STATEMENT OF WITNESS

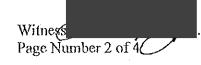
- I, Kenneth John Murphy, Senior Beef Extension Officer and Central Queensland Climate Risk Co-ordinator, Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (Rockhampton) state:
 - 1. I am employed as the Senior Beef Extension Officer and Central Queensland Climate Risk Co-ordinator at the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation. I am based in Rockhampton. I have been in this role for 29 years.
 - 2. After completing a Bachelor's degree at University of Queensland, Gatton College, I worked for CSIRO in Western Australia. I then worked for King Ranch Australia (Elgin Downs) near Clermont, Queensland as stud manager. I later managed a family property near Rockhampton before joining the Department of Primary Industries at Richmond, North Queensland before transferring to Rockhampton in 1987.
 - 3. As part of my job, I work in a team of people responsible for the management of climate risk management across the state,
 - 4. In that role my duties involve assisting grazing businesses to manage climate risk. This can include extension of husbandry practices to minimise the negative impacts of climate (droughts and floods). It also involves the administration of government assistance measures to maintain a healthy rural industry.
 - 5. In the case of the 2010-11 floods, the impact on the beef industry was not as great as past recent floods, as prior to the event most areas were drought free with plenty of fodder available and stock in good condition. Many producers had time to move stock to higher ground, and as a result stock losses were minimal. That said, the unusual scale of this event still managed to catch out some producers. Consequently it was determined that DEEDI would coordinate the availability of fodder, in cooperation with Agforce.
 - 6. Generally before each wet season, time is spent dealing with the end of dry season supplementation. In terms of preparations and procedures undertaken in my area prior to the wet season, before leaving for the Christmas vacation, I was asked by Paul Walmsley, Regional Director, to be prepared to be called in should we have any flooding disasters during the holidays. I also had discussions with Greg Robbins, Executive Director, Agriculture Industries and Sustainability, about the possibility of flooding and the fact that there would not be animals in poor condition this year, as the season had been so good and stock were in prime condition. I was already on call New Years Eve as part of my Climate Risk Co-ordinator role.
 - 7. During the Christmas-New Year period, Rockhampton and other regions experienced significant flooding. On January 1, 2011, I was asked by Paul Walmsley to take on a co-ordination role for fodder drops across Central Queensland in conjunction with Danielle Hogarth from Agforce. I was awarenessed.

Witness
Page Number 1 of 4

JP/Legal Practitioner.

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- that Senior DEEDI staff were working with industry peak bodies before and after Christmas and with Agforce and across government after Christmas specifically with flood response and recovery grants from 29 December 2011.
- 8. During flood events, cattle often become trapped on small areas of high land surrounded by water. Generally these islands have little fodder so it becomes necessary to get hay to them as they become cold very quickly without full stomachs. The most effective way to get bales of hay to them is by helicopters. Helicopters can pick up hay from nearby and quickly transfer and drop the fodder where stock can access it.
- 9. My role was to receive requests for fodder drops, receive offers of fodder, and develop lists of helicopters available and local contact networks. As the worst affected area was around Moura, I asked Brett Coombe, a property manager from Moura, if he was prepared to co-ordinate on the ground in that area. He agreed. As far as my preparation for this role, I was able to network with my contacts that I had developed in over 40 years of experience working in the region.
- 10. After 24 hours of working on the fodder drops, I agreed to receive all the calls as Danielle Hogarth, Agforce, and myself were preparing identical lists. This prevented duplication and saved time. My role was made more complex because many of my usual contacts were on holiday, or were replaced by others unfamiliar with the position.
- 11. I conducted media interviews immediately with ABC Radio (Jane Patterson and Stacey Miller) and Francis from 2UE. The radio stations were aware of the problems of farmers with stranded livestock, and invited me to do the radio interviews. In these interviews I supplied contact numbers to ring for assistance and offers of fodder. Agforce sent out messages through their network advising people who needed assistance, to contact my number. Other media outlets across the whole of Australia also contacted me and interviews were conducted.
- 12. As January 1, 2011 was a public holiday, I commenced my role using my mobile phone, private home phone and private email and with assistance from my wife I continued this operation throughout each day from 6:00am to 10:00pm until 10 January 2011. This arrangement allowed for more flexible hours and ease of operation. After this date I was able to greatly reduce time spent taking messages and managed the calls through message bank but it was still necessary to keep a close watch on calls for assistance. Calls did however reduce once the worst of the flooding passed.
- 13. During this time I developed a network of other contacts. This included transport companies, RSPCA, Agforce, DEEDI staff, Minister's staff, media contacts and shire councils. I also had contact with an organisation called "Aussie Helpers". Most days I was in contact with Agforce representatives as well as my DEEDI managers.





- 14. As the floods worsened in other parts of the state, I was asked by Greg Robbins, Executive Director, Agriculture Industries and Sustainability, DEEDI, to co-ordinate Fodder Drops across the whole state. I do not have the exact date of this request marked as I was so involved with the on-ground work that recording these dates was not important. I assumed this role and continued my duties as a conduit between those with fodder and those in need.
- 15. EMQ and District Disaster Co-ordinators were aware of my role and passed enquiries for assistance and information of fodder available directly to me. Daily internal DEEDI telelinks provided information to Disaster Management Committee through our DEEDI representative. My notes from the telelinks and calls are contained in my diary, marked "KM-01", as are the dates of the telelinks. Further notes and follow-up actions appear in my email correspondence. My sent items from the period are attached and marked "KM-02", whilst my received items from the period are attached and marked "KM-03".
- 16. During this time when I coordinated fodder drops, I had cause to transfer vital contact and job information to an Excel spreadsheet. A copy of that spreadsheet is attached and marked "KM-04". It details much of the organisation and operation of fodder drops in Central Queensland, and lists the relevant contacts. It is divided into four tabs 'Hay Supply', 'Stock Requests', 'Helicopters' and 'Contact Lists'.
- 17. I stress that my role was a co-ordination role only. There were no promises of free fodder or free helicopter drops. I created a register of fodder, helicopter operators and useful contacts for worst affected areas: Dawson/Mackenzie Fitzroy, and later Balonne/Condamine river systems. People seeking assistance were assured that they could well become eligible for Category 'C' Grants to cover costs of completing fodder drops. Category C grants are grants accessible to primary producers under the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements ("NDRRA"). Business relief and recovery assistance may be provided following certain natural disaster events under Category B, C or D of the NDRRA.
- 18. Often following disaster events that have impacted on the rural sector, Category B activation under the NDRRA can provide primary producers access to freight subsidies of up to \$5000 for the movement of fodder for emergency relief purposes. However, as stated in the NDRRA Guidelines (at page 37): "Costs involved in the purchase and dropping of fodder to stock isolated by a disaster event (fodder dropping operations) are not eligible for Australian Government/State NDRRA funding. Should a large scale need exist following a severe disaster event, the Queensland Government would consider an appropriate package of arrangements on a case-by-case basis."
- 19. In unusually widespread and severe events, such as the southern Queensland floods in 2010, special assistance may be made available by the provision of recovery grants of up to \$25,000 under Category C of the NDRRA. Eligible expenditure for the Recovery Grants includes fodder drop operations undertaken by the producer. The Government may also provide a

Witness ...
Page Number 3 of 4(

JP/Legal Practitioner....

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coordination service for producers seeking fodder and or fodder drops, with costs met by the producer using their own resources or accessing Recovery Grants.

- 20. Upon requests for fodder, I gave enquirers the names and contacts of nearby offers of fodder, and contacts for helicopter operators in the area. Interstate fodder offers were advised of the need for documentation. It was also necessary to prevent groups and individuals from sending truckloads of fodder without a destination. They were advised that they needed a recipient coordinator to distribute the fodder on arrival.
- 21. The main animals of interest were predominately cattle and horses, with some requests for pigs and dogs. I did not take on any role in dog issues. The piggeries that were affected were given similar assistance as other livestock enterprises. Some took on the use of a helicopter when they became aware they could be eligible for a Category C grant. Similarly dairy farmers were given suitable fodder sources and acted when I made them aware of their Category C status.
- 22. On January 19, 2011, I forwarded the Fodder Register to the DEEDI Business Information Centre. This is first tab of the Excel spreadsheet marked "KM-04".
- 23. In terms of how the system of providing fodder to flood affected areas could be improved, I note that it is preferable to have one person across the whole system. I feel that overall, the system worked well. People making calls for a free helicopter and fodder delivery were informed of the use of Category 'C' grant money. Most were happy to know it was available. Having a producer on the ground in each area prepared to assist was very helpful for the whole community. I cannot speak highly enough of the help from people such as Brett Coombe, as well as the helicopter pilots.
- 24. My role was very operational to co-ordinate fodder drops, and I am aware that other DEEDI staff (Greg Robbins and Paul Walmsley) were involved with higher level planning of the flood response.

I acknowledge	Justices Act 1886 by virtue of section 110A(5)(c)(ii) of the Justices Act 1886 that:
(1)	This written statement by me dated and contained in the pages numbered 1 to 4 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.
Signe	d atRockhamptonthis

Witness Page Number 4 of 4

JP/Legal Practitioner...

