety was to actually evacuate them.

**JOURNALIST:** What is the situation with the school at Grantham?

**STEWART:** At Grantham where we had people earlier today, Grantham actually has a safe area. There is an area that's above the water and we're quite, in fact I think there's about 60 people currently in that safe area. We're quite happy for them to stay and they're quite happy to be there.

**JOURNALIST:** There's rumours going around that they don't have to evacuate from the evacuation area.

**STEWART:** Well, we're hoping not but that will depend on services as well. I mean water, sewerage, power, all of those issues are going to be critical in the next few days. We are hoping that once this rain event abates and we hope that that will happen over the next 24 hours, that's what we're being told, we're hoping that people will be able to access that area by road. The difficulty we're then going to have of course is that if more bodies are located in any of these

areas it becomes a crime scene and we have to then go in with a full investigation process. So this is not going to be fixed tonight or tomorrow or the next day and all of this time is then taken up in terms of the onflow of the water down through Ipswich and Brisbane which we have to manage as well.

**JOURNALIST:** What does the declaration disaster zone mean for police and emergency services? Do you get more powers with this?

**STEWART:** That's exactly right and that is the only time that we... sorry, that's the only reason that the declaration is made, to provide us special powers to forcibly evacuate people if necessary in the best interests of their safety and the community as a whole.

**PREMIER:** And also just to add to that Sue it also provides with other powers to do whatever is necessary for safety, for example, in the evacuation at Theodore last week emergency service workers chainsawed down electricity poles and didn't have to seek authority to do so so the powers are quite extraordinary, they are there so that emergency workers can bulldoze buildings to get things out of the way if they need to. Can I just make another comment – we've all watched over the last couple of weeks as water gradually rose in rivers affecting Emerald, Rockhampton, St George for example. In all of those events if you all think back, rain had actually stopped in the catchment area and so we could predict with a degree of precision what was happening.

The difference here and why it's moving so rapidly is we are seeing extraordinarily heavy rainfalls continuing into the catchment area and the bureau indicated this afternoon that they expect that rain to continue for at least the next six to twelve hours. We're starting to see a couple of small breaks every now and then which indicates it might be starting to break up but heavy rainfalls for the next six to twelve hours is partly what into the catchment not so much here in Brisbane but in the catchment. That is what is driving some of the rapid change in this modelling and the dramatically deteriorating situation.

**JOURNALIST:** Can you just outline what sort of assistance you're getting from the military at this stage?

**PREMIER:** I might ask Ian to address that.

**STEWART:** Certainly in the main. We have strategic planning cells with us embedded with us in our areas that are planning and managing all of this process. But the major thing that the military is providing is the heavy lift air assets. We've also used their vehicles, they're very unique vehicles, to try and get into very difficult terrain. So that's been part of it and we've borrowed extra vehicles, 4WDs in particular from them. That is the best support that they can provide us at the moment.

**JOURNALIST:** So no personnel at this stage?

**STEWART:** Well we have a large number of their personnel but mainly in the planning and logistics phase.

**JOURNALIST:** Premier really just finally for people who are very naturally feeling quite anxious and frightened out there, you addressed that earlier, what do you say to them right now who are listening to you just wanting to know exactly what to do?

**PREMIER:** To the people here in the south-east who are facing an anxious time in the next day or two days in Brisbane and in Ipswich, I understand that you may be very frightened by what is happening around you. What we need now is calm and I am here to reassure you that our emergency response is doing everything it can to keep you updated, to protect your homes and your properties and your neighbourhoods. But we do have a very serious natural disaster on our doorstep and we will all have to work together. Our commitment to you is that we will provide you with information as regularly as we get it. As soon as we know it we'll be telling it to you and to that end we'll be here every two hours to update. Sometimes there won't be much to say that's new but other times there might be quite dramatic information. So people should certainly be listening to media and I thank the media for the job they're doing today to make sure people know what's happening. Okay, thank you.

**TRANSCRIPT**  
**BTQ7 SUNRISE 0810**  
**WEDNESDAY 12 JANUARY 2011**  
**INTV: PREMIER ANNA BLIGH**  
**RE: SEQ FLOODS**

Compere: To bring you up with the very latest we've got Premier Anna Bligh joining us from EMQ headquarters. Premier, good morning to you.

Bligh: Good morning.

Compere: Hi how are you going this morning, what can you tell us, the very latest at this point in time?

Bligh: Well, as you would know we have a very rapidly developing situation here. We've seen overnight continued waters rising and continuing in the Lockyer Valley. One of the towns there, Lowood had a very rapid incident last night with families on rooftops at 3am so they're been rescued this morning. We've seen waters rise very rapidly in Ipswich and there are about 18.5m now which is basically exactly where the hydrologists predicted they would be. So our forecasts are proving accurate and that water is now moving into the Brisbane area. Thousands of people out of their homes in Ipswich. The Brisbane River has now broken its banks at Yeronga, a suburb on the water in a stretch of road called The Corso. So I suppose the flood in Brisbane has officially started with that river breaking its banks. We've got police on the site doorknocking and that will continue across the city. This is a frightening situation for many people. This is something that's going to be a very... we're going to have a very anxious day. I understand that current Brisbane City Council modelling indicates that we could see up to 20,000 properties affected. That is a massive dislocation across a large capital city.

Compere: So Premier the people who are watching from home this morning in those suburbs that were affected in '74, knowing that their home will probably be affected this time around, what would you like them to do at this exact moment? Where should they go? What is your advice to them as we speak?

Bligh: This is going to be a very big and difficult event. And we have... I want to reassure people firstly that we have additional emergency staff, additional police, we have extra army personnel. We have what it takes to manage this on the frontline. But they can only do it well if we all pull together and cooperate with them and if we all take our own measures to protect ourselves and our families and our friends. If you're on high ground look out for your neighbours, ring your family, ring your friends, offer someone a bed. We need to all be doing this together. If you're in a low lying area if your property has previously been affected by floods it will be affected this time. You need to make provisions today and you need to do it quickly. We expect to see significant numbers of houses inundated from early this afternoon and the water is very unlikely to go down (inaudible) three or four days. People should be careful this morning – if you do not need to be on the roads do not. Do not go into work if you do not need to be there and if you're not absolutely critical to the flood effort because if you get into work this morning you are likely to be stranded there as roads will shut down throughout the day.

Compere: Okay so if you know someone that lives on higher ground give them a call – now's the time to go and stay. Get out of your house. Power outages, we're going to see the power cut down, cut out through most of the CBD this



morning, large chunks of it certainly. Just give me an idea of how widespread that will be and the implications that will have.

Bligh:

Can I say I know that for many people this is a very frightening and scary time. We will all need to be as calm as we can and our patience is going to be tested. We will need to shut down electricity supply and that is going to cause many people, it makes a difficult situation even more difficult. Frankly people I think understand electricity and water just do not mix and if we do not shut down supply to these major areas we could see catastrophic circumstances. So it is going to be difficult as electricity supply is shut down. It will start this morning in the CBD and surrounding areas. So get candles, make sure you're well supplied with those sorts of things. We're going to have a long wait today, a very long and difficult night for many people and the water's starting to peak early afternoon, tomorrow. So this event is happening now, people are already being affected by it. Please, there's no room for complacency. Take it seriously.

Compere:

Particularly too if you rely on power for health reasons, if you need machinery, anything like that, certainly make arrangements at this point in time. But faced with this today Premier we know that tomorrow, Thursday, is going to be the dark day. We're going to see a worse situation. I guess what would you say to people watching this morning who are frightened, who need to speak to somebody, who are obviously feeling a little bit lost. What's your message to them?

Bligh:

I know that this is, as I said, I know it's a frightening experience but what will get us through this, just as it did in 1974, is our sense of community spirit and our confidence in ourselves and each other. I believe that we've got everything it takes to manage this and to get through it together. But we will need to stay calm, we need to be looking out for each other. And we need to make sure we're very well-informed. So please, get onto the City Council websites and find out exactly where your house is located in relation to these floodwaters. If you need any medical supplies you should be speaking to your doctor and you should be making whatever arrangements you can. But we will have flood boats out there, we will have emergency services workers out there supplying people, helping people, helping people move. For the next 48 hours I expect to see an army of people out there helping and people should ring the SES hotline if they need any kind of assistance. That's 132500. Ring the SES hotline – that's where you can get help.

Compere:

Fantastic. And as you say, stay calm. Premier Anna Bligh we do appreciate your time this morning, thank you.

Bligh:

Thank you and thank you for doing such a good job in letting people know what's happening.

ENDS

BS

Produced by the Government Media Monitoring Unit

# Premier says emotional day ahead for Queenslanders

Premier on AM, ABC Radio

12 January 2011

TONY EASTLEY: The floods are disrupting life all over this city.

Two major public hospitals have cancelled elective surgery. Supermarket shelves are emptying. People are stuck in places they don't want to be as roads are closed. Electricity supplies may be disrupted.

The Queensland Premier, Anna Bligh is at the state emergency service coordination centre and joins us now.

Premier good morning and thanks for making your time available. What's your biggest concern this morning?

ANNA BLIGH: Good morning Tony. Tony I'm concerned across a number of fronts this morning. We have our search and rescue teams going into the Lockyer Valley for the first time now that the weather has cleared.

I think it's going to be a very, very emotional day for those teams as they face some potentially very gruesome finds. I think it's going to be a heartbreaking day for those families who are still holding out a lot of hope for missing people, as we see those hopes crushed.

We have families coming further down the Valley who are stuck on, stranded on rooftops after a sudden event at Lowood, a town in the Lockyer Valley again last night at 3am; a terrifying moment for those families. So we're doing rooftop rescues there at the moment.

And then of course we have two major cities, Ipswich and Brisbane, bracing as you say for a one in 100 year flood. Tony we are talking massive amounts of water coming into this river system and it will flood thousands of properties.

So today we are activating evacuation processes and centres here in Brisbane, they would have been activated yesterday in Ipswich; thousands of people already out of their own homes and many more to come.

TONY EASTLEY: Authorities of course have issued dire warnings, is there anything Premier to suggest otherwise this morning, even though as we look out and you probably can see from where you are there, there are some clear skies over Brisbane?

ANNA BLIGH: It's very eerie here today because we have an absolutely beautiful blue sky, a perfect Queensland summer day, but people can take no comfort from the blue sky; the rain has already done its damage in the catchment of our river system and this water is coming down at great speed.

