

Williams Lynette

From: Dan Spiller [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 1 March 2011 6:08 PM
To: spiller daniel @ SEQWGM; Bradley John: [REDACTED]; 'Lance McCallum'; 'Geoff Stead'
Cc: 'Rob Drury'; 'Mike Foster'; Best Debbie; Reilly Bob; [REDACTED]; Dennien Barry @ SEQWGM; Lyons Michael @ SEQWGM; [REDACTED]
Subject: Technical Situation Report
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed
Attachments: Technical_Situation_Report_W75.docx

All,

Current Technical Situation Report from Seqwater attached, with information regarding the closure.

Regards,
Dan

Daniel Spiller
Director, Operations
SEQ Water Grid Manager
[REDACTED]

Visit: Level 15, 53 Albert Street Brisbane
Post: PO Box 16205, City East QLD 4002
ABN: 14783 317 630

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1/04/2011

TECHNICAL SITUATION REPORT

TSR Number	W75	Date of TSR release	1.3.11	Time of TSR release	4.00pm
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Seqwater status of inflows and dam operations

Current status but could change based on inflows or rainfall.

Current objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce level in Wivenhoe dam to 75%
Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiate low level releases at around 350 to 400cumecs. This will inundate Twin Bridges, Savages and Colleges Crossings. Maintain access to Burtons bridge Extend releases until the afternoon of Wednesday 2nd March 2011
Key considerations	Storage levels:
	Inflows:
	Rainfall:
	Lockyer/Bremer:
	Brisbane River:

Wivenhoe Dam

- Seqwater will now be start closing the gate at Wivenhoe early Wednesday morning 2 March 2011 finishing around 3pm Wednesday afternoon for fish recovery.
- This will get Wivenhoe down to between 75% and 77%.
- Releases then will be made through a minor gate opening releasing around 30cumecs to release down to 75% and also to release any water from Somerset Dam that may be required.
- This should get all crossings out of water by late Thursday.

Impacts

- Somerset Regional Council, Ipswich Regional Council and Brisbane City Council have been consulted and had raised no issues with the extended release strategy.
- Local Councils are responsible for road closures as a result of spilling dams or controlled releases.

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 were advised.

BoM Technical Officer name	Peter Baddiley
BoM Technical Officer position title	
BoM Technical Officer contact details	

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 strategy

BCC Technical Officer name	Jason Cameron
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 strategy.

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 strategy.

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		Time		or Event	Change
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From: Dan Spiller [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 2 March 2011 4:09 PM
To: Bradley John; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; 'Lance McCallum'; 'Geoff Stead'
Cc: 'Rob Drury'; 'Mike Foster'; Best Debbie; Reilly Bob; [REDACTED];
 Dennien Barry @ SEQWGM; Lyons Michael @ SEQWGM; [REDACTED]
Subject: Technical Situation Report
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed
Attachments: Technical_Situation_Report_W76.docx

All,

Current Technical Situation Report attached. Wivenhoe Dam gates have been closed down to minor ongoing releases, with bridges expected to come out of water during the next 24 hours or so. Current dam level is about 76.3% and releases of 30 to 40 cumecs will continue until 75% is reached, dependent on further rain.

Regards,
 Dan

Daniel Spiller

Director, Operations

SEQ Water Grid Manager

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

Email: [REDACTED]

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Post: PO Box 16205, City East QLD 4002

ABN: 14783 317 630

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1/04/2011

TECHNICAL SITUATION REPORT

TSR Number	W76	Date of TSR release	2.3.11	Time of TSR release	3.00pm
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Seqwater status of inflows and dam operations

Current status but could change based on inflows or rainfall.

