

Note

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

<i>Name of Witness</i>	Richard Paul ROBINS
<i>Date of Birth</i>	██████████
<i>Address and contact details</i>	██████████ West End ██████████ (H) ██████████ (M)
<i>Occupation</i>	Archaeologist
<i>Officer taking statement</i>	Det Insp Mark Ainsworth
<i>Date taken</i>	22/8/2011

Richard Paul ROBINS states;

1. I am a married man, ██████ years of age and I reside with my wife at ██████
██████████ West End. Our residence is a ground level two story townhouse style residence that looks directly over Riverside Drive to the Brisbane River. The complex we reside in is linked to the unit complex known as ██████████ and is located only a short distance from the Brisbane River which almost adjoins Riverside Drive. My wife and I purchased the residence in 2009 after it was built in 2007. The property falls within the Brisbane City Council jurisdiction. In the near vicinity of our residence is a mixture of other residential premises, industrial premises, sporting sites and parkland.
2. On 13th January, 2011, the Brisbane River broke its banks causing floodwater to enter the first floor living space of our residence to a depth of approximately 43 cm (approximately 6.4 metres AHD). Water completely flooded the garage space located immediately below our first floor.

Witness Signature ██████████

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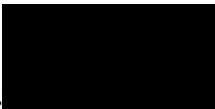
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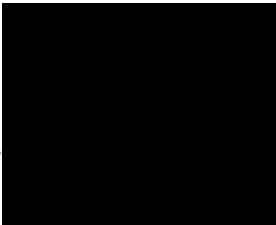
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3. The ground floor of our residence is 5.9AHD. I believe the flood level through our place was at about 6.4 metres. The water initially came through the basement; however water also came in directly from the Brisbane River. Although the Brisbane River caused flooding the drains in the area caused the initial flooding to premises in this area.

4. Prior to purchasing the residence in 2009, I undertook a search of the Brisbane City Councils Flood Watch website to determine the position of the residence with respect to potential future floods. We thought there may be a risk of flooding in the basement and as the building was built e about 60 cm above the 1974 flood height there appeared to be no risk to our main living area. In the Council website it indicated that the minimum habitable floor height should be 5.9 metres and our unit was built above this level. Subsequent surveys have established that this is the height of the lower habital floor of our residence. It also stated that the Q100 height was 5.4 metres and that the Q50 height was 4.4 metres. In other words the floor height of our residence was above the Q100. The 2011 flood height at our property was higher than the Q100, although the 2011 flood is not regarded as a Q100 flood and was less than that of the 1974 flood. The 2011 flood height was greater than that of the 1964 flood by approximately one metre.

***I NOW PRODUCE A COPY OF THE BRISBANE CITY COUNCIL
FLOOD WISE PROPERTY REPORT DATED 11/2/2011.***

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Signature of 

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5. I believe that since 1974, the construction of four bridges, walkways, Southbank, the Cultural Centre, numerous boatsheds/sheds and the growth of mangroves along the river has contributed significantly to the flow of flood waters, thus causing a bottleneck for floodwaters and an increase in flood heights in particular areas. I believe these listed items have contributed to the damming of the river at West End and raised river heights. A previous Council website noted that developers should not ask for the habitable heights to be changed, as the Council had taken into account all of the building works in the area when setting the required habitable building areas.
6. During the January, 2011 floods there was a massive build-up of sand and mud in the mangroves and on the paths along the edge of Riverside Drive. In places these deposits extend out to 15 metres into the river. The deposition of these sediments is indicative of an impediment reducing the velocity of water flow at that point, resulting in the dropping of the rivers sediment load. Such impediments could have had a damming effect resulting in localised increases in flood heights.

I NOW PRODUCE TWO PHOTOGRAPHS DEPICTING MUD AND SAND DEPOSITS AMONGST MANGROVES ALONG RIVERSIDE DRIVE, WEST END.

7. At the time of the January floods we did not receive any coherent or consistent information for the duration of the flooding.

In view of the lack of identifiable flood height indicators, flood heights were meaningless. As it turned out, flood heights issued from the Port Office gauge, only a couple of kilometres from our residence were meaningless as well. Measurements taken at the Port Office Gauge have no bearing on heights 3 kilometres upstream. Whilst the Port Office establishes an important historical reference point, it should be supplemented by other reference points throughout the flooded areas.