The predictions yesterday were that Ipswich would reach between 18 and 19 overnight; it is currently at 18-and-a-half, so the predictions are very, very accurate. On the basis of that I understand that we could see up to 20,000 properties in Brisbane affected by the water.

That is an extraordinary amount of people and homes and people do need to take their warnings very seriously.

TONY EASTLEY: The death toll and the missing Premier, what is the latest on that?

ANNA BLIGH: We've seen 10 people die in the last 24 to 48 hours as a result of that shocking incident in Toowoomba. Unfortunately overnight police have been advised of further missing persons, as people get back into these towns and start to knock on their neighbours' doors, they're finding more people they can't account for.

So the police are now looking for more than 90 missing persons. As I said our search and rescue teams are now on the ground, they are getting into those tributaries and creeks in some very difficult, very sodden terrain and I expect they are going to have a very emotional day as they inevitably recover some bodies.

Police are anticipating, or have very, very grave fears for at least another 15 if not more people.

So, Tony this is a heartache day for those teams and for the families who are waiting.

TONY EASTLEY: Queensland Premier Anna Bligh again thank you for joining us on AM.

ANNA BLIGH: Thank you to ABC for keeping us all up to date.

<http://www.abc.net.au/am/content/2011/s3110970.htm>

Tony Eastley reported this story on Wednesday, January 12, 2011 08:00:00



**TRANSCRIPT  
PRESS CONFERENCE  
WEDNESDAY 12 JANUARY 2011  
INTV: Channel 9, TODAY Show  
RE: Qld Floods**

Compere: I do in indeed Georgie thank you very much for that, Premier a very good morning to you, a tough morning, just coming here this morning, a lot of businesses doing a lot of sandbagging, can you first of all give us an update on the situation and it's probably best to we work from the West to Brisbane.

Bligh: Sure thank you Karl. I think we've seen the awesome power of water here behind us this morning and we're seeing it right across the region. We've still got serious flooding in places like Dalby, Chinchilla, Warwick, I have to say that's all been managed very well but we do have have numbers of people, more than 500, out of their homes and in evacuation centres.

Coming in to Toowoomba, it's very sad overnight we've seen even further notifications of missing people so the police now have, are searching for more than 90 people...

Compere: More than 90!

Bligh: So these are people who their families can no longer contact or find them so the Police task this morning, the one good news is the rain has cleared, so we've now got a number of search and rescue teams all ready to deploy into that valley to really start what might be a very gruesome search this morning for bodies and our Police and the Emergency workers there are going to have a very tough day today.

Compere: Very, very hard day for them. This is the ground zero areas around Grantham, and the base of the ranges. The figure was 79 are you saying, have you got a more accurate reading on that?

Bligh: Yes, the Police have taken more missing persons reports out of that area overnight and we now are above 90. So that might grow a bit as people start to look for neighbours and you know, it's just a heartbreaking task that they're facing.

Compere: It's grim...that that figure is going up.

Bligh: It is, it's a very grim prospect and as I've said I think there are painful days for some families in that region today and a pretty tough day for emergency and search & rescue teams who will

really be able to get in there for the first time and I think they're going to find some devastated, a real devastation.

Compere: I gather, because of the weather it's, it's actually a very nice day here, the sky is blue, it's very steamy, very hot, I gather that's a plus in so far being able to get in and just assess what has happened there.

Bligh: Well it's a plus not only for our search and rescue teams, but it's also a plus for residents who are preparing for the floods. Everything is just much harder to do when you've got heavy rainfall like we had yesterday, so but it certainly should not be, people should not get any false comfort from it. The damage has been done, this rain is in our river system and it's coming our way. The fact that it's not falling from the sky is nothing, it's no comfort in terms of flood levels and people need to be very, very cautious today.

Compere: That's one of nature cruel ironies isn't it? Ah, let's, let's talk about Ipswich then, what happening there...

Bligh: I'd just say before we get to Ipswich, Karl. Overnight we've seen some furious flash flooding and river rises in the Lowood area, which is in the Lockyer Valley and we have some families on roof this morning so there are rescue teams out there now, trying to get those families off roofs and are searching to make sure that people are safe. So still a very difficult, volatile situation in the Lockyer Valley that must have been frankly terrifying for those families last night and they were on the roofs around 3am this morning, so pretty tough situations for them and we're thinking of them this morning.

If we come down the river, Ipswich we're seeing our predictions and forecasts pretty accurate. We've over 17 meters in Ipswich now, thousands of people now evacuation centres with more than a thousand in official government evacuation centres, but we're also seeing unofficial centres set up, local church halls, and opening up their doors and feeding people and that's terrific so...

Compere: Hard to watch though isn't it. I mean looking at those images, a whole range, a whole lot of demographics, the elderly, the sick, also young children going into those facilities, heartbreaking images really.

Bligh: They're, everybody is doing the best they can, and I thank particularly the red cross and all our volunteers for doing everything they can to look after people, but there is no fun in an evacuation centre Karl, nobody wants to be there, just looking at those images now, my family evacuated my mum to

my house last night and now I'm glad she's in my house, I'd be very, very distressed if she was in an evacuation centre, so I know what people are going through there. What we are also seeing now in just breaking news as I came this morning is the flood really has now started here Brisbane. The Brisbane River has broken its bank in a suburb called Yeronga, along a street called The Corso. Police are on sight, they are doorknocking, the water isn't into residences there yet but it's on its way, it's in a large park, so the Brisbane River has now broken its banks and it really that is the start of the Brisbane River flood.

Compere: And if it has broken its banks there, does that give you an indication of how severe it's going to be, in the next 24 hours?

Bligh: Well I think we need, we know already this a serious severe flood. We are in the same territory as 1974 and potentially slightly higher, so I can't express strongly enough that people have to take this seriously, there is obviously a lot of interest, there are people out here this morning watching this river and what it's doing, and extraordinary things we're seeing float down the river, but you know, as interesting as it is and as novel as it is, it is a dangerous situation. People really need to be heeding all the warning and keeping themselves and their families safe.

Compere: This is I think around the Brisbane CBD area last night; we drove through last night around there and Milton, lots of water coming up. Westlake we hear this morning is also a little bit of a problem any other areas of concern and what should people do if they live in those areas?

Bligh: Well we have a number of people moving out of suburbs like West End in the south Brisbane area yesterday just going to friends, getting to higher ground. We will have suburbs along the Brisbane River, if you are anywhere close to the river you need to start taking or need to be taking precautions, But it's not only on the River we have large creek systems, Breakfast Creek for example, the famous Qld Brekky Creek Hotel, that creek goes right up into suburbs like Wilson and it is likely to significantly flood. Kedron Brook Creek all of those creek systems, Bulimba Creek if you are anywhere near them you need to be taking measures. There is one difference '74 and now, a number of differences, firstly we can get information to people with higher degrees of accuracy and we can get it to them in a range of ways. So we have maps in our newspapers this morning, we have maps on websites, the Brisbane city council website; people can get information that they just couldn't get in '74. But I do need to stress again that all of this is predictions and forecasts Brisbane is a vastly different city than it was in 1974. We have people living in places where no



one lived then. We have a multi-unit dwellings where once there might have been a vacant lot or an old wooden house, so the way this water will be have when it get here we have some of the best hydrologists predicting, but that's all it is, a predication so if you're anywhere near these areas even if you're not a nominated street don't be out there if don't need to be.

Compere: It can change very quickly as you said; you said a number of times that it can change minute by minute, and by the hour. Can you give people a timeframe of how you expect this to play out and timing-wise how far the river will go up.

Bligh: Right now in Ipswich we are above 17 meters, and we expect it to be 22 meters sometime around lunch time, so 17 to 22, so that's 5 meters the river will move over the next 6 or 7 hours, that's the time prediction, but that tells you this is a fast moving event. Once that comes down the Brisbane River we would expect to see this river behind us peeking sometime around high tide, in the mid afternoon tomorrow, 2 to 3 o'clock, so we've really got a day and a half for people to be, well many people wil start flooding before then but as we start to see the peak, so I would expect to see water into Brisbane homes potentially in significant numbers by this afternoon.

Compere: By this afternoon? How many numbers?

Bligh: Just significant numbers...

Compere: Hard to tell...

Bligh: It's hard to tell.

Compere: What happened during the course of the night, that's the area of concern isn't it too? That you start to see the flood waters rising and then you go into night time and electricity will more than likely be cut, you really need, people really need to have their plans in place, well and truly before night.

Bligh: Absolutely, and at this stage the bureau is pretty confident we're not going to see more rainfall, but as I said if people are trying to deal with these situations in dark, at night time in heavy rain, all of that will be disastrous. I do need to stress that people will be inconvenienced today by power shutdowns, electricity and water just do not mix and we would have catastrophic events if we did not systematically and carefully shut down in the right places our electricity to a number of buildings. That will be finalised this morning for the first round of shutdowns, most of that will be in the CBD area, so

again people, every employer out there is caring about their staff and many people yesterday were sent home, I don't expect to see them back at work now for days.

Compere: Cameron Williams is at one of those evacuation centres for us tonight, have you got any planning for more facilities to open up through the course of today and tomorrow?

Bligh: We're working, Brisbane City Council is overseeing, as the councils do in every area, the evacuation centres, they're doing a marvellous job of setting up a massive of evacuation centre our showgrounds. That will have a capacity for more than 3000 people. If you just think about what it takes to set up a centre for 3000 people, feeding and kitchen facilities in the next you know they've started that yesterday, they're doing, that will all be in place. They will also start today the process of equipping potentially back up evacuation centres in the event that this gets beyond what we're currently predicting. So I think we're, all the preparations that can be made, are being made and the real challenge for as a community is to , to be in this together, and that means working with our emergency workers, don't make their job harder, if they knock on your door follow they're directions. I've heard report this morning of people disobeying police directions about not going into water over roads, there's no place for that. Our police are stretched; do not stretch them further by disobeying them.

Compere: Good advice. One final question for you – how are you holding up?

Bligh: Ah I'm fine, I'm just worried about Queenslanders, and we've got people in dire and desperate circumstances, very concerned about those people on roofs. I think we're going to be shocked by what we hear about our search and rescue teams today. So a long hard day today for Queensland, a very anxious wait for people in Ipswich and Brisbane, a lot of hard work sandbagging, preparing, protecting and that's what we're going to focus on.