Current objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce level in Wivenhoe dam to 75%
Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiate low level releases at around 350 to 400cumecs. This will inundate Twin Bridges, Savages and Colleges Crossings. Maintain access to Burtons bridge Conclude releases at 3pm Wednesday 2nd March 2011
Key considerations	Storage levels:
	Inflows:
	Rainfall:
	Lockyer/Bremer:
	Brisbane River:

Wivenhoe Dam

- Gates at Wivenhoe have now been closed down to ongoing releases of around 30 to 40cumecs.
- This flow will continue to reduce Wivenhoe down to closer to 75% (it is currently around 76.3%) which may take a week or more.
- As Somerset has risen due to recent rains, it will be slowly released in next few days or so through Wivenhoe hence the 30 to 40 cumecs release could extend longer, rainfall dependent.
- This release will not inundate any bridges however the low level Twin Bridges will be monitored.
- It should be noted that Wivenhoe Power Station (Splityard Creek owned by Tarong Energy) is generating and releasing/withdrawing water hence levels in Wivenhoe may fluctuate at times.
- The gates will be used for ongoing normal releases for some time even at low levels as the cone valve is not yet operational until the rocks are removed downstream of Wivenhoe and Stanwell are working on the hydro hence it is not operational either at the moment.

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 were advised.

BoM Technical Officer name	Peter Baddiley
BoM Technical Officer position title	
BoM Technical Officer contact details	

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 strategy

BCC Technical Officer name	Jason Cameron
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 strategy.

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 strategy.

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		Time		or Event	
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[REDACTED]

From: Dan Spiller [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 24 March 2011 5:35 PM
To: Bradley John; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] 'Lance McCallum'; 'Geoff Stead'
Cc: 'Rob Drury'; 'Mike Foster'; Best Debbie; Reilly Bob; [REDACTED]
Dennien Barry @ SEQWGM; Lyons Michael @ SEQWGM; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Technical Situation Report
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Purple
Attachments: Technical_Situation_Report_W78.docx

All,

The report attached to the last email was superseded. Correct version attached.

Dan

From: Dan Spiller
Sent: Thursday, 24 March 2011 5:32 PM
To: 'Bradley John'; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] 'Lance McCallum'; 'Geoff Stead'
Cc: 'Rob Drury'; 'Mike Foster'; [REDACTED] 'Reilly Bob';
[REDACTED]; Barry Dennien; Michael Lyons; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Technical Situation Report

All,

Current Technical Situation Report from Seqwater attached.

Releases will continue at 100 cumecs to bring Wivenhoe Dam down to 75 percent of its FSL.

Regards,
Dan

Daniel Spiller
Director, Operations
SEQ Water Grid Manager

Phone: [REDACTED] | Fax: [REDACTED] | Mobile: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
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ABN: 14783 317 630

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TECHNICAL SITUATION REPORT

TSR Number	W78	Date of TSR release	24.3.11	Time of TSR release	8am
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Seqwater status of inflows and dam operations

Current status but could change based on inflows or rainfall.

Current objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce level in Wivenhoe dam back to 75% using same strategy as 2 weeks ago
Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Releases had reduced Somerset to almost 100% and Wivenhoe close to 75% when rain occurred last weekend. Wivenhoe has gone back up to almost 79 and Somerset to 103%. Release from Wivenhoe at around 100cumecs as the Lockyer flows drop This should return Wivenhoe to 75% within 1 to 2 weeks depending on inflows into both dams and further rain. Will inundate Twin Bridges
Key considerations	Storage levels:
	Inflows:
	Rainfall:
	Lockyer/Bremer:
	Brisbane River:

Wivenhoe and Somerset Dams

- Rainfall of 30 to 60mm occurred over various areas of the catchments over last weekend.
- Releases from Wivenhoe were slowed over the weekend due to flows in the Lockyer, they are now being increased through this week (up from 10 to 70cumecs over last couple days) and will be back to 90 to 100cumecs in a day or so as the Lockyer continues to drop.
- Continue release from Somerset of around 35cumecs until levels approach 100%.
- This will only affect Twin Bridges which has minimal impact on Councils.
- Continue for up to around 2 weeks depending on inflows, rain and downstream flows.
- Discussed with Somerset Council and no real issues.

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 were advised.

BoM Technical Officer name	Peter Baddiley
BoM Technical Officer position title	
BoM Technical Officer contact details	

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 strategy

BCC Technical Officer name	Jason Cameron
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 strategy.

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 strategy.