8. As a result of the 2011 floods the residents of our unit complex are looking at ways to prevent flooding to heights of about 6.5 metres by building a bund of some form around the building and developing a system to pump out flood water at the rate it came in, in order to maintain low water levels. This system also requires an uninterruptible power source to ensure operation during times of flood. With respect to my own unit we have just finalised repairs replacing plaster walls, wooden floors with tiles, new cabinets for the kitchen, laundry, bathroom and entrance. All areas had to be repainted and decks removed, cleaned and repainted. This has been a very expensive and disruptive exercise.

Recommendations:

9. In considering the circumstances of the 2011 floods I have a number of recommendations I would like to put forward.


Witness Signature..... Signature of officer

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These recommendations are as follows.

- a). That future planning restricts development of infrastructure in public spaces or by government agencies within flood zones. A precautionary principle should apply to all such development whereby it should be demonstrated that such development will not impede future flood water flows. This principle should apply to all floodplain developments on public land from bridge construction and public walkways to playground equipment.
- b). That the concept of the Q100 flood be abandoned or at least significantly modified as a planning tool, as it is clearly inaccurate. It is important now that the heights of the 2011 floods be accurately measured in as many places as possible, utilising aerial photography and ground truthing and mapping, and from anecdotal sources. The existing mapping provided by the Brisbane City Council is inaccurate and out of date.
- c). The concept of referring flood heights from a single point in the City be supplemented with more local reference points. With every flood behaving differently, it is essential to establish a simple system for determining the progress of floods in order for people to make their own decisions about their property and lives. Utilisation of signage posts with heights marked in 50 cm increments and reference to AHD and to previous flood heights, would be most helpful in assisting residents planning in the face of floods.