Compere: Anna Bligh, always good to talk to you. Thank you very much for updating our audience really appreciates you coming on to talk to us and getting them that information.

Bligh: Thanks Karl, we'll be updating throughout the day, we'll be having two-hourly bulletins, we expect this to be changing right across the region and we let people know what's happening.

Compere: Alright, appreciate your time. Thank you very much for that.

Bligh: Thank you.

ENDS  
NL

Produced by the Government Media Monitoring Unit



**E & O E – PROOF ONLY**  
**TRANSCRIPT**  
**JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE**  
**930AM WEDNESDAY**  
**12 JANUARY 2011**  
**BRISBANE**

**PREMIER BLIGH:** Well good morning. I welcome to Queensland the Prime Minister and Chief of Defence Angus Houston as two of our largest cities Ipswich and our capital city of Brisbane prepare and begin to experience the worst natural disaster in our history.

As our city prepares for that disaster we are also managing a number of major incidents in other areas of Queensland and I'd like to work through some of the issues that are unfolding in those towns and cities first and then go to the Brisbane and Ipswich area.

Today because of the clearing of the rain we will see a major search and rescue effort into the Lockyer Valley searching for those people who remain missing. Very sad news overnight with further missing notifications made to the Queensland Police and the number they are searching is over 90. We can confirm that at this stage we have no confirmations of further deaths but we do expect that our emergency search and rescue teams today may face a very difficult and emotional task as they search for a possibly find bodies in some of those isolated areas.

Our thoughts are with those works and particularly with those families who are continuing to hope and anxiously wait for news of their loved ones, we hope that they have good news at the end of today although we do stress that it may take several days of major search and rescue efforts given the damage in some of these areas, to properties and to local terrain.

The Coroner is moving to the Lockyer Valley today to assist with these efforts and we have 8 specialist counselling teams including people particularly trained in counselling children and grief counsellors and they will be locating across the towns in that valley today.

In other parts of regional Queensland we're continuing to see floodwaters rise, the town of Dalby still has 125 people in an evacuation centre although the water is now stable there. In Chinchilla we have a major flood incident occurring with waters continuing to rise and current advice is that Chinchilla is likely to experience a flood peak over and above what they experienced about 10 days ago.

The town of Condamine was completely evacuated yesterday evening for the second time in 10 days and they are likely to be out of their home again for a period of time. The towns of Goondiwindi and Texas are also facing rising waters, Goondiwindi is expected to be within potentially half a metre of its levy banks, that could see those levies collapse and we are keeping a very careful watch on Goondiwindi, this is a town of some 5000 people.

The town of Texas, a relatively small town of about 600 people, are also seeing waters rising and evacuations have started in Texas.

The good news is that the water in Rockhampton is falling, although very, very slowly, similarly the water in Gympie is falling, but that water from Gympie is now making its way to Maryborough and Maryborough can expect to see its waters rise and reach a peak tomorrow.

In Bundaberg we are also seeing some minor rises and some new flooding occurring in Bundaberg.

I give you all that information so that you can appreciate the scale of this incident and appreciate that our emergency teams are working across a number of areas, across an enormous part of Queensland. We also note that as we start to prepare here in the capital city, that many of these towns are experiencing this event for the second time. I think we need to draw inspiration from their resilience and draw inspiration and courage from the experiences they've had and are continuing to face.

If I can move now to Ipswich and Brisbane.

In Ipswich at 7:30am this morning the water had risen to 18.9 metres, there is some slightly good news in Ipswich and that is that the expected peak has been revised down from 22 metres to 20.5, however they experienced 20.7 in 1974, so we are in a 1974 flood situation in Ipswich. I stress that in making those 1974 comparisons, both the city of Ipswich and the city of Brisbane are vastly different places than they were in 1974, we have significantly population, we have more dense construction, we have people living in high rise units where in 1974 nothing existed. So many more people are expected to be affected by this event even though the waters levels may be relatively similar.

So for example in Ipswich today at that level we expected to peak today at 20.5, that we expect that that will inundate and affect 4000 properties in Ipswich, 1500 are currently affected by floodwaters. We have 10 evacuation centres operational in Ipswich and 1200 people in those evacuation centres, many more out of their homes and staying with friends and relatives.

The nearby towns of Toogoolawah and Esk are completely isolated. They're not necessarily experiencing floodwater but are completely isolated by cut roads and we'll be getting supplies into those towns as soon as possible.

Here in Brisbane the water is currently at around 3.1 metres and it is rising, we expect it to rise relatively slowly this morning but much more quickly after lunch this afternoon. By this afternoon we expect it to peak around 4.5 metres and rise to 5.5 metres tomorrow morning, Thursday morning. Sometime around 4am tomorrow morning we expect to see those waters peak around the 5.5 mark, in 1974 it peaked at 5.45. So by 4am tomorrow morning we expect Brisbane to be experiencing flooding of 1974 proportions and slightly higher.

We have an evacuation centre established at the RNA Showgrounds, there are currently 182 people registered to accommodate there overnight but of course we expect that number to swell significantly throughout the day.

Those people who are unable to get to higher ground with friends or family, can I please encourage you to make early registration and early arrangements with the evacuation centres. The first centre is the RNA Showgrounds, from 8am this morning, the second centre was activated at the QE2 Stadium on the south side of Brisbane.

The Lord Mayor advises me he is speaking now with major churches to see whether it is possible to utilise church halls and other church facilities in local neighbourhoods should that be necessary.

We have the very significant issues arising on the Brisbane River. Many of you will have seen the images of pontoons and boats attached to pontoons floating down the river. We have salvage operations occurring to ensure that we don't see further damage caused by those floating objects running into businesses and homes. We have a very significant operation being undertaken right now across the river from the Regatta Hotel where a large barge, known as The Island, and many people in Brisbane will know that boat, it is at risk of coming loose of its moorings and there are an operation right now to secure that facility.

Throughout today there will be a number of critical issues that will be managed by our emergency teams. Firstly the Port of Brisbane is now closed and will only be open for emergency supplies under police and harbour authority's escort. Traffic management plans are being put into place, as we see power cut off in some areas, and I will talk a little bit about power in a moment, but as we see power cut off, we are likely to see some traffic lights out around the CBD parts of Brisbane. A very significant traffic plan is being put into place and police will be doing everything in their power to manage that today, but in a large capital city, I think you can all imagine the difficulties they will face.

This is likely to be a significant problem with roads cutting from localised flooding and traffic lights out. One of the biggest messages I send to people in the city of Brisbane today and Ipswich is do not travel if you do not have. It is a danger to the rest of the population to have people out travelling unnecessarily. What that will do is take police and emergency resources off the front line where they are needed to protect and save lives. Please, this incident is not a tourist event. This is a deeply serious natural disaster, stay in your homes, do not travel unless it is absolutely necessary.

The second message is for those who haven't already done so, find a friend in high places. There are many parts of Brisbane that will not be affected. Brisbane is a very hilly city, many of us have friends and family living on those hills. Please if you are not going to be affected, reach out to a neighbour, reach out to a friend or a family member. We will ensure everything is being done to evacuate people to official evacuation centres but this could last for several days and I can assure you that you would rather be, if possible, with family than in one of these centres.

The water we are preparing for is a worst case scenario in Brisbane. We anticipate some 2,100 streets will be affected, that 19,700 residences are likely to experience flooding across their entire property. We expect a further 3,500 commercial properties to similarly experience flood water across the entire property.

This is a very significant event, it will create enormous disruption and dislocation.



We are already seeing the beginning of this flood, the Brisbane River has broken its banks at Yeronga, near the Corso. We are seeing flooding starting this morning in places like Milton, Toowong, Jindalee, the Graceville area and we are likely to see more and more as the day progresses.

The fact that this is peaking tomorrow does not mean we won't see very dangerous situations emerging right now.

I think we've all woken up in Brisbane to a very surreal experience. The sky is blue, we are facing an almost perfect Queensland summer day. We can take no comfort from that blue sky. The water and rain have already done their damage, they are in the catchment and they are on their way down our river system. So please do not think, do not take any comfort from the fact we've got blue sky here this morning.

Can I just conclude by acknowledging that everybody out there, no doubt, is experiencing this as a quite scary and frightening event. Can I say that I know in my bones that Queenslanders are up to this and that we can take it and I know that because I know we have the best people on our front line. They are coming from all over Australia, from other states, SES, emergency workers, police, from New Zealand and from the Australian Defence Force.

I know it because we've enormous resources that are now deployed here in the South-East and in other parts of Queensland, including a massive boost from the Defence Forces and the Prime Minister will outline that in more detail.

I also know that we are very strong and that we have enormous community spirit. This event will test us as it is testing people in regional Queensland; they have prevailed and the people here in the South-East will equally prevail.

Ladies and gentlemen please keep updated throughout the day, this is a rapidly moving event. I thank everybody to date for their marvellous effort. We've got, I think, the hardest times are still ahead of us.

If I can invite the Prime Minister to join me and to make some comments. Prime Minister, thank you for being in Queensland today.

**PRIME MINISTER:** Thank you. Thank you very much to the Premier for that introduction and can I say to the Premier, it's been a genuine privilege to attend the State Disaster Management Committee meeting this morning and to hear directly what great work is being done by emergency service personnel right throughout Queensland.

I'm here today with the Minister for Defence, Stephen Smith, with our minister, Joseph Ludwig who will concentrate on Queensland flood recovery. I'm joined by the Chief of the Defence Force, by my national security adviser and by the head of Emergency Management Australia.

And we have come to Queensland today to be in Brisbane to very visibly say that we are working with the people of Queensland shoulder to shoulder as they face this flood crisis.

Throughout the days of this flood crisis, the Australian Defence Force has done great work to support the people of Queensland. They have been out there each day as floodwaters have threatened. As the crisis has changed in its dimensions, we have stepped up Australian Defence Force efforts and we are taking a further step up today. We are bringing to bear an additional seven helicopters, that will mean that there are 15 helicopters available throughout Queensland and one of the biggest sources of work for those helicopters will be the very difficult, very urgent and occasionally heartbreaking task of search and rescue in the Lockyer Valley.

We are also ensuring that we have more C-130 aircraft available. These are the aircraft capable of carrying food and supplies in order to resupply parts of Queensland, townships in Queensland, that have become isolated and need food and supplies brought in by air.