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		Time		or Event	
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[REDACTED]

From: Hart Randall
Sent: Tuesday, 29 March 2011 6:00 PM
To: Bradley John
Cc: Wall Terry; Birchley Michael; Howard Kate; McIntyre Colleen; Murphy Shari; Brandes Ken
Subject: FW: Courier Mail transcript
John

DERM has performed well in this matter. There were 3 applications made by Brisbane City Council (BCC) with respect to the proposed Teneriffe City Cat terminal:

(1) Resource Entitlement; (2) Creation of a Reserve for Jetties and Landing Places; and
(3) Development Application for Prescribed Tidal Works.

(1) BCC applied to DERM for Resource Entitlement by letter dated 10 February 2010. Environmental Services SER had no objections, but the application was delayed by an objection by DEEDI. That objection was withdrawn in early September 2010 and Resource Entitlement was rapidly granted by DERM in a letter to BCC dated 7 September 2010.

(2) After granting Resource Entitlement, DERM could process an application (also lodged on 10 February 2010) for a Reserve for Jetties and Landing Places. An offer went to BCC from DERM on 9 December 2010, approving the Reserve subject to BCC providing a survey plan. BCC has applied for extensions of time to provide the survey plan and the present extension is to 9 April 2011.

A draft plan was lodged with the surveyors and it has now been found that part of the Commercial road – at the turnaround near the river – has been reclaimed from the river without any legal authority (PALM could not find any approvals for the works). That means DERM cannot progress the creation of the Reserve until the Commercial road reclamation is sorted out. This probably involves an ILUA and retrospective approvals being sought. This could take BCC some time.

(3) BCC, as the assessment manager, forwarded an application for prescribed tidal works to DERM for a concurrence agency response on 20 October 2010. DERM issued its response, including conditions to be included on any approval by BCC, on 30 November 2010, within the statutory timeframe. BCC approved the application on 29 December 2010.

DERM processed the applications rapidly and within statutory timeframes where applicable.

R

Regards

Randall Hart
Regional Services Director
South East Region
Department of Environment and Resource Management
Telephone: [REDACTED] Facsimile: [REDACTED]
Mobile: [REDACTED]

Level 4 867 Main Street Woolloongabba
GPO Box 2771 Brisbane 4001
www.derm.qld.gov.au



From: Bradley John
Sent: Tuesday, 29 March 2011 3:57 PM
To: Hart Randall; Birchley Michael
Cc: Wall Terry
Subject: Courier Mail transcript

Randall, Mike

This is from the Courier Mail website –

While I think we have looked at this before, can I please get an update in response to the statement from the Lord Mayor....about DERM specifically. Can you please advise of the veracity of this claim and any balancing information that should be taken into account.

Thanks

John B

"Why does it take so long to get approvals out of the Department of Environment and Resource Management to to build something as simple as a City Cat terminal? I'm not talking about rebuilding. I'm talking about the process we had to go through before the floods. To build a new terminal at Tenerife in Brisbane, you are looking at something for over a year and there used to be wharf there."

BELOW is a transcript of the interview with Campbell Newman behind today's Agenda feature in *The Sunday Mail*.

Once again, apologies for any typos but we had to type it up quick last week.

We're two days into this now. How do you think you have gone so far?

I'm really excited. I think it has gone very well. If I go back three or four days ago, no one particularly you guys in the media or the broader community would believe where we are. There will be rumblings and aftershocks. It's like a big earthquake. But it is going to go very very well.

Were you expecting more trip ups by now?

Ahhh. I'm not going to tempt fate. It has gone well.

What's the rough plan going forward in coming weeks after the preselection in terms of travel?

The parliament comes back around April 6. That week, when they are all back again, they will absolve to admit me. Then they will resolve to make me their leader, the leader of their overall team - the candidates and the sitting members. And what will

happen then is, not that we wont be doing work before that, I will then make the final call on shadow cabinet. I am going to take Jeff's advice, and Tim's and other senior people there. Then it's game on. I will be (whistling noise) - off to wherever I need to be in Queensland. I will go right around the state as you would expect. I do know Queensland very well. I have been right across because I was in the army, because I was in the grain industry, because I also worked in the coal and electricity industry. So with the army I have been to Bamaga and Thursday Island, Cooktown, Lakeland, Maitland Downs, Camooweal, Longreach, Cloncurry. You get the drift anyway. I spent seven months of life living in Moura commuting from Brisbane working Monday to Friday in the coal mine. I spent six years working in the grain industry so the entire grain handling system. Any of those silos you see in country Queensland plus the port facilities Mackay, Gladstone and Brisbane. So I know Queensland. The challenge for me is to ensure all Queenslanders know who I am.

