

QUEENSLAND FLOODS
COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

STATEMENT OF LISA MARGARET DESMOND

I, **Lisa Margaret Desmond**, of 77 Tavistock Street, Torquay in the State of Queensland, Chief Executive Officer, Fraser Coast Regional Council, do solemnly and sincerely declare that:-

1. I have been provided with a copy of the letter dated 10 August 2011 from the Commissioner, Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry requiring a sworn statement and documents from me which is Attachment **LMD-1** and which details the topics my statement should cover.
2. My qualifications include a Bachelor of Business, Masters of Commerce, Certified Practising Accountant and Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. I hold the position of Chief Executive Officer of the Fraser Coast Regional Council ("Council"). I have been employed by Council and its statutory predecessor the Hervey Bay City Council since October 2006. I have worked in local government for approximately 15 years.
3. The Fraser Coast region covers an area of 7,125 km from the Gunalda Range to the south, past Howard on the Bruce Highway to the north, east to World Heritage listed Fraser Island and west to Brooweena.

Item 1: Whether all documents requested by the Requirement dated 1 March 2011 have been provided to the Commission

4. To the best of my knowledge all documents requested by the Requirement dated 1 March 2011 have been provided to the Commission.

Item 2: The details of any draft flood studies obtained or made available to the Council since March 2011

5. The Fraser Coast Region Council has commissioned an external consultancy to prepare a draft flood study as part of Council's Sustainable Growth Strategy.
6. A final copy of this study is proposed to be tabled at the Planning & Development Committee meeting to be held on 14 September 2011. Attachment **LMD-2** provides a copy of the draft document, despite it not yet being endorsed by Council.

Item 3: Any changes to the Council's land planning processes, policies or other statutory instruments in response to flooding that occurred during the period 1 December 2010 to 31 January 2011, including drafts, considerations and adopted documents to Council.

7. No changes have been made to Council's land planning processes, policies or other statutory instruments in response to flooding that occurred during the period 1 December 2010 to 31 January 2011.

Item 4: How information about flood risk for the specific properties is made available and any processes for obtaining this information applicable to each of the following:

- (a) **Members of the public;**
- (b) **Insurance companies;**
- (c) **Prospective developers and their representatives**

8. I understand that an answer to this item has been provided by Mr Wayne Sweeney, Director Infrastructure & Environment in his statement to the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry at paragraphs 11 – 12.

Item 5: Whether and to what extent Council's infrastructure (for example, sewers, roads, stormwater) was affected by flooding that occurred during the period 1 December 2010 to 31 January 2011, citing specific examples where possible.

9. I understand that an answer to this item has been provided by Mr Wayne Sweeney, Director Infrastructure & Environment in his statement to the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry at paragraph 4 (incorporating Attachments WS-2 and WS-3).

Item 6: In relation to the above, details of the reconstruction of this infrastructure including costs and programs

10. The costs associated with the reconstruction of Council infrastructure damaged during the flood events have been estimated at \$15-16 million.

11. The works required to restore these essential public assets will be delivered on a tender / contractor basis.

12. I understand that detail as to the repairs required has been provided by Mr Wayne Sweeney, Director Infrastructure & Environment in his statement to the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry at paragraph 4 (incorporating attachments WS-2 and WS-3).

Item 7: Funding arrangements for repairs to damaged Council infrastructure

13. Council have entered into a Funding Agreement with the State of Queensland acting through the Queensland Reconstruction Authority for assistance in recovery and reconstruction for Queensland Floods and Tropical Cyclones Anthony and Tasha and damage arising from Severe Tropical Cyclone Yasi. A copy of this document is provided at Attachment **LMD-3** to this statement.

14. On 23 March 2011, the Queensland Reconstruction Authority wrote to Council confirming the approval of a payment in the amount of \$2,414,904 including GST by way of grant advance funding for eligible reconstruction projects. A copy of this correspondence is provided at Attachment **LMD-4**.

15. In accordance with the Funding Agreement and the Queensland Reconstruction Authority Submission Guide for NDRRA Funding Applicants, Council has made the following submissions:

- (a) Emergent Works Submission No. 1 in the amount of \$779,165;
- (b) Emergent Works Submission No. 1 (corrected forms issued);

- (c) Emergent Works Submission No. 2 in the amount of \$770,827;
 - (d) Emergent Works Submission No. 3 in the amount of \$712,821; and
 - (e) Restoration Works Submission No. 1 in the amount of \$9,017,057.
16. Copies of the Queensland Reconstruction Authority Submission Guide for NDRRA Funding Applicants, together with submissions referred to in (a) - (e) above have been included as Attachments **LMD-5** to **LMD-10** to this statement.
17. On 23 August 2011 Council received confirmation that its submission (QRA Reference No 2044745) had been assessed in terms of eligibility under the joint Commonwealth and Queensland Government Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA). As a result of this assessment the amount of \$584,373.74 was approved for grant assistance. This amount represents the eligible amount of \$779,164.99 less Council's trigger point contribution of \$194,791.25. A copy of this correspondence is included at Attachment **LMD-11**.
18. The Fraser Coast Regional Council was advised in correspondence dated 27 May 2011 from the Queensland Reconstruction Authority that it fell within the category of "*limited scope for eligibility*" for day labour and, accordingly, has not received any funding assistance towards day labour arrangements. A copy of the correspondence received from the Queensland Reconstruction Authority is included as Attachment **LMD-12** to this statement.
19. Council will be making further submissions for restoration works. It is estimated that these submissions will be in the amount of approximately \$5 million.

Item 8: Any policies or other documents which require property owners to have an evacuation plan and/or route in the case of flooding.

20. There are no Council policies that require residents to develop their own evacuation plans.
21. The Fraser Coast Emergency Action Guide was distributed to all residents in the Fraser Coast and is available on the Council website and at Council Administration Centres. The guide encourages people to ensure they are registered with the Local Disaster Management Group, as well as providing maps indicating storm tide inundation levels to allow people to view any potential risk to their property.
22. A copy of the Fraser Coast Emergency Action Guide was provided to the Flood Commission of Inquiry in the Requirement issued on 1 March 2011.
23. Part 7 of the Local Disaster Management Plan, "*Evacuation Sub-Plan*" focuses primarily of evacuation of cyclone storm tide affected areas; however, the principles and concepts may also be applied to other hazards where evacuation is required.
24. Part 7E of the Evacuation Sub-Plan relates specifically to Council Assisted Evacuations. A copy of this document was provided to the Flood Commission of Inquiry in the Requirement issued on 1 March 2011.

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

Signed . 
Lisa Margaret Desmond

Taken and declared before me, at Hervey Bay this 31st day of August 2011.


~~Justice of the Peace~~ Commissioner for Declarations

Note

The attachments to this document have not been uploaded as the file size is too large.