We will continue to work with the people of Queensland through the Australian Defence Force. We have several hundred Australian Defence Force personnel on a notice ready to move, and during the course of the day more and more personnel will join the efforts in Brisbane to assist with tasks like sandbagging.

I understand that across Queensland and particularly in Ipswich and Brisbane today, there would be many frightened people anxious about what is going to happen next. To those people, I would say that the Australian Defence Force will be there providing support to the magnificent emergency personnel in Queensland, to be working with them, to support Queenslanders through this crisis.

And of course we know that there are many Australians who are waiting very anxiously for news of loved ones who haven't been located since the wall of water hit Toowoomba and moved through the Lockyer Valley. That's why such a priority is being put on making helicopters available for the search and rescue task.

At the same time, we will continue to support the people of Queensland with emergency payments and, of course, at the appropriate time, when flood waters enable people to go back to their homes, with grants to assist with recovery and rebuilding for families, for small businesses and primary producers.

But my task today is to give some information to those who might be leaving their homes now, who are evacuating now, and who need emergency assistance. This is the first initial payment available with later payments down the track when people are in recovery mode.

In South-East Queensland today, Centrelink offices are not staffed. Just like other major employers, the Commonwealth has enabled Centrelink staff, many of whom live in flood-affected areas themselves in Brisbane and Ipswich, to make appropriate arrangements for themselves and their family and to make sure they are not moving through streets and causing the kind of traffic and issues that the Premier referred to.

Therefore, the best way of people getting Centrelink assistance today is to ring 180 22 66 in order to access emergency payments and support. We will also be having people in recovery centres, for example, there are Centrelink staff in the recovery centre in Ipswich.

1,000 Centrelink staff are focusing on Queensland flood efforts and making sure that they are getting appropriate information to the people of Queensland. The system is working well, we have made around 10,000 emergency payments, that's \$17 million that has got into people's pockets as the first initial payment to help people through and, as I say, there are later payments when people are looking to replace household contents, going back to their small business or their farm, engaging in clean-up and rebuilding.

I also want to alert people to the fact there are income support arrangements. There will obviously be people who cannot go about their ordinary work, employees who can't reach work, small business operators whose businesses are flooded and cannot be operated, primary producers who cannot get their goods to market. As I announced on Monday, there are special income support payments available for people in those circumstances and once again, they should access that 180 22 66 number.

Premier, can I say to you and through you to the people of Queensland, Queensland has already faced some dark days and there are dark days still ahead but Australia is standing with you, working with Queensland to help Queensland through this crisis and we will be there shoulder to shoulder not only for the days ahead but for the many months of recovery and rebuilding to come.

And Premier through you, can I also say a very big thanks to all of the emergency services personnel, to all of the volunteers, to all of the people in local communities, the local mayors, the local councillors who are doing such a good job to lead their communities during a very difficult period and difficult time. I've seen firsthand today at the committee meeting I've just attended, the professionalism and determination of the emergency services personnel of Queensland. It really is very heart warming to see it and my thanks go to everyone who is making a contribution.

**JOURNALIST:** Premier in Brisbane and Ipswich in particular, what are the worst affected areas at the moment?

In the Brisbane area the areas that we've started to see the first flooding are in the Jindalee reach of the river, in the Milton and Toowong areas and in the South Brisbane and Yeronga reach of the river, but this is rapidly changing. You can expect to see more and more suburbs join that list very quickly over the next couple of hours, and I'm sorry I can't give you a similar list for Ipswich but I can say in Ipswich we have 1,500 homes, so very significant sections of Ipswich, we're still getting final reports in from them. Can I just say that people in Ipswich last night really saw the water come up quite dramatically and there's more to come and that is what is what people in Brisbane will experience over the next 24 to 48 hours.

**JOURNALIST:** Can you confirm reports that there's been any looting in Ipswich and whether anyone has been forcibly evacuated (inaudible)



**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER STEWART:** Certainly we've dealt with a couple of instance of stealing in the Ipswich and another area in Gatton and Lockyer Valleys. We're following up on those but police have responded to those.

**PREMIER:** Sorry I should say, I understand there was one incident where police powers were used last night to protect the safety of one individual.

**JOURNALIST:** How long are you expecting the water levels to stick around Brisbane? The current advice is that the water levels, once they peak at about 4am tomorrow could last at around that level at least until Saturday before they start going down. But there will be many people for whom it doesn't go down enough for them to either access their home or their street for more days after that. So as these rise reasonably quickly, they will move on but it will take several days. That's why it's important not to be travelling around at the moment. If you decide to go off to the shops or to your workplace unnecessarily, you may find yourself there for many days. The best place to be at the moment is at home.

**JOURNALIST:** The Commissioner earlier said earlier there were a couple of families stranded on rooftops out at Lowood and there was an emergency rescue operation happening out there. Is there any update on that?

**PREMIER:** We have successfully rescued 8 people from roof tops in the Lowood area, I understand that involved a couple of families. A number of people off I think two or three roofs. So there was rapid rising water in Lowood last night around 3am and people got to safety on rooftops; early morning rescues have seen all of those people rescued safely.

I might just give one update because I've had a number of inquiries and my office has had a number of people ringing in. I think the heart of many Australians were very touched and concerned by images on Monday night of a family sitting on top of a white car and the car appeared to be sinking in the Toowoomba incident. I can advise that involved a mother and a father and a child. The mother and child have been located and are safe. The father is unfortunately one of those on the missing person list. So for all of those people who have been particularly concerned about that family, that was heartrending images and a great feeling of helplessness I think for everybody who saw it. I'm very relieved that the mother and child are safe, but as I said we are still searching for the father in that case.

**JOURNALIST:** Prime Minister what else are you going to be doing today, and are you staying up here indefinitely?

**PRIME MINISTER:** Look I will be staying in Brisbane for a period of time. Today I am intending to be briefed by our Commander Luke Foster, who is commanding Queensland Operation Flood Assist for us. I will travel to Enoggera in order to talk to him and meet directly with Defence Force personnel. Obviously I would like to get out and about too, meeting the people of Queensland and talking to them as they deal with this flood situation. In terms of where that is possible, obviously we'll be working with Queensland and taking the necessary advice. To echo what the Premier is saying, obviously none of us want to distract from emergency efforts that are underway now, but I do want to be our speaking to people on the ground. I found in the visiting that I've done so far in Queensland that you always learn something from talking to people and their direct experience and then I can

feed it back in to make sure that our government systems are responding directly to their needs.

**JOURNALIST:** (inaudible) commit to flood mitigation funding for Queensland, perhaps an expansion of the Wivenhoe Dam, which obviously isn't quite big enough, and perhaps the Bureau of Meteorology who said yesterday that they're not up to scratch to identify what –

**PREMIER:** Can I just comment on that because I was at that press conference, that is not what the Bureau of Meteorology said. What the Bureau of Meteorology said was that currently available technology is not capable of resolution to the degree that would enable an event like that to have been pin pointed. So I think it's very important to understand, our Bureau of Meteorology has world class, most cutting edge equipment, but the technology available, science is not quite at that stage yet. Science may well get there and protect us better in future, but it's not there yet.

**JOURNALIST:** Have you had an opportunity yet to sit back just for a moment and sort of cut yourself away from all the briefings that you get? Your electorate is going to severely impacted here, maybe even your home, have you had a chance to sit back and feel the emotion of what your residents and friends are probably going to be feeling?

**PREMIER:** Along with many other people in Queensland my family is not immune to these experiences. My mother's house is in one of the low lying streets of West End, my brother and my sons evacuated her yesterday, she's now at my house and I'm very happy about that. So that's certainly a peace of mind for me and it's a reminder to me that there are thousands of other people going through exactly that experience.

My constituents will be severely impacted; the suburbs of East Brisbane, Norman Park, South Brisbane will all be flooded. We also have parts of Brisbane that weren't, that look completely different than they did in 1974, Southbank did not exist, we will have major areas of the city flooding in ways that we will find hard to predict and experience. So I can honestly to people, I do know what it's like to be out there worrying about your own family. This is a frightening time, but if we're all calm, if we all stick together, if we all reach out to each other, then I am absolutely confident that together with our emergency personnel and the army that we will prevail in this event.

**JOURNALIST:** There are reports that there are several children stuck in a child care centre out at Withcott and a couple of babies are there. Emergency Service hasn't got any closer to rescuing those children?

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER STEWART:** No, certainly there is no flood activity in the Withcott area at the moment. I think what you're referring to –

**JOURNALIST:** Are the roads cut off?

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER STEWART:** Certainly that is the case, the roads system out in the Lockyer Valley is tenuous to say the least and we're doing everything we can to address all of the calls for assistance we have.

**JOURNALIST:** Are there any emergency rescue operations currently underway that you can detail, like people standing on the roofs in Lowood, is there anything that you can explain to us now?

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER STEWART:** Certainly there are situations that are situations happening right now in the Ipswich and Brisbane areas. I don't have particulars of those, but I do know that we're responding to multiple calls for assistance, as are all emergency service personnel.

**JOURNALIST:** Premier, you've told people to think about moving very early, but there's always going to be people that just simply won't until the water starts coming up in their homes. What's your advice to them, just to leave behind and get yourself out, forget about all those possessions?

**PREMIER:** Without any double, we need to put human life first and there is every possibility that people will have very little time if they don't make early preparation. If you start to see water in your yard, get out, take your family and get to safety. This water could rise very, very quickly. We will have additional flood boats out and about rescuing people and getting people to safety. We have additional personnel arriving from other States today. But we need to make sure that we're working with them. We shouldn't be deliberately testing them, we should be doing everything in our own power to protect ourselves and leaving our emergency people to deal with the absolute extreme cases.

**JOURNALIST:** You said the Island may break away, can you also confirm reports that the Oxley's restaurant may sink and also the Wesley Hospital may need to be evacuated.

**PREMIER:** Yes I can confirm Oxley's wharf restaurant is likely to sink some time likely to sink today. Salvage efforts were being made yesterday, but in the interest of safety those efforts have now stopped and it is nothing further can be done for that restaurant. And it is likely - it is however moored to the banks of the river with very strong steel cables.

What is happening is those cables are pulling the restaurant down into the river. So it is very likely we will see that restaurant sink into the river sometime today or overnight.