Is this going to be daily campaign from that point?

You betchha. I will be a full-time candidate. I have got to also balance, of course, how I do the Ashgrove stuff. The people in Ashgrove know me and I will particularly be trying to remind people about my efforts with The Gap storm. I think it was a fantastic effort of myself

and the council team. We have had long associations with the area. But I do not take that for granted. It's a different thing. I have got to demonstrate to the people of The Gap, Ashgrove, of Gaythorne, Mitchelton, etc, I have got to demonstrate that I will be a really good local MP as well.

Is there a priority?

It's got to be a balancing act. The big thing from a campaign perspective is this State Government has been very southeast Queensland-focused. The Labor Party are the party of the cities. By the way that frustrates me, that's just an aside, because I'm a big believer in cities policies as well for the nation. One thing I believe is we need a really good northern regional approach in this state and we have got to look after our export agricultural industries and obviously coal, minerals and energy.



Why are we here - What is your vision for Queensland, what do you offer?

From a personal perspective, the same as I brought to City Hall - leadership, energy, decisiveness, not mucking around, tell you what I think. Hopefully one thing I will always bring to it is - as much as I can - I will try always to be as far from the politics people detest and be positive and always looking to state forward and putting good government ahead of just party politics. That's my personal characteristics but in terms of what do we need. Well, it depends on where you are. If we start further north in Cairns and places like that, tourism has really done it tough and we need to more effectively promote the state but also have the resources to do that. Flipping back south, I am concerned about the Gold Coast with this Japanese crisis. That has just cut a whole lot of our customer base's spending power. That really worries me. In terms of rural issues in general, we seem to have lost sight a long time ago of what we used to do back into the 50s, 60s and into the 70s where we said government needs to provide infrastructure to help primary producers. So we used to build dams for irrigation schemes, we used to build and improve these extensive developments roads across Queensland for grain haulage, for getting your cattle to market. That has just totally fallen off the priorities list. We got to get back into that. Even dealing more locally, down and around the Lockyer Valley and the Facifern Valley, where there is great potential for crop growing. We tend to see that it's good for us in the long-term to see our growers priced out of the market and bring in imported produce from overseas.

What are the issues that are going to define this election?

It's about getting Queensland out of the rut, dealing with the waste and debt, getting the government set up so Queensland has a purpose that it is going forward. The government departments - I see it as Lord Mayor - they fight against each other and don't implement the government's policy in a coherent way. Why does it take so long to get approvals out of the Department of Environment and Resource Management to build something as simple as a City Cat terminal? I'm not talking about rebuilding. I'm talking about the process we had to go through before the floods. To build a new terminal at Teneriffe in Brisbane, you are looking at something for over a year and there used to be wharf there. So getting Queensland moving. Getting the government working for the people. If you want to take it to the highest level, it's about getting the government working for the people, ending the waste, dealing with this huge debt problem and finding the money then to invest in our hospitals and schools, roads and public transport across Queensland. That is the best summary.

What if we are sitting here 6 or 12 months from now and you have just lost Ashgrove?

No. Not to be glib. I always embarked on this because I wanted to do a job, firstly for the people of Brisbane, and now I want to do one for the people of Queensland. I had a career in the army for 13 years. Then I had a business career for ten years. I had my own management consulting business prior to putting my hand up for the mayoralty. I'll go back and do that. It doesn't phase me. But I am prepared to take a risk and put it all on the line because I care so much about getting the state back on track.

How do you respond to these people that say you are a megalomaniac or you have a glass jaw?

It's a load of nonsense. It is the Labor Party's line because they have got to find something rather than actual deficiencies of their administrations at state and local council level. I always get stories about Labor councils and state ministers ringing journalists like you and screaming and yelling and shouting at them. Now I don't do that. I have on occasions rung people and said I don't like your story. It's just a Labor Party line. You've got to whole heap of LNP councillors who work for me all the time. Does that party room leak? Do they bag out the Mayor? You know that it is a tight team. Councillor Johnstone is a particular exception. All of them are totally unified but they are quite upset that I am leaving.

