



1ST MARCH 2011

To: QLD FLOOD COMMISSION OF INQUIRY,

My name is BARBARA GOSLEY, I WORK

[REDACTED] PEACHY ST. TOOWOOMBA.

I WORK AT [REDACTED] WHICH FACES EAST ON TO PEACHY ST, AND ACROSS TO PARKLAND AND WEST CREEK WATERWAY.

I WAS AT WORK ON JANUARY 10th 2011 WHEN TOOWOOMBA WAS DELUGED BY HEAVY RAIN, CAUSING SEVERE FLOODING AND LOSS OF LIVES. IT WAS 1:50pm I DECIDED TO SEE IF THERE WAS ANY FLOODING AT THE INTERSECTION OF JAMES AND PEACHY ST. IT WAS STARTING TO FLOOD AS THERE WAS HUGE VOLUME OF WATER COMING DOWN OFF THE STREETS, BUT CARS WERE STILL GOING THROUGH OK. I THEN LEFT AND WENT TO LOOK ACROSS THE PARKLAND (FACING EAST) OPPOSITE THE HOSPITAL, THERE WAS NO SIGN OF ^{SEVERE} FLOODING IN THE WEST CREEK WATERWAY, BUT THE TWO WATER PONDS IN THE PARK WERE STARTING TO OVERFLOW ON TO THE FOOTPATHS. "I THOUGHT IT A BIT STRANGE THE CREEK WAS NOT FLOODING WITH THE AMOUNT OF RAIN," ALSO ACROSS FROM THE PARK I COULD SEE CARS STILL DRIVING ALONG WATER STREET, BUT NOTHING TOO BAD. AFTER OBSERVING FOR ABOUT 5 MINUTES I LOOKED FURTHER TO THE SOUTH OF THE PARK TOWARD LONG STREET. WHERE I SAW A HUGE VOLUME OF RED MUDDY WATER GUSHING DOWNSTREAM, UPROOTING FENCES AND THERE SEEMED TO BE A LOT OF DEBRIS COMING DOWNSTREAM ALSO. IT WAS UNBELIEVABLE AND TERRIFYING, I COULDN'T BELIEVE WHAT WAS HAPPENING, I WATCHED IT AS IT SWEEP DOWN WEST CK

LIKE A RAGING TORRENT FLOODING THE WHOLE PARK WITHIN MINUTES.

IT WAS 2.15pm I THEN DECIDED TO GO UP TO LEVEL 6 CORRIDOR AT THE TOP OF THE HOSPITAL FOR A BETTER VIEW, (AS IT FACES SOUTH TO LONG ST.) I COULD NOT BELIEVE WHAT I SAW, THE AREA ACROSS LONG ST. WAS FLOODED AND OVERFLOWING AND WATER WAS RAGING DOWN TOWARDS THE MAIN SHOPPING CENTRE IN TOOWOOMBA. AS THE DETENTION BASIN THAT THE COUNCIL BUILT ABOUT 2 YRS AGO WAS COMPLETELY FULL. IT SEEMED TO ME THE WATER HAD NO WHERE TO GO EXCEPT UNDER THE RAILWAY LINE AND DOWN INTO THE TOWN AREA. THERE WAS A HUGE VOLUME OF WATER BACKED UP THERE! THERE WERE PEOPLE ON THE 6th FLOOR TAKING PHOTOS, BUT UNFORTUNATELY I NEVER HAD A CAMERA, BUT AT THE TIME I WISH I HAD.

AT 3pm WHEN I FINISHED WORK I WALKED DOWN TO THE INTERSECTION OF JAMES AND PEACHY ST. TO OBSERVE WHAT WAS HAPPENING, BY THEN MOST OF THE SHOPS IN PEACHY AND PRESLOT ST WERE FLOODED AND THE ROADS WERE CLOSED TO ALL TRAFFIC, THE BRIDGE IN JAMES ST WAS SUBMERGED AND THE WEST CREEK WAS A RAGING TORRENT TAKING ANYTHING IN ITS PATH.

I THEN LEFT AT 3.15pm TO RETURN HOME AS I LIVE IN RANGEVILLE, I TRAVELLED SOUTH ALONG WEST STREET TO NELSON STREET AND ALONG ROWBOTTOM ST, THERE DIDN'T APPEAR TO BE ANY SEVERE FLOODING ACROSS THE ROADS AS IT WAS STILL RAINING HEAVY AND THERE WAS HUGE AMOUNT OF WATER FLOWING DOWN THE STREETS INTO THE WATER - DRAINS.

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WHEN I ARRIVED HOME AND SAW WHAT HAD HAPPENED ON T.V. TO THE MAIN CENTRAL SHOPPING AREA. "THE MEDIA WAS CALLING IT AN INLAND TSUNAMI." I WAS IN SHOCK AS I HAD NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT. IT WASN'T UNTIL A FEW DAYS LATER I REALIZED WHAT I SAW MAY HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE FLASH FLOODING WITHOUT ANY WARNING, SO I PHONED CHANNEL 10 (OR WIN) TO REPORT WHAT I HAD SEEN. THEY TOLD ME THEY WOULD CONTACT REGIONAL COUNCIL TO INVESTIGATE. I CAN ONLY GIVE THE COMMISSION AN EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT OF WHAT I OBSERVED THAT DAY. I HOPE THIS INFORMATION MAY HELP WITH YOUR INVESTIGATION.

YOURS SINCERELY