But it is on to the river bank and my understanding is it is likely to stay there. So the restaurant will be lost but we don't expect to see it break but we will be monitoring that very carefully. In relation to the Wesley Hospital, there is no expectation that the Wesley Hospital will experience flooding, obviously because it's on quite a high hill. Current work is being done just to ensure that the flooding is not likely to isolate that hospital. Obviously hospitals need to be places where we can get supplies and doctors in and out of and medical staff easily. So there is some work being done at the moment just to guarantee that we can continue to get road links into the Wesley Hospital in every possible scenario.

It's not possible to entirely rule out some evacuation of critical patients but that would be an absolute last resort, frankly because obviously that would have its own risks for those. So that is an unlikely but remote possibility.

**JOURNALIST:** Can you say what damage may be caused if the Island does break away from where it's situated at the moment?

**DEPUTY COMMANDER STEWART:** Certainly the options that are open to us is to allow the Island to sink actually and that is not a bad option as long as it stays in place and obviously the maritime experts are looking at and that's exactly the same



with the Oxley Wharf restaurant. It is actually safer to have it in place sunk and to be able to repatriate it later

**JOURNALIST:** There were reports that Suncorp Stadium might be on fire after a transformer shorted out. Do you know anything about that?

**DEPUTY COMMANDER STEWART:** No, I can comment on that, I have no knowledge yet.

**PREMIER:** Sorry, the one other issue I meant to raise which I think is important is I think understands that electricity and water do not mix and Energex will systemically throughout this event be having to shut down power in some parts of the city. They will only do to protect your lives, but it will cause inconvenience and it will make a difficult job of enduring this event more difficult.

And I understand that that is going to try people's patience, but you will only have your power disconnected if it is imperative to save your life and to protect you and your property from what might otherwise be catastrophic electrical events.

So you will be advised by Energex, Energex will be doing updates about areas of the city that will be cut off from electricity and obviously as soon as waters subside they will be reconnected as quickly as possible.

Many part of the CBD are being disconnected today, these are large buildings and they have substations in them, small substations generally in a lot of those large high rise CBD buildings and some of those substations located in basements will flood today and flood quickly and we need to disconnect that power so that means the whole buildings will be without power, so again, people should going to work without checking and going into the city because many of those buildings will be shut down.

**JOURNALIST:** Premier, the weather is so unpredictable, what are your plans for the rest of the day, are you based here or are you planning to be out and about?

**PREMIER:** It's important, I think, for myself and our senior emergency people to be based here at Disaster Co-ordination Centre and be monitoring events, not only here in Brisbane, but across a very large area region of Queensland. As you heard from my earlier report, as massive as the event in Brisbane may be, we have equally significant events in places throughout regional Queensland, escalating situations in Chinchilla, in Texas, in, in Goondiwindi, so we will be monitoring those today as well. Like the Prime Minister I will be looking for the first reasonable and available opportunity to be out talking to people who have affected by this flood. But I think Queenslanders want make sure that the person in charge is in charge today that's where I intend to be.

**JOURNALIST:** Are there any plans to plans to open any more evacuation centres around Brisbane?

**PREMIER:** The Lord Mayor advises me that the two mayor evacuation centres for Brisbane will be the RNA Showgrounds and the QE2 Stadium, but he is equally now working as I speak with a number of major churches in around the Brisbane area, all of whom have facilities such as halls, in local communities often ground where smaller evacuation facilities may be set up, so that process is happening now. I should say that happened spontaneous overnight in Ipswich. There are official evacuation centres in Ipswich but spontaneously local communities have got together, opened up a local church hall, took their sleeping bags down and kept everybody safe, so I thank them for their, for showing a bit in ingenuity there and that's made a big difference to the effort in Ipswich

**JOURNALIST:** Premier, can I just ask, the staff that are coming forward today are they volunteering to help out or are you asking them to and this isn't their primary

role as the defence of nation, so how are they responding to going out and helping people?

**CDF HOUSTON:** Our people are always very very pleased to assist in any disaster response situation, particularly when there's a major emergency such as this. We obviously have permanent people, we also have a large number of reservists who will be involved and as we go forward you will see more and more soldiers out there doing the hard yards and they give their work very willingly, they see it as a very important part of their function as a member of the Defence Force. And I must say I am very very proud of everything they've done thus far and we will be there for the long haul and we will assist as much as we can in the days and weeks ahead. Thank you.

**PREMIER:** Can I also, Angus Houston's comments that the Prime Minister and I were in Theodore the other day with Major General Mick Slater. Mick Slater and I were talking to a number of Defence personnel who were there and he asked them to put up their hand if they were on leave and every hand went up: So these were people who were otherwise on leave and they had come back off leave and were there willingly and very enthusiastically helping in Theodore.

Can I just add that while we are managing an immediate emergency response in a number of places here in South East and the South West, we know there are number of towns who are now over their flood experience and moving very much into the recovery and rebuilding phase. Can I say to all of those towns, Major General Mick Slater and his duties remain with his focus on them. So as Brisbane experiences this, the recovery and rebuilding process, under the leadership of Major General Mick Slater, continues full steam ahead. So we are not delaying that or being diverted by these events in Brisbane. Mick Slater has been already this week out in places like Bundaberg and Emerald and will continue to do so.

The rebuilding effort is happening alongside the emergency effort here in the South East. So to regional Queensland, nothing is being delayed because of these events here in Brisbane. We are looking continuously to rebuild regional Queensland as soon as humanly possible.

**JOURNALIST:** Prime Minister, what assistance will be the Government give for flood mitigation and preventing this sort of disaster happening again?

**PRIME MINISTER:** Well our assistance obviously flows in various stages as the flood hits people and then we move into the recovery stage. Under our Natural Disaster Relief arrangements, what we do, firstly, we provide the emergency payments that I've referred to, then we provide assistance to households, to small businesses, to primary producers, households to deal with the loss of household content and effects, small businesses and primary producers to provide clean-up money and then concessional loans so they can get back on their feet.

Apart from that we've triggered the income support arrangements that I spoke about earlier. And then we move of course to dealing with the infrastructure damage that flood waters have done. We aren't in a position for all parts of Queensland to assess that yet.

We can start doing assessments as flood waters subside and we can see what's happened to roads, to bridges, to essential community infrastructure.

Under our arrangements we can move to better what was there before, they are not simply replacement arrangements, we can provide better than was there before. So for example if we were rebuilding a levee, then there might be a need to make that at a better state in order to resist flood waters.

But all of those assessment are going to have to be done as flood waters subside. It's going to be a major major task, assessing that infrastructure and recovery need. I am pleased that we were able to make Mick Slater available to lead the recovery work here of course, a very senior and distinguished member of our Australian Defence Force.

We will continue as we move to that phase of infrastructure r building to be working in partnership with the Queensland Government and with local government so that we can get the infrastructure back up and in appropriate state for the people of Queensland. That's why I say the task of Federal Government is to stand shoulder to shoulder in these difficult days.

But also for the many many months of recovery and rebuilding to come.

**JOURNALIST:** Premier, will you be expanding Wivenhoe Dam and do you require Federal assistance for that?

**PREMIER:** I think it would be helpful for me to give you some information to understand the enormity of what is on our back door step by way of water. In 1974, when there was no dam and no dam wall, the inflowing into that catchment area and down the Brisbane River were about 1.5 million litres of water. What is now coming through dam is 2.5 million litres of water. Obviously at the end of this event we will do a significant review of Wivenhoe capacity, but I think we need to be realistic about whether any dam could hold back all of 2.5 million litres of water.

What we do know is that dam wall was not there, 2.5 million litres would be coming through Brisbane. So we already have a very significant mitigation effect for this event from the Wivenhoe Dam. We will be looking to assess the capability and performance of the Wivenhoe Dam after this event. We will similarly be looking at sensible, practical flood mitigation across the State.

But I should make point that a number of the river systems that have flooded here in Queensland already have large dams on those rivers. The Emerald flood, for example, the Fairbairn dam is on the system. In the Burnett, the Paradise Dam is there, it was built in 2005. Here in Brisbane, the Wivenhoe Dam and two on the system that went into the St George area.

So there are dams on these river systems. Dams do floods. Dams can help mitigate and minimise some of the impact that might have happened without them. But a dam cannot stop the sort of flood that is coming across the plains the Lockyer Valley and the catchment area into the Wivenhoe system.

**JOURNALIST:** Premier, apologies if you've already answered this question, but last week there was an estimate of around 200,000 people affected by this flood crisis. Now it's obviously affecting both the south-west and south-east, do you have an update on the numbers? Would it be close to a million do you think?

**PREMIER:** Clearly we'll have to do updates and I'm sorry I don't have that figure just yet, we've still got unfolding circumstances. But in Brisbane for example the current modelling predicts 19,700 homes affected. If you took an average of three people in each house, that's directly affected with their properties completely flooded, you're starting to get some very big numbers; similar sorts of 4,000 homes in Ipswich. But when we say affected we also have places where they don't have floodwaters but they are completely cut off. They have not been able to leave the town in some cases now for two and a half weeks and we've been flying supplies, medical supplies and food into them. So these floods have an effect whether they're in your backyard coming through your floorboards or whether you are just isolated and unable to leave your town.



So we will certainly be looking at updating those numbers but the other point I would make is that all of the modelling made earlier, the city of Brisbane and the city of Ipswich are just vastly different than they were in 1974. The city of Brisbane is a major capital, home to more than a million people in the direct area, so there is going to be a very big effect.

**JOURNALIST:** Premier it's only early but is the water responding to those computer models that the projections are based on? Is it doing exactly what the computer thought it would?

**PREMIER:** To date the predictions are proving to be very accurate, particularly about river levels. The hydrologists predicted that Ipswich would get to somewhere between 18 and 19 metres around midnight last night, it got to about 17.5 and by 4am this morning it was 18.9, and so within a couple of hours they're very high levels of precision.

In terms of where the flood water is going, the early flood water seems to be going according to prediction but we really have to see I think this afternoon as it starts to increase the pace at which it moves. And if you're never anywhere any of the coloured lines on those maps, even if you're not directly in that area, you should be ready to take precautions and be ready to move if you need to.

**JOURNALIST:** There's been examples of panic buying, does that sort of concern you when so much of the rescue response is so well organised with evacuation centres being set up? And secondly when you have so many organisations and people pitching in a working together, how do you react when you hear reports of looting?