A lot of the LNP press releases this week have been touting "Can't Do" at the Government. Is that the new slogan? That is just the froth and bubble of the parliamentary chamber to put the pressure on Premier Bligh. We will be a Can Do administration for Queensland if people elect us. We will leave the campaign type people to work out what we will be saying but I can tell what the parliamentary team want.

The other night we had Jeff Seeney elected as Opposition Leader but we had from all reports up to 13 people vote for Fiona Simpson. Does that worry you that you took this incredible risk but there were 13 people willing to jeopardise this?

Not at all. It's a democracy. There will be a competition for the position of deputy mayor when they elect it. That's fair and reasonable. It's all a bit artificial when nobody is prepared to have a go. To go back to the beginning, it's like there was an earthquake and there are going to be aftershocks. That is one of the aftershocks. What I will be saying to them I have been through all this before. When I joined the council team in 2002 as an unelected candidate, there was a complete chism, a complete fault line down the middle. They really were totally factionalised. They detested one another. But we built a team and they are an incredible team today that I am very proud of. I will do that again. There is work to be done but I can do it. I'd never met Shane Knuth until last night and we were talking about his electorate of Dalrymple. I really like the guy. I really do. I'm looking forward to going up to Charters Towers. I have been up to the Atherton Tableland in 10 years.

Given the Simpson move, do you anticipate any problems you contesting the leadership?

No. I don't take it for granted but I think we all know that it has to happen but it will happen. I am trying to be respectful of that process.

Are you expecting wholesale changes to shadow cabinet?

I am not going to comment on that process.

Can you explain the deputy situation?

I want to talk to you about the way I run my show in council. My position has always been - this is a personal position - is that the deputy's position is the decision of the partyroom. So they have made a decision with Jeff right now. After an election should we be successful there will be a broader partyroom, and you have another election after that. That always has to happen. That is what happens with caucus. That is what happens with the ALP. They have an election and if it's Anna Bligh they will re-elect her as their leader and they will elect other positions. The way it works for our party is that I have got to be endorsed. The deputy has got to be endorsed. But what happens, though, I pick the portfolios and put people into positions. In the council team in 2008 and we won a majority, the partyroom selected Graham Quirk as the deputy. I gave the him, though, the portfolio of infrastructure and I handed out the other portfolios to people.

So who is your deputy premier - do we assume it is going to be Jeff?

You can assume that today. But it is a matter ultimately of the partyroom after the election. He is my deputy for this campaign and I would hope that he would be my deputy in the future. But that is something that is in the future. The leader in my party the way I run it I cannot tell the partyroom to elect any person. That is their call.

Does your deputy have to be a former National or someone from the regions?

We've got to get the best person. But there are things like that. In putting towards the Cabinet you want to make sure you have a balance of people across the regions. I want to see proper representation of women, I want to make sure north Queensland

has a strong voice at the table.

With the way this has all happened you have not gone the traditional route of achieving partyroom support and been manoeuvred outside headquarters?

No you're wrong. The way it happened was that the people from the party hierarchy and the party rank and file, people like - I have already outed him - David Grusic formerly up in Townsville. People like that have been saying to me you should go for it. When the senior people in the party came to me and said to me "would you go for it?" - I had always said no - but on this occasions I said I would look at it. But then what has happened is people like Tim Nicholls and Jeff Seeney have decided that this all lined up and it was the only way to go forward. Today's Newspoll demonstrates why that had to happen.

I assume you have a clean slate policy-wise and not committing yourself to JP's policies?

That is pretty much correct. There are real limitations on what I can say at the moment in terms of meaty stuff.

Will you be waiting until the Budget to announce your policies like JP?

I have a view - particularly now we are in campaign mode - that we need to progressively release policy. I did that in 2002 and 2003. I was pre-selected in March 2002. We announced our first policies, the infrastructure and transport policy, in July 2002. The election wasn't until March 2004. That's my view but going back to the megalomania thing that is not the way I operate. I do ask people what we should do. If people have a different view, then I will listen.

You have advocated for daylight saving before.

As mayor of Brisbane.

What is your position today on that?

An unequivocal no.

What about split zones?

It is the great state of Queensland. The thing about it is as the lord mayor of Brisbane, it would be great to see it for Brisbane. I would like it. But Queensland is bigger than Brisbane. It is bigger than Campbell Newman's views. I think we've got to have our state on the one time zone for all sorts of reasons. People spout the economic problems with having the disparity with interstate. Just think of the nightmare if Queensland was split.

Will you have an efficiency dividend similar to what Lawrence Springborg had last time?

This what we have been doing in council for every year that I have been there mayor. Nobody has been forced out the door. There has been no strikes of the ASU clerical type people in council. I really want to make this point. The IR record of my administration is better than anything that has come before in probably two or three decades. Apart from two or three snap bus stoppages, we have had a very harmonious workplace. That's important on this issue. We have always challenged the senior officials at Budget time to find efficiencies. We literally call it an efficiency dividend. Tim Nicholls was the one who started all that in council. That is what we would take to the state. There is waste. Nobody can dispute that the State Government has a whole lot of waste.

That could be seen as precarious in some circles because of the last election when they said they were going to save \$1b a year and the unions ran hard on that?

The employees of the BCC - putting aside if some union leader wants to come out and say differently - know I have been a fair dinkum boss, that I have no ideological views of anti-union. Go to Hughie Williams. I think he even mentioned me in his book. Hughie invited me

to the Transport Workers Union anniversary. I shared the stage with Paul Lucas with national president and national secretary. My family were - if you got back to the 1850s, 1860s through to the 1930s in Sydney - my family lived at a place called St Peters, not far from the Mascot Airport. They were working class people. The point I am making is that I am not anti-union at all. Anything we do if we're in office will be done really respectfully of the role of unions, the rights of employees and good process. But nobody can say this state government is efficient. It is wasteful, it is bloated and we need to fix it up.

So are you advocating for an actual target like that?

No. I'm saying I'm going to take all my knowledge and experience from the council and the way that we did it and we'll take it to the state government because at the end of the day the objective is to actually make sure the government does what it needs to do to give the vital infrastructure and services for the community. Having a whole lot of people employed by the government is not the end in itself. It's about the schools, the teachers in them, the hospitals, the nurses and the doctors working in them, the great new roads, the bypasses required in places like Toowoomba. If you just consume it through administration, you let people down.

What is your position on the children's hospital given you are someone on the inner northside?

I'm not comment on that today.

Can you rule out privatisation?

No I won't do that. I believe vital assets like the water pipes and sewerage pipes, the electricity poles and wires businesses should be owned by the people. I had a philosophical perspective on these asset sales that might be at odds with the Government and it might be in some respects with the LNP members. But I will put it on the table. The Port of Brisbane should not have been sold. I have worked with most of the port corporations in Australia in my previous job so it should have been retained. What is going on in Gladstone is a bit different than Brisbane and the different ports are being run in different ways around the state.

Are you saying you didn't object to the other four sales?

I thought that some of them were just crazy, the things that were going on. I just didn't understandable the particular rationale for those things going. I don't know why you'd sell the track. If I had of been the premier, I would have retained the track, sold the rollin ... the operation was the issue. If you own the track, anybody can come and compete and run trains. They are natural monopolies. The people should own the natural monopolies.

Where do you stand on a carbon tax?

Very, very dubious about it all. I want to know more at this stage. I want to talk to my colleagues in the parliamentary team. The big fear I have is that it is going to hurt Queensland. We can talk about all these great new things like biotechnology, computer, IT games, etc, aviation - those new parts of the economy. But fundamentally after agriculture we are a carbon exporting state. So what is the federal government trying to do this and all these jobs? I think the unions at the 2007 election went on about the CFMEU ran a campaign as the mining union about climate change. I wonder what they thought if those dollars were well spent now because their members' jobs are at stake.

Do you believe in man-made climate change?

I think it's a real possibility. But my approach to going forward is I believe that we should be changing the way that we operate. I've got solar panels on the roof. I buy green power. I carbon offset my cars. I've been doing that since 2007. It's not something I just cooked up because I'm in an election campaign. I do believe people can make a difference. That is why we have run the green heart campaign in council. We're trying to help people conserve electricity not just because it is going to be good for the

environment but it will save families a lot of money. My whole mantra is about conservation and sustainability. If you don't believe in climate change, you can still agree to use less coal to keep the air conditioner going. Do you see the difference? The problem with the carbon tax is it is just a big expensive hit to the community. Why haven't they got a comprehensive nationwide campaign to help homes and businesses save energy?

With the infrastructure, that has obviously been a big part of who you are in Brisbane's eyes. What do we need to build now? Do we need to build more in southeast Queensland? Do we need to build more in north Queensland? Are you salivating over the fact you would now be in charge of a bigger Budget?

The answer to it is, do we need more infrastructure? yes, yes, yes and yes. The trouble is that because of the way they have structured the state government all the tax dollars - far too much of the tax take is being chewed by the administration of the government. The money is literally not available at the moment. The big task ahead of us with people like Tim Nicholls is to actually to get the Budget back where it needs to be so we can reduce debt but then have the ability then to invest in infrastructure. Southeast Queensland it is the congestion issues. There are also growing pains in other places. I mention Townsville because it has got traffic issues. It needs some real good bypass roads and things like that up there. There is also of course the hospital issues everywhere, the medical infrastructure. We have to restructure the state's budget so we can afford to pay for the infrastructure because we are not going to the people to say we are going to increase taxes.

How fast can you bring the Budget back into surplus?

I have got no idea. My answer is that people have got to get in there with great people like Tim Nicholls and do the right thing by them. We will. That is what we are saying. The current mob aren't.

So is Tim your preferred treasurer?

Yep. Without embarrassment I say that. I'll make that call. There are no guarantees in life. But I am happy to make that call. he is the shadow treasurer at the moment. I think he is well across it and I have worked with him before.

Are you open to minority governments?

I have done that between 04 and 08 and frankly in terms of my record there - I know a lot of people ask how did it work - the answer is I made it work. They had the majority which is the most unique situation anyone has seen in Australian politics for decades. So I made that work. We could have done a whole lot more if we had the lead in the saddle bags we were presented with but that was the way the cards were dealt with in the community in the vote and we dealt with it.

Looking at your record at City Hall, you talk a lot about cost of living but there has been some controversies over rate rises over the past seven years. How does that fit alongside your talk now about cost of living and trust?

You've got to go back to what the figures are because this is the Labor Party again. They have a mantra. They repeat words like 'poor and reckless financial management'. It's just a mantra. It's a deliberate tactic. The facts are that in the first four years that I was the mayor rates and charges for residential properties, owner occupier residential properties, in accordance with a commitment went up with in line inflation.

There was bit of a debate over whether your promise included commercial as well?

No. It was rates and charges on the average owner-occupied property. Are Labor arguing in the corner of big business who can claim tax deductions? Or people who own investment properties who can claim tax deductions. With the greatest respect, you guys in the media never gave me the credit for that. This term we never made such a commitment.

Didn't you say "low single digit above inflation"?

No, I didn't. (The media) said that. I'm happy to bet you. I will bet you \$500. It will go to my campaign and I'll tell all the media you helped me (laughs). Prior to the election I was asked this issue and after the experience I'd had, after four years after delivering rates in the way I said, perhaps I was older and wiser. What I said just prior to the election was fair rate rises. Do you know who used to say fair rate rises? Jim Soorley. It's on the public record. Go and look at Newstext. Look at the week prior to the march 2008 election campaign. You will see I am telling you the 100 per cent truth.

They were massive rate rises, those inner city ones?

I concede that is the only rates issues I concede. But I do concede. It was an issue that had to be dealt with. People in apartments worth \$2, \$3, \$5 million dollars were paying less than people who owned half a million dollar houses in the suburbs. That just wasn't on it's wasn't fair. I could never ever understand why the Labor Party wer'ent arguing for fairness. For the general pool of money for the running of the council, you have user pays charges after that - your wheelie bins and environmental levies. We used to have water and sewerage but they are gone. The general rates is the general contribution everyone makes to roads, to parks, the whole cleanliness of the city. Why is that some people owning a \$5 million apartment pay less than someone with a \$500,000 house.

The LNP has long campaigned on state debt. I remember when you took on the Northern Link tunnel, you put more debt on the Budget?

The peak net debt is \$1.5 billion. The net debt of the council will be the same as when Jim Soorley and John Campbell as mayor and finance chair respectively said the debt was inappropriate level.

You're not averse to debt?

We are. In lamens terms, the budget of the council is currently about \$2.8 billion. The debt right now is \$1 billion. So it is a third basically. In contrast the state government's budget is approximately \$40 billion and the debt is \$82 billion. It is twice the annual budget. It is againa Labor line. We have got it all signed off by the Auditor-General who looks at our stffu. We have Len Scanlan as our internal auditor. Why would senior officials allow us to do anything isilly. They would be blowing the whistle.

Speaking of Labor lines, the Treasurer was already rounding on you yesterday over your decision to get rid of Standard and Poors in favour of QTC?. Can you explain that because the AAA credit rating has been a massive issue on a state level?

I'll throw it back at the Treasurer. Doesn't he have confidence in the ratings abilities of QTC and there governance and management of the loan book of BCC? We were spending \$50-\$60,000 of ratepayer money a year and we don't borrow on the open market. If we were borrowing separately - but by the way he wont let us - ... we have to borrow through QTC unless we get permission from the treasurer. The only reason you need an S&P or a Moody's rating is if you are going straight to the debt markets. Why were we spending \$50,000 a year? It's just a waste of money.

Given you are still lord mayor, can you promise there are no nasty surprises or nasty rate rises in this Budget that is going to come after you have left?

You have to ask whoever becomes mayor that or the current finance chair. We are in the early stages of putting the Budget together. I'm not going to be making statements on behalf of those guys. They might have poor and reckless financial management. I can't do that because I wont be delivering the budget. The budget doesn't get handed out until June. The first big serious budget meeting is happening this coming week. I'm not goign to get involved.

What if the LNP wins and you don't?

That's tough isn't it for me. I guess things will have to be sorted out. I guess the people at Ashgrove are getting a very strong message from us to vote for Campbell Newman so you can have change in Queensland. Hopefully the people of Ashgrove take this extremely seriously. There is a lot riding on it.

What do you think of Anna Bligh as a person and leader?

(Short silence) Perhaps I could answer that by talking about what has happened while I have been lord mayor. I may not have done this if she had dealt with me in the same way Peter Beattie did.

Can you elaborate?

During the Beattie premiership up, until the local government amalgamation issues and when Mackenroth was there, we got things done far more easily. We had a City of Brisbane Act and Local Government Act that allowed us to do stuff as local government officials. The

Premier's door was open. I'm not saying hers hasn't been but it was always open. And he would do stuff. And we would make decisions. From the time the Premier was installed, she has made a number of decisions with these acts that tie local government officials to red tape, prevents them from doing their job, they have bullied and patronised and beat up on local government. and this is ultimately about local communities. take legacy way. a lot of the delays are caused by the state. We had a great working relationship with the Beattie government and Mackenroth and that is not happening any more. There are many reasons for me doing this but one reason is because as premier her government hasn't been prepared to work in the same way with myself and other councils across the state. It's chalk and cheese.

Are we close to an election?

Who knows. Sounds like she is changing her mind. Another broken promise. Just like electricity, just like water.

She calls parliament a farce. Doesn't she have an obligation as the only person who can fix that to call it now?

Why is it a farce? That is her spin. More nonsense from the Premier. Jim Soorley didn't do that. And Tim Quinn didn't do that. We had a leader of the opposition in the chamber filled a statutory position. There was a candidate the Liberal Party had elected. That went on for

two years. June 2002 Jim Soorley handed down his last Budget. I went into the partyroom after the Budget had been handed down. We did all the work. An hour and a half later, I went out into King George Square as the candidate and I gave the Budget response. I couldn't

do it in the chamber but I did it for the people of Brisbane. These are just words and excuse to dismiss a promise she has made. Ultimately the real issues and the real battle is out there across Queensland. Not in the Parliament chamber. Politicians and the media focus on this incredible important across George St.

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