

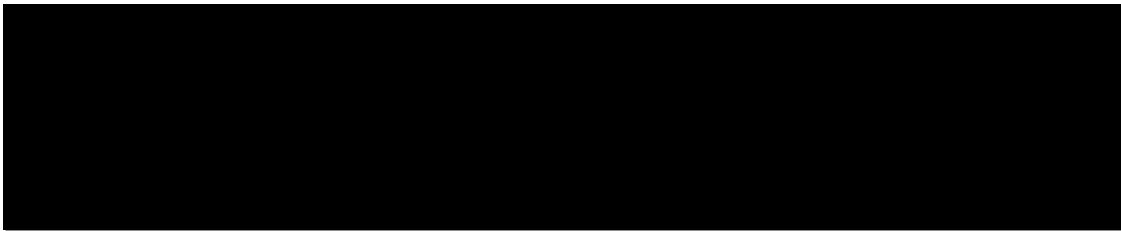
<i>Name of Witness</i>	Anthony Charles LEIGHTON
<i>Date of Birth</i>	[REDACTED]
<i>Address and contact details</i>	[REDACTED]
<i>Occupation</i>	Commercial manager
<i>Officer taking statement</i>	Detective Sergeant Stephen Platz
<i>Date taken</i>	06/09/2011

**Anthony Charles LEIGHTON states:**

1. I am a Commercial Manager and owner of a low level multi-room dwelling house located at [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] I live at this address with my wife, Karen and two children.  
Between 1999 and 2001 the land, on which our two acre block is located, was subdivided for residential development. I believe that in 2002 the building application for the previous owners was approved and they built the house. In April 2008 we purchased the property from the previous owners.
2. The area is surrounded by further residential development including some small commercial development such as a child care centre and the shopping centre. Our house was constructed on a small pad built up by the developers to the lowest allowable building level with respect to the Q100 line. Our 150 metre driveway is shared amongst three houses but is a full 10 metres lower than the house pad. The Brisbane River runs about 500 metres to our east and is separated from us by what used to be the Moggill golf course.
3. At the time of purchasing our property we made the normal conveyancing checks through a solicitor at Goodna, Chris WLODARCZYK. I was made aware that the property was at the 1 in 100 year flood line but I am unsure how I came by this information. I was not made aware of any previous flooding in recent history and up until the 2011 flood; we have not had any flood related issues.

Witness Signature. [REDACTED] ..... Signature of officer .....  
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400 George Street Brisbane  
GPO Box 1738 Brisbane  
Queensland 4001 Australia  
Telephone 1300 309 634  
Facsimile +61 7 3405 9750  
[www.floodcommission.qld.gov.au](http://www.floodcommission.qld.gov.au)



5. On the 31<sup>st</sup> of October 2008 I received a letter from the Brisbane City Council which was addressed to the previous owner. This letter was a notice of development to the surrounding residents outlining a proposed residential development on the land that runs to the rear of my property, 108, 120 and 126 Weekes Road, Moggill. I am able to produce this letter.

**Exhibit: Letter dated 31<sup>st</sup> October 2008 from Brisbane City Council outlining proposed development at Weekes Road.**


**Marked Exhibit No/....**

6. In 2009 I had concerns about the dangers posed to my family, in the advent of a flood, if the said proposed development was to go ahead. My concern was that the proposed development would effectively block our escape to the rear of my property, which is the highest land in the vicinity. On the 28<sup>th</sup> September 2009 I wrote to the Office of the Lord Mayor expressing my concerns. I am able to produce this letter.

**Exhibit: Letter sent to Brisbane City Council outlining concerns over proposed development at Weekes Road, Bellbowrie.**

**Marked Exhibit No/...**

Sometime after this, in 2009, The Office of the Lord Mayor sent a letter back to us stating that our property had sufficient flood immunity according to their requirements and could not guarantee a right of passage across another person's property. I no longer have this letter.

Witness Signature.  ..... Signature of officer .....  
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7. On Monday the 10<sup>th</sup> day of January 2011 I was at home and had been monitoring the Bureau of Meteorology website which predicted further heavy rain in the Brisbane catchment. I was concerned that the Wivenhoe Dam operators had not released sufficient water from the dam to provide a sufficient flood mitigation buffer for the forthcoming rains. I had a gut feeling that we may experience flooding in our area and began preparing for this possibility. By Monday evening our driveway flooded to about one metre in depth which meant that we couldn't evacuate by vehicle.
8. By dawn on Tuesday the 11<sup>th</sup> day of January 2011 we were concerned for our safety due to the rapidly rising flood waters. At this time a branch of the Brisbane River had now formed in the gully at the front of our house, which was about ~~ninety~~ <sup>fifty</sup> metres wide. The two neighbour's houses and ours were effectively an island and we became concerned for the neighbours two young girls. I helped carry the two girls through the flooded waters surrounding our house to high ground. As one of the girls needed medication, the mother swam back and forwards across the flooded gully multiple times during this day. For the rest of this day we moved as much furniture and other belongings to a nearby hill.
9. By dawn on Wednesday the 12<sup>th</sup> day of January 2011 the Brisbane River had well and truly broken its banks. I would estimate that an expanse of water of 600 metres now flooded our area. The neighbour at number 36 flooded but fortunately, as our house is slightly higher; the water did not enter but was only 10mm from the floor level. At around this time, one of the neighbours called the SES and urgently requested evacuation. By this time we were very concerned and I believed that our situation was becoming more perilous due to the rising flood waters. When the SES arrived we evacuated with our neighbours from number 27, via a narrow bridge of land at the rear of our property and then out of the area via boat.

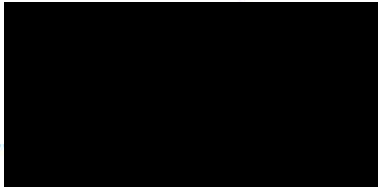



12. Between November 2009 and January 2011 I made a number of communications, via e-mail, to the development manager outlining my concerns for the planned residential development behind my premises. I am able to produce an official BCC acknowledgement letter for my submission and an e-mail thread between myself and the BCC.

**Exhibit: BCC acknowledgment letter for submission from Anthony LEIGHTON and e-mail thread concerning proposed residential development**

**Marked Exhibit No/....**

**A.LEIGHTON**

Justices Act 1886	
I acknowledge by virtue of section 110A(5)(c)(ii) of the Justices Act 1886 that:	
(1)	This written statement by me dated 06/09/2011 and contained in the pages numbered 1 to 5 is true to the best of my knowledge and belief; and
(2)	 that, if it were admitted as evidence, I may be liable to something that I know is false.
.....	.....Signature
Signed at .....Brisbane.....this.....6 <sup>th</sup> .....day of.....September.....2011	

Witness Signature...  ..... Signature of officer .....

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