**PREMIER:** Look the people of Brisbane and Ipswich have had a relatively short amount of time to prepare for this event and if they've gone out and stocked up their homes with groceries then that was exactly the right thing to. The last thing we want is supermarkets full of food and people completely isolated without food and unable to access it. So for many people going out yesterday and stocking up their food supplies, getting their prescriptions filled et cetera was a very prudent preparation to make.

So I would necessarily assume that because supermarket shelves are empty that people have been irresponsible or panic buying. It is appropriate in these events, shops are likely to be closed for many days. People may not have floodwater in their own homes but may be cut off from getting out of their neighbourhood and getting to supplies.

So if people have got enough supplies in their home then we don't need to use emergency resources and send the SES or other people in by flood boat to supply them. So it's actually smart thinking and as I said I am happy if there's empty supermarket shelves, it means right now that people have grocery supplies in their homes.

In relation to looting, look I don't think there's any word bad enough for the people who do these sorts of things. These people are out of their home in the most dire of circumstances. They've had to flee in the middle of the night. They've had little to take with them and whatever is left in their homes I want that there when they get home. So anybody who sees any of this sort of activity, please report to it the police. Police are out and about patrolling and they will be in the days to come to prevent this sort of activity. I think the entire

community reacts with disgust when we see people take advantage of those people who are suffering this event.

**JOURNALIST:** Premier we've heard about the possible outbreak of disease following these floods. Has preparation been put into place for this?

**PREMIER:** Across Queensland we've had a very major supply operation over the last week of additional Tetanus shots, Hepatitis B and supplies of mosquito repellent because obviously in some parts we're worried about mosquito borne diseases.

So these supplies have been out there, doctors and health centres and clinics have been ensuring that people who are involved in the clean-up are assisted to know what they should be doing; obviously it's things like rubber gloves as well.

I should say that as the clean-up starts people should going into muddy, wet areas in thongs, it can mean you're going to be standing on glass and metal and often it's those cuts after a flood that make people more at risk of serious infection.

To date while we have seen some of those sorts of incidents they've been relatively minor, we haven't seen any large scale public health issues. So the one other message that I did want to get out and if you guys can help that would be great.

It seems completely ridiculous that I would be saying to people in this circumstance that we should conserve water. We have massive amounts of water flowing past our doorsteps, however it is possible that our water treatment plants could be affected by this flood and we may see some issues around drinking water in days to come. So people should be conserving water so that those water treatment plants that are working can continue to supply the volumes that we need. Those people who can get bottled in we will be able to get supplies of bottled water through the ADF.

So it's not any reason to panic, but now's not time, as crazy as it sounds, now is not a time to be wasting water because we don't quite know what might happen with our water supply as water treatment plants become affected. We have more than one water treatment plant in Brisbane, they won't all be affected, but we might have a limiting of supply in the days after. So please don't go drawing on that water supply any more than you need to, as strange as that might seem.

**PRIME MINISTER:** Can I, just to add two factual things just prompted by the various questions. The Federal Government has triggered our health incident centre so that will obviously work alongside Queensland on any necessary public health response. And as the Premier said lots of people did go and stock up the groceries yesterday, that meant a lot of people were therefore using ATMs, and there have been reports of ATMs that are out of cash.

We're aware of those reports and the Reserve Bank will be working with our banking system with obviously the individual banks to ensure that there are cash supplies, but it is possible that people could go to a location today where they normally go to access cash and find that

the ATM doesn't have cash for them, and if they needed to access cash then obviously they may have to look at another ATM to do that. But the Reserve Bank will be working with our banks on ensuring that cash supply is maintained.

BLIGH: Ok folks, thank you very much. We will do another 2 hourly update at 11:30am in this room.

Thank you.

**[ENDS]**



SECURITY CLASSIFICATION "A"INFORMATION

AMB-07

CAB Final Sub No. 7747  
Copy No. 20 17/01/2011  
Archives Copy  
Class 'A' (1896084)COVER SHEET**TITLE**

Commission of Inquiry into the Queensland 2010/2011 Floods

**MINISTER**

Premier and Minister for the Arts

Attorney General and Minister for Industrial Relations

**OBJECTIVE**

To establish a Commission of Inquiry under the *Commissions of Inquiry Act 1950* into the Queensland Statewide floods in the December 2010 to January 2011 period.

**SUMMARY**

Queensland has been experiencing significant and dramatic weather events. Following the worst drought in 100 years Queensland has experienced sustained and widespread rainfall events over large areas of the state.

These events resulted in the culmination of 75% of Queensland being disaster declared with the Declarations of a Disaster Situation impacting on 60% of Queensland's population.

The unprecedented widespread flooding has directly or indirectly resulted in 18 deaths. There are currently 13 persons missing with grave concerns held. Communities across the State have been impacted, with approximately 28,000 properties, including 24,648 homes and 3,150 businesses. Over 3,700 homes have been evacuated. 76 Evacuation Centres were established across the state with approximately 7,000 accommodated in these centres. As at 14 January, there were still 2,000 people in 42 Evacuation Centres across the state.

It is critical that the key task of government remains to work across the State to reinstate reconnection to basic utilities to ensure access to services and rebuild the infrastructure necessary to support the community. In parallel, and without interrupting the key task at this time, it is important that a review is undertaken into the response and preparedness into the disaster.

A Commission of Inquiry constituted under the *Commissions of Inquiry Act 1950* will enable an independent assessment of the local, State and Federal Governments' response to this disaster.

The Commission will be chaired by Honourable Justice Cate Holmes, a judge of the Queensland Court of Appeal. Two further Commissioners, Mr Jim O'Sullivan AC and Mr Phillip Cummins (a recognised leading expert in the management of dams) will provide additional support and expertise to the Chair of the Commission. Curriculum vitae for each of the recommended Commissioners are at **Attachment 2**.

Terms of Reference for the Commission of Inquiry are at **Attachment 3**.

The Commission's Terms of Reference will require the Commission to deliver:

- an interim report by 1 July 2011 (on matters associated with flood preparedness to enable early recommendations to be implemented before next summer's wet season); and
- its final report by 31 January 2012

The Commission will be asked to inquire into and report on:

- The preparation and planning by governments and emergency services for Floods in Queensland,
- All aspects of the response to the 2010/2011 Flood events, particularly measures taken to inform the community and measures to protect life and private and public property, including;
  - immediate management, response and recovery;
  - resourcing, overall coordination and deployment of personnel and equipment; and
  - adequacy of equipment and communications systems
- The measures to manage the supply of essential services such as power and water during the 2010/2011 flood events
- Adequacy of forecasts and early warning particularly as it related to the flash flooding events in Toowoomba, and the Lockyer and Brisbane Valleys.
- Implementation of the systems operation plans for dams across the state and in particular the Wivenhoe and Somerset release strategy and an assessment of compliance with, and the suitability of the operational procedures relating to flood mitigation and dam safety.
- All aspects of land use planning through local and regional planning systems to minimise property impacts from floods


The Commission of Inquiry is also required to make any recommendations which it considers appropriate, including recommendations to improve:

- The preparation and planning for future flood threats and risks, in particular the prevention of the loss of life.
- The emergency response in natural disaster events.

RECOMMENDATIONS

See ATTACHMENT 1.

ANNA BLIGH MP  
Premier and Minister for the Arts



CAMERON DICK MP  
Attorney-General and Minister for  
Industrial Relations

Date:

17 JAN 2011



## RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Cabinet:

1. Approve a recommendation to the Governor in Council that a Commission of Inquiry be established under the *Commissions of Inquiry Act 1950* to review matters related to the December 2010 / January 2011 flood events in Queensland.
2. Approve a recommendation to the Governor in Council that the Commission be chaired by the Honourable Justice Cate Holmes, and the appointment of two further Commissioners, Mr Jim O'Sullivan AC and Mr Phillip Cummins.
3. Note that the Premier will issue a media release on the Queensland Response to Summer Floods 2010/ 2011, at a time to be determined by the Premier.
4. Note that a Cabinet Budget Review Committee submission will be prepared on funding of the Commission of Inquiry.
5. Note that findings of the July 2011 interim report will form the basis of a further submission to Cabinet.

---

## **BODY OF SUBMISSION**

### **OBJECTIVE**

1. To establish a Commission of Inquiry under the *Commissions of Inquiry Act 1950* into the Queensland state-wide floods in the December 2010 to January 2011 period.

### **BACKGROUND**

#### **Purpose of the Strategy**

2. The Commission of Inquiry will be established to provide information to all levels of government on any improvements can be made in response to the Floods caused by unseasonal wet weather incidents.
3. The Commission of Inquiry is requested to provide an interim report prior to the next Queensland wet season.

#### **Stakeholder and community consultation**

4. There has been no public consultation. The Commission will determine the format for community engagement
- **Previous Consideration by Cabinet**
5. This matter has not previously considered by Cabinet.

### **URGENCY**

6. Establishment of the Commission is required immediately so that an interim report can be ready prior to the next wet season.

### **ISSUES**

7. There will be a number of views on the scope of the terms of reference for the Commission. The terms of reference have been framed to ensure a focus on measures to preserve life and property that can be implemented across all levels of government.
8. The terms of reference do not extend to the reconstruction of public and private infrastructure as this will be the responsibility of the Rebuilding Queensland Authority, which is the subject of a separate Cabinet submission for consideration on 15 January 2011.

#### **Financial Issues**

9. The key financial consideration is the immediate cost of establishing and conducting the inquiry. A CBRC submission will be prepared to detail the cost of running the Flood Commission of Inquiry.

- 
10. The Commission will hand down an Interim report in July 2011 which may require immediate actions in preparation for the next wet season, at which time a further Cabinet and CBRC submission may be required.

**Implementation**

11. The establishment of the Commission will be managed by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

**CONSULTATION**

12. No consultation has occurred.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATION**

13. The Premier will publicly announce the establishment of the Commission of Inquiry and release the Commission's Terms of Reference by media announcement at a time to be determined by the Premier.



## CURRICULUM VITAE

**1. Proposed Position:**



**2. Name:**

CUMMINS, Phillip James

**3. Date of Birth:**



**4. Nationality**

Australian

**5. Education:**

Bachelor of Engineering (Civil) with Honours, University of Melbourne, 1968

Engineer of Water Supply, Victoria, 1972

**6. Membership in Professional Societies**

Fellow, Institution of Engineers (Australia)

Chartered Professional Engineer

Chairman, International Commission on Large Dams (ICOLD), Committee on the Operation, Maintenance and Rehabilitation of Dams.

Past Member ICOLD Committee on Governance

Corresponding Member ICOLD Committee on Small Dams

Past Chairman, Australian National Committee on Large Dams Inc (ANCOLD)

Past member various ICOLD and ANCOLD Committees

Past Member various Standards Australia committees

**7. Other (dams related) Training**

US Dept of Interior (USBR) Dam Safety, Operation and Maintenance, 1987

Monash University: Finite Element Methods, 1973

Queensland University: Analysis of Continua, 1975

University of New South Wales: Instrumentation of Geotechnical Structures. 1975

Australian Geomechanics Society – Instrumentation of Geotechnical Structures 1979

**8. Countries of Work Experience**

Australia, Ethiopia, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Zambia.

**9. Languages**

English

## 10. Employment Record

### Position Held and Description of Duties:

#### January 2004 - Current

SMEC Australia Pty Ltd / Goulburn-Murray Water / ACTPLA

#### Chief Technical Principal / Senior Principal (Dams) / Dam Safety Regulatory Advisor

- MDBC / MDBA – 1994-2011 Member of the Hume Dartmouth Technical Review Committee / Dams Technical Review Committee
- Queensland – 2010 Reviewer Charleville Flood Study
- NSW – 2010 Review of Moolarben Creek Dam for Ulan Coal
- Queensland 2009-10 Technical Mediator between the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and Queensland Mining Council et al on Tailings Dams design standards.
- Victoria – 2010-2011 Advisor on the Living Murray forest watering project at Hattah Kulkyne National Park and Gunbower Forest.
- ACT – 2008-11. Advisor to ACTPLA on Dam Safety Regulation in respect of the Enlarged Cotter Dam Project.
- NSW – 2009 Independent Advisor, Woolshed Farm Dam failure. (Australian Water Engineering).
- Sudan – 2009 Bahri El Jebel Hydro Power Project - Peer Review on Selection of Dam Types
- Queensland – 2009-10 Wyaralong Dam Review Board (Queensland Water Infrastructure).
- New Zealand – 2009 Lake Hawea Reservoir filter risk assessment
- Victoria – 2008 Reviewer Gippsland Water Rehabilitation
  - Moondarra Dam
  - Morwell High level Storage(Buckley's Hill)
- Victoria – 2008-10 Member of the Victorian Dam Safety Regulation Review Board reporting to government on the effectiveness of existing regulations and recommendations for improvement.
- Queensland – 2008 – Review of Springfield lake High level Dam
- New Caledonia – 2008 – Review of Environmental protection Structures – Koniambo Mine
- Queensland – 2007/08 Review of Traveston Crossing Dam Design and Investigation Processes
- Victoria – 2007/10 Goulburn-Murray Water Review Panel
  - Dartmouth Spillway Augmentation
  - Review of Goulburn Weir Ground Anchors
  - Review Panel - Laanecoorie Weir Dam Safety Works
  - Review Panel – Cairn Curran Outlet Tower rehabilitation
  - Review Panel – William Hovell Dam Safety Works
- Queensland – 2006/08 Member, Review Panel Manchester Dam Rehabilitation
- Malaysia – 2007 – Ulu Terengganu – Hydro-Power Development – Risk Assessment
- Queensland – 2007/8 Project Reviewer
  - Logan River Valley Early Works
  - Bromelton Off-Stream Storage filter design
- Canberra - 2006/07/08 Murray Darling Basin Commission -Lower

Murray Structures Audit

- Victoria – 2007 – Southern Rural Water – Macalister River Flood and Glenmaggie Operations Review.
- Victoria – 2006/11 – Goulburn Murray Water – Senior Principal Engineer Dam Safety – Staff Development and Project Review
  - Dartmouth Low Level Outlet – Emergency operation
  - Dartmouth – Opportunity Works
  - Dartmouth Low Level Tower – Structural Analysis
  - Yarrawonga Weir – Instrumentation review
  - Mildura Weir – Safety Review
  - Cairn Curran Dam – Outlet Review
  - Newlyn Reservoir – Spillway Review
  - Goulburn Weir – Anchor failure investigation
  - Torrumbarry Weir – Safety Review
  - Laanecoorie Weir – Safety Upgrade
  - Waranga Reservoir – Wave protection
  - Dam Safety Program – Audit
  - Buffalo Dam – Safety Review
  - Eildon Spillway Operational Review.
- Sri Lanka – 2007 – Department of Water Resources – Guest lecturer on Dam Safety
- Sri Lanka – 2007 – Risk Assessment Specialist - National Water Resource Development Project
- Melbourne - 2006 – Association of Technical Universities – Guest lecturer on Dam Safety
- Malaysia – 2006 – Course Director / Principal Lecturer -Short Course on Dam Safety – Tanaga Nasional Berhad.
- Western Australia – 2006 – Development of an alternative risk management structure for the WA Government.
- South Australia – 2006 – Technical Review – Lower Murray (Chowilla Creek) Environmental Upgrade.
- Mongolia – 2006 – Oyo Tolgoi Mine – Design Review of Emergency Raw Water Storage.
- Victoria – 2005/6 – Dartmouth Dam (earth and rockfill) – Risk assessment review, review of remedial works.
- Uganda – 2005/6 – Dam Safety Framework. Recommend appropriate legislation, regulations and administrative arrangements for national dam safety management. Determination of national dam safety risk profile.
- Ethiopia – 2004/5 – Dam Safety Review of 23 dams.
- Sri Lanka – 2004 – Unnichchai Tank (ancient mixed construction) - Design review
- Nepal – 2004 – West Seti Dam (concrete faced rockfill). Design review / Project planning
- New Zealand - 2003/6 – Opuha Dam (zoned gravel) – Dam Safety Assessment, Risk Analysis, Remediation design and management review. Expert witness. Project Management advice for rehabilitation project.

**July 1995 – January 2004**

SMEC Victoria Pty Ltd

**Position Held and Description of Duties:**

**Managing Director**

As Managing Director responsible for the initiation and development of



SMEC Victoria. Management of the Victorian operations of SMEC.

Management of the Torrumbarry Weir Replacement Project (Murray River) - six radial gates 6m x 11m (concrete gravity weir, zoned earthfill dam, on behalf of Goulburn-Murray Water. Particular responsibility for the co-ordination and quality control of all design activities.

Concept development / design development and management Morwell River Diversion project (35 m high, 3km zoned aqueduct). Awarded Institution of Engineers, Australia, Excellence Award.

Project Manager Hume Dam Rehabilitation Project (concrete cored embankment)

Principal reviewer Wartook Rehabilitation (puddle clay cored dam)

Business Risk Assessment of water resource systems.

Safety Review of Dams for Goulburn-Murray Water, Murray-Darling Basin Commission, Kiewa Murray Water, Wimmera Mallee Water, Western Water, Melbourne Water, Central Highlands Water, Coliban Water, NSW Department of Land and Water Conservation, Department of Sustainability, Gippsland Water, South Gippsland Water (over 200 dams).

Member of the Hume-Dartmouth Technical Review Panel with responsibility to advise the Murray-Darling Basin Commission on the quality and significance of all review activities undertaken by their consultants.

Project review / technical expert / expert witness for a number of cases involving embankment dams and sewage winter storages.

- PNG – 2004 – Yonki Project (earth and rockfill). Dam Safety Review – Instrumentation and Monitoring Phase.
- Victoria – 2004 – Coliban Water – Audit of headworks management program.
- Queensland - 2003/5 – Eidsvold Weir (roller compacted concrete) – design director and reviewer.
- Victoria – 2003/6 – Pykes Creek Dam (zoned earthfill) – reviews of risk assessment and remedial works.
- Queensland – 2003/5 – Burnett River (roller compacted concrete) – review of risk assessment.
- Queensland – 2003/5 – Ross River Dam (zoned earthfill – review of risk assessment)
- Zambia – 2003 Copperbelt Tailings Dams – emergency works – concept and design development.
- Iran – 2003 – Concept development for hazard management in major power supply projects – dambreak / population consequences.
- Queensland – 2002/6 – Gold Creek Dam (puddle clay cored) – emergency review, risk assessment, design of remedial works.
- Australia 1994/2006 – Member Hume-Dartmouth Technical Review Committee. Review panel for Hume and Dartmouth upgrades.
- South Australia – 2000 – Audit of Murray Darling Basin Commission – Lower Murray Structures (approx 30).
- United Arab Emirates – 2001 - Flood Protection Dams (rockfill) – concept development.

- Lesotho - 1997 - Mohale Dam (concrete faced rockfill) – Instrumentation Review

**Position Held and Description of Duties:**

**November 1990 – June 1995**

Rural Water Corporation (previously known as Rural Water Commission of Victoria and State Rivers and Water Supply Commission, Victoria)

**General Manager, HydroTechnology**

Responsible to the Managing Director of the Rural Water Corporation for the commercialisation of technical and scientific services within the Corporation. Responsibilities include the provision of high level technical advice on natural resource management and on the development, maintenance and surveillance of the Corporation's large dams and other major assets. The Corporation's asset base was approximately \$US 3.5 Billion.

Management of a wide variety of external consultancies including overseas projects in Indonesia (Bah Bolon Flood Protection, Irrigation and Community Development), Fiji (Water Supply augmentation) and Turkey (Sanliurfa).

**Director, Technical Services**

Responsible to the General Manager for the management of Technical Services Division. A member of the corporate management team with the function of assisting the General Manager in the management of the Commission.

This Division provided engineering design services and survey support to the Commission's Operations Division and the water industry in general. This responsibility included management of the Commission's major structure surveillance program and oversight of the structure augmentation and rehabilitation programs.

In addition it included:

- The State Water Laboratory which conducted water quality testing and testing of water supply related materials for all Victorian water authorities as well as providing advice on water quality management.
- Investigations Branch undertook water resource assessments, hydrological, geological and hydrogeological investigations for the Commission. The Division was also responsible for the Salinity Management Program, Groundwater Management and the provision of Irrigation Support Services.
- Major dam projects undertaken included Malmsbury Spillway rehabilitation and enlargement, Upper Coliban raising and spillway restoration, Eildon valve and cylinder gate replacement.
- Design reviews carried out on a large number of Commission and water authority dams.

**August 1988 – November 1990**

Rural Water Commission of Victoria (previously known as State Rivers and Supply Commission, Victoria)

**Position Held and Description of Duties:**

**Chief Designing Engineer**

Responsible to the Director, Technical Services, for the management of all Civil, Mechanical and Electrical Engineering design projects and

for the implementation of all electrical works in the Commission. This involved the setting and monitoring of design standards, the resourcing and implementation of design projects, the maintenance of quality control processes and the auditing of all complex design projects undertaken by the Commission.

The provision of high level technical advice on natural resource management issues and policy development were also key tasks undertaken.

Due to the increasing shortage of resources to undertake major rehabilitation works it was necessary to develop techniques to assess hazards and associated risks in order to determine work priorities.

Significant projects undertaken in this time included the development of drainage strategies associated with salinisation of irrigation areas, hydrology and hydraulics of dam rehabilitation works.

An unusual activity during this time was the management of the investigations and design following a major incident in the Dartmouth Power Station. This included the assessment of damage to the major outlet and the undertaking of considerable repairs leading to the recommissioning of the outlet within five months.

#### **March 1980 – August 1988**

Rural Water Commission of Victoria / State Rivers and Water Supply Commission, Victoria

#### **Position Held and Description of Duties:**

##### **Principal Designing Engineer, Dams and Major Infrastructure**

Responsible to the Chief Designing Engineer for the management of the Design Services Section, consisting of approximately 22 engineers and associated draughting and other resources.

**New Dam Projects:** The major new dams completed in this time were Blue Rock Dam (sloping cored earth and rockfill), Sandhurst Reservoir (zoned earthfill) and Warrnambool Reservoir (earthfill).

**Dam Rehabilitation Projects:** During this period major rehabilitation work was undertaken on Goulburn Weir (concrete gravity, large radial gates plus vertical lift gates), Malmsbury Reservoir (zoned earthfill, vertical lift gates) and Glenmaggie Dam (Curved concrete gravity), while Lance Creek Reservoir (earthfill with sloping cored earth and rockfill extension) and Merrimu Reservoir (earth and rockfill with dispersive clay core) underwent major raisings. Minor works were undertaken on Eildon (earth and rockfill), Melton (concrete cored puddle clay), Nillahcootie (earth and rockfill) and Mokoan (zoned earthfill). Goulburn Weir design won the 1988 Institution of Engineers, Victoria Division, Award for Engineering Excellence. Detailed studies were also been carried out for Hume Dam (concrete cored rockfill), Lauriston Dam (concrete slab and buttress) and Cairn Curran Dam (earth and rockfill).

**Irrigation Projects:** The principal irrigation projects were the pipelining of the Boisdale area, continuation of the Goulburn area channel rehabilitation and channel capacity works. Minor projects included replacements of structures and remodelling of short sections of channel. Much was done to bring the standard structures into line with current code requirements.

**Drainage Projects:** Drainage of the Lockington, Ardmona and Wyuna areas continued, while a methodology was developed to



determine the economic value of drainage of agricultural land. This greatly contributed to the development of a drainage strategy for the Shepparton Region.

**Urban Design:** The branch continued to design major items for the Mornington Peninsular Water Board. This included tanks, pipelines and foundations. A similar type of work was carried out for the Commission's stock and domestic system.

**Environmental Studies:** Environmental Effects Studies were completed for the proposed Broken River Diversion Project (concrete gravity) and the enlargement of Upper Coliban Dam (zoned earthfill, concrete faced earthfill raising).

**Hydro-Electric Studies:** Studies of hydro-electric potential at Eildon Pondage and Blue Rock Dam were completed. Some work was also completed in connection with Yarrawonga Weir.

**Dam Surveillance:** A dam surveillance methodology was developed and a computer program produced to report any unusual instrumentation readings. A programme for safety evaluation of existing dams was instigated (105 dams including 30 large dams).

**Overseas Projects:** The branch was involved in the Bah Bolon Project in Indonesia and this has involved spending several months in North Sumatra developing the concepts for the major structures (earth canals, concrete gravity control structures) and advising the project team on hydraulics, geomechanics and construction quality control.

**Consulting:** Work was carried out for the Mornington Peninsula Water Board, the Geelong Water Board, the Latrobe Valley Water and Sewerage Board and other water boards. This varied from major storage enlargements to small elevated tanks and has included the safety evaluation of large dams.

#### **June 1976 – February 1980**

State Rivers and Water Supply Commission, Victoria

#### **Position Held and Description of Duties:**

**Senior Designing Engineer (Major Works)**

**Senior Designing Engineer (Dartmouth Dam Project)**

Responsible to the Principal Designing Engineer for the management of the Major Projects Group.

Principal responsibilities during this time were the design of the access road to the Mitchell River Project (concrete faced rockfill) and Blue Rock Dam (earth and rockfill). The development of standards for contract specifications were an important part of this work and permitted the Commission to transition from day-labour to contract construction without serious problems.

#### **January 1968 – June 1976**

State Rivers and Water Supply Commission, Victoria

#### **Position Held and Description of Duties:**

**Designing Engineer (Geomechanics)**

**Site Engineer**

**Assistant Engineer**



CAB Dec No. 9689  
Copy No. 20 17/01/2011  
Archives Copy  
'White' - 'A' (1896084)

SECRET

CABINET DECISION

Brisbane, 17 January 2011

Decision No. : 9689, (Submission No.: 7747)

TITLE: Commission of Inquiry into the Queensland 2010-2011 Floods

CABINET decided:

1. To approve a recommendation to the Governor in Council that a Commission of Inquiry be established under the *Commissions of Inquiry Act 1950* to review matters related to the December 2010 / January 2011 flood events in Queensland.
2. To approve a recommendation to the Governor in Council that the Commission be chaired by the Honourable Justice Cate Holmes, and the appointment of two further Commissioners, Mr Jim O'Sullivan AC and Mr Phillip Cummins as deputy Commissioners.
3. To note that the Premier and Minister for the Arts will issue a media release on the establishment of the Commission of Inquiry at a time determined by the Premier and Minister for the Arts.
4. To endorse a funding allocation of \$15 million for the Commission of Inquiry.
5. To note that findings of the July 2011 interim report will form the basis of a further submission to Cabinet.

CIRCULATION:

Implementation Responsibility

Department of the Premier and Cabinet and copy to the Premier and Minister for the Arts

Department of Justice and Attorney-General and copy to the Attorney-General and Minister for Industrial Relations

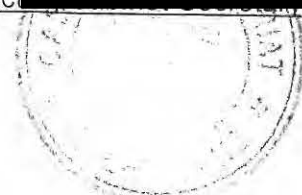
Departmental Records

Nil

Perusal and Return

All other Ministers and Chief Executives

Act



CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

Your ref: [REDACTED]  
Our ref: [REDACTED]  
Contact: Paul Lack  
Direct ph: 07 [REDACTED]  
Direct fax: 07 [REDACTED]

Department of  
**Justice and Attorney-General**

07 February 2012

Ms Kyla Hayden  
Director, Legal and Research Services  
Qld Floods Commission of Inquiry  
Level 30, 400 George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Kyla

**Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry - State Representation  
Requirement no. 1839713, Statement of the Honourable Anna Bligh MP**

I refer to my letter dated 6 February 2012 enclosing the statement of the Premier, the Honourable Anna Bligh MP. I now **enclose** the CVs of the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner O'Sullivan which were not attached to AMB-07 of the Premier's statement.

As stated in my letter dated 6 February 2012, I confirm that I have been instructed by the Premier to inform you that she has no objection to her statement with its attachments, including the Cabinet submission and decision, being published in full on the Commission's website.

[REDACTED]  
Paul Lack  
Assistant Crown Solicitor  
for **Crown Solicitor**

**encl**

State Law Building  
50 Ann Street  
GPO Box 5221 Brisbane  
Queensland 4001 Australia  
DX 40121 Brisbane Uptown  
**Telephone 07 3239 6703**  
**Facsimile 07 3239 0407**  
ABN 13 846 673 994



**Curriculum Vitae****The Honourable Justice Catherine E Holmes****Date of Birth**

12 October, 1956

**Schooling**

- Oxley State High School, Oxley (1973)
- Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College, Corinda (1971)

**University Education**

- Master of Laws (Adv), University of Queensland (1998)
- Bachelor of Arts (Hons), University of Queensland (1989)
- Graduate Diploma of Legal Practice, Queensland Institute of Technology (1983)
- Bachelor of Laws, University of Queensland (1980)
- Bachelor of Economics, Australian National University (1977)

**Judicial Career**

- Judge, Queensland Court of Appeal (2006–)
- Judge, Queensland Mental Health Court (2004–2006)
- Judge, Supreme Court of Queensland (2000–2006)
- Acting Judge, District Court of Queensland (1999)

**Pre-judicial Career**

- Appointed Senior Counsel (1999)
- Counsel Assisting the Forde Commission of Inquiry into Child Abuse (1998–1999)
- Deputy President, Queensland Community Corrections Board (1997)
- Part-time Member, Anti-Discrimination Tribunal (1994–2000)
- Crown Prosecutor, Office of Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions (1984–1986)
- Foundation Member, Women's Legal Service Queensland (1984)
- Admitted as a Barrister of the Supreme Court of Queensland (1984)
- Admitted as a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Queensland (1982)

**O'SULLIVAN (Jim) James Patrick**

AC 2001, APM, Hon. DUniv (Griffith Univ.), Hon. DUniv (QUT)

**Career:** Memb. Bd of Inquiry Into the Death of Private Kovco in Baghdad 2006, Naval Bd of Inquiry Into the Death of a Soldier in Kuwait 2006, Hd NT Police Service Review 2003, Bd Memb, Gurr Naval Inquiry 2002, Commsnr Qld Police Svce 1992-2000

**Parents:** [REDACTED]

**Birth Details:** [REDACTED]

**Awards:** recipient Centenary Medal 2003, Nat. Medal Aust., Qld Police Svce Medal, recipient Premier Qld Medal for dedicated svce to the people of Qld, recipient AC for svce to law enforcement and commitment to excellence in reshaping and introducing wide-ranging reform to the Qld Police Svce 2001

**Marriage/Partnership:** [REDACTED]

**Children:** [REDACTED]

**Clubs:** [REDACTED]

**Committees:** [REDACTED]

**Recreations:** [REDACTED]

**Address:** [REDACTED]