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10th May, 2011.

The Executive Director,  
Queensland Floods Commission of Enquiry,  
G.P.O.Box 1738,  
BRISBANE. Q. 4001

Dear Madam,

YOUR REFERENCE DOC.1551695.

Further to my Submission to the Floods Commission of Enquiry dated 27th February, 2011, I have just come across the enclosed article in the Weekend Australian relative to the INADEQUATE OR NON-EXISTENT FLOOD MAPPING DATA, which indicates that although 100 per cent of catchments in N.S.W. have been mapped, only 17% of flood-prone Queensland catchments have been documented.

Mr. Rob Scott, President of the Insurance Council of Australia commented "We understand that some Councils in Queensland are concerned about releasing that data because it could indicate that some areas are significantly exposed to flood risk".

It seems that this fact must be brought to the attention of the Flood Enquiry.

Yours truly,

(Mrs.) V.D. BURNETT.  
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EXTRACT From "The Weekend Australian"

"Business sector." P.27 7-8/5/2011.

See letter from Mrs.V.D.Burnett 10/5/2011 RELATIVE TO FLOOD ENQUIRY.

## \$1bn paid out in flood and cyclone claims

MITCHELL BINGEMANN  
INSURANCE

INSURANCE companies have paid out almost \$1 billion in claims to the victims of the Queensland floods and Cyclone Yasi.

The figures, which were released to *The Weekend Australian* by the Insurance Council yesterday, reveal that as of April 30, more than 118,000 claims have been made to insurers. These claims total \$3.6bn in damages wrought by the unprecedented string of natