IN THE MATTER OF
THE QUEENSLAND FLOODS COMMISSION OF INQUIRY 2011

> A COMMISSION OF INQUIRY UNDER THE
> COMMISSIONS OF INQUIRY ACT 1950
>
> AND PURSUANT TO THE
> COMMISSIONS OF INQUIRY ORDER (No. 1) 2011

STATEMENT OF JOHN JOSEPH WEST

On the 30th day of January 2012, I, **John Joseph West**, of C/- 240 Margaret Street, Brisbane, state on oath:
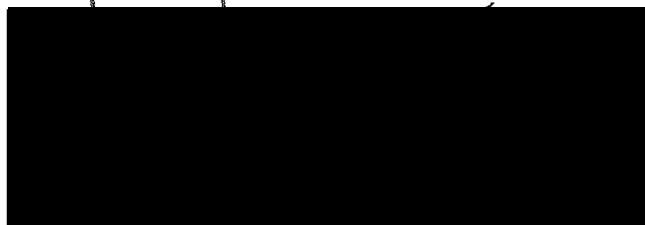
1.   I am currently employed by Queensland Bulk Water Supply Authority ("**Seqwater**") as a Senior Operations Analyst and a Flood Officer.

2.   This statement is provided to the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry pursuant to a "Requirement to Provide Statement" issued by the Commission dated 25 January 2012 (the *Requirement*). The statements I make below are my best recollections of the significant matters referred to in the Requirement which I have been able to prepare in the short time since I received the Requirement.

Qualifications and Experience

3.   I have a Bachelor of Forestry Science from the University of Canterbury in New Zealand obtained in 2002. I am currently studying for a Masters in Integrated Water Management due to be completed in 2013.

4.   In 2006 I was employed by Seqwater as a Demand Management Analyst. I became a Senior Operations Analyst in 2008 and from around mid-2010 I have also been a Flood Officer.

Flood Officer duties

5.   My duties as a Flood Officer include checking the quality of rainfall and river level data and determining the operational status of sensors in the catchments. I also assist the Flood Engineers during a Flood Event in administrative matters and record information that is eventually compiled into the Flood Event Log.

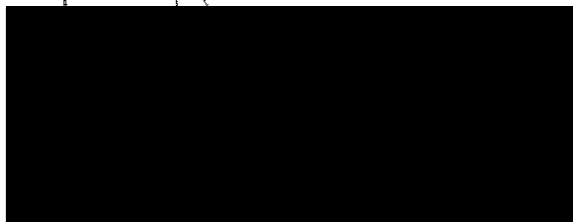**Dates present during the period from 6 January 2011 to 19 January 2011**

6.　　During the period 6 January 2011 to 19 January 2011 I was present at the Flood Operations Centre from around 7pm on Monday 10 January to the evening of Thursday 13 January. I stayed at the Flood Operations Centre for this period of time because I live at Newstead, which was expected to be flooded. I thought that if I returned to my home there was a possibility that I would not be able to return for later shifts at the Flood Operations Centre due to the expected flooding.

7.　　I also was present at the Flood Operations Centre from 7pm Monday 17 January to 7am Tuesday 18 January.

Flood Engineers and Officers present at the Flood Operations Centre

8.　　During the times that I was at the Flood Operations Centre all four Flood Engineers were present at various times. The four Flood Engineers are Terry Malone, John Tibaldi, John Ruffini and Rob Ayre.

9.　　Almost all of the other Flood Officers at one time or another were in the Flood Operations Centre as they completed their shifts during that period.

Entries in the Flood Event Log

10.　　During the period between 7 January and 12 January 2011 I made a number of entries that were included in the Flood Event Log that became Exhibit 23 before the Commission. I have reviewed the entries in the Flood Event Log and make the following comments:

　　(a)　　the Flood Event Log is compiled from various sources including:

　　　　(i)　　entries made by Flood Officers and Flood Engineers into an Excel Spreadsheet during and after a flood event;

　　　　(ii)　　situations reports;

　　　　(iii)　　directives; and

　　　　(iv)　　model runs.

　　(b)　　During the January 2011 Flood Event we had two or three spreadsheets open at different computers at any one time. This was usual practice during this event and

was done to enable two or three Flood Officers to make entries at the one time in order to capture as much information during the flood event as possible.

(c)   The Flood Officers, and to a lessor extent, the Flood Engineers, entered information into the spreadsheets during the January 2011 Flood Event. The information was sometimes entered in short form, and then completed later.

(d)   When there was a spare moment, it was my practice to compile the information entered into the spreadsheets into the one document, known as the Flood Event Log. As part of this process I also added the details from the directives, situation reports and model runs. There records were copied in verbatim as they appeared in the written source document.

(e)   For example, the entry at 6.07am on Friday 7 January 2011 contains details from a situation report. While I cannot specifically recollect, it is possible that I could have entered that information sometime after 7 January.

(f)   During the Flood Event I also entered the model runs that have my initials "JW" in the initial column.

(g)   During the Flood Event, when a directive was made I would make a note of it in the spreadsheet. In a quiet moment I would enter the details of the directive. See, for example, the entry that appears at 4.30am on Tuesday 11 January 2011, which reads:

Issued Somerset Directive #6
-Please close Sluice J at 05:00
-Please close Sluice N at 06:00
-Please close Sluice K at 07:00

My practice was to enter, for example, "Issued Somerset Directive #6" when the directive was issued, and then enter the sluice information when there was a quiet moment sometime later. I also went back over other entries made by other Flood Officers and filled in these details.

(h)   It was my understanding that I was not the only person to compile the information into the Flood Event Log, although I am not sure who else did.

(i)   It was my understanding that the Flood Event log would have been reviewed subsequent to the Flood Event, but I am not sure who would have done so.

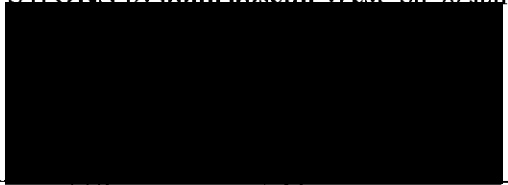(j)   I did not make the entry that appears at 3.30pm on Sunday 9 January 2011 and do not know who did.

Information or details to add to the Flood Event Log.

11.   I am unable to recollect any additional information or details to the entries that I made in the Flood Event Log between 12am 7 January and 12am 12 January 2011.

Further information

12.   I am unable to recollect any further information or details of conversations in which I took part or overhead between 12am 7 January and 12am 12 January 2011 on the topics referred to in subparagraphs 3(a)-(e) of the Requirement.

SWORN by John Joseph West on 30 January 2012 at Brisbane in the presence of:

Deponent   Solicitor