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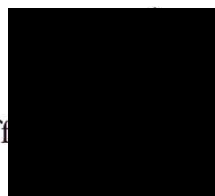
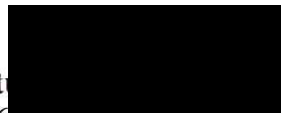
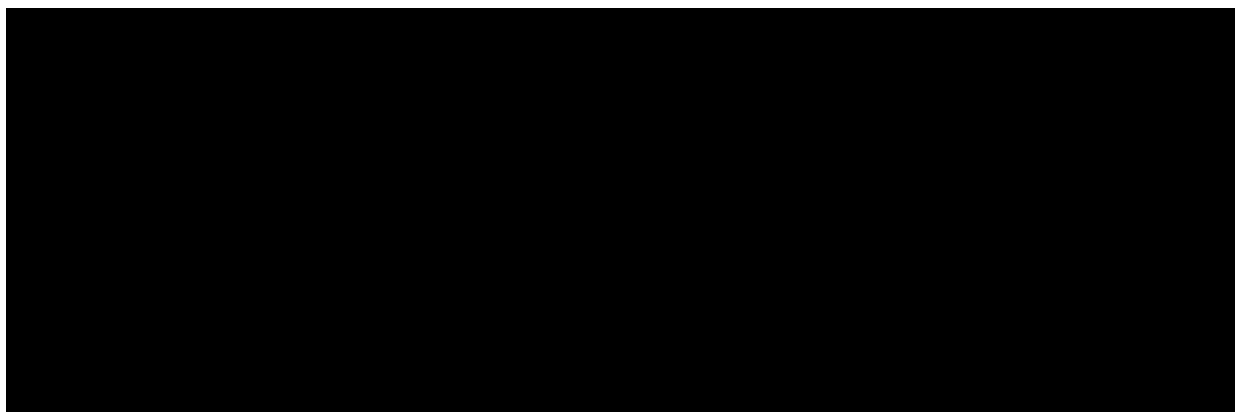
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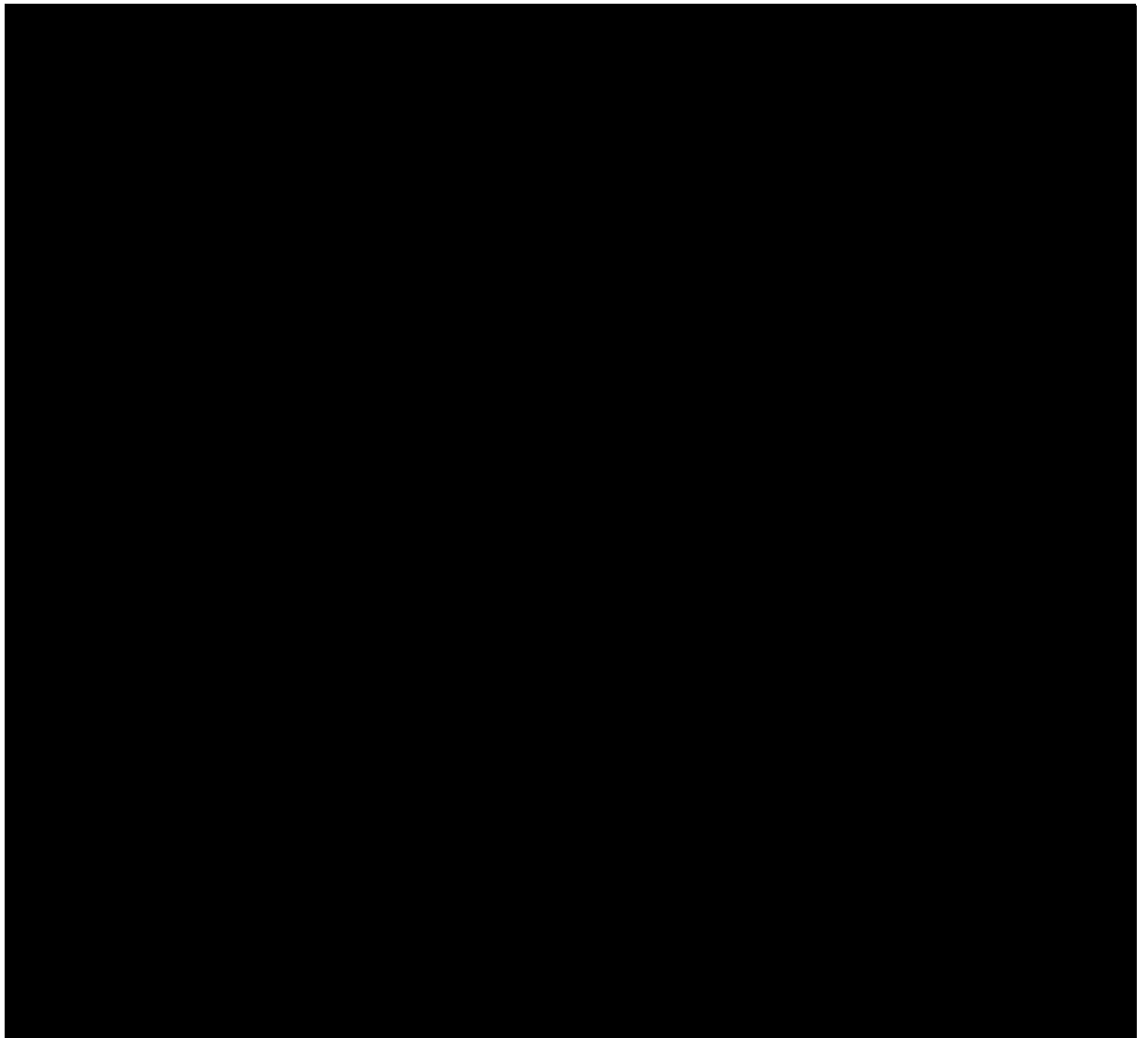
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10.I also consider better management of the Wivenhoe dam is necessary. If I can predict a flood five days before the event, on the basis of available evidence then why couldn't the authorities. I believe there was too much emphasis on the dollar value of water and not on the management of the floods. I also believe that the floodplain needs to be better managed. Instead of seeing it as empty land it should be seen as vacant flood mitigation land first and foremost. Development should be compatible with that aim for example no large sheds or structures that impede floodwaters should be allowed.

11.I believe that with respect to land planning, there needs to be a better data capture and analysis. Every flood will be different, but we need to understand basic predictive factors such as enhanced understanding of river flows. The public needs more accurate and better information as well as better communication standards.

Insurance:





Witness Signature [Redacted]
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Signature of [Redacted]

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I NOW PRODUCE A COPY OF THAT SUBMISSION.

R.P.ROBINS

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 22/8/11 and contained in the pages numbered 1 to 1-8 is true to the best of my knowledge and belief; and
- (2) I make this statement knowing that, if it were admitted as evidence, I may be liable to prosecution for stating in it anything that I know is false.

..........Signature

Signed at Brisbane this 13 day of September 2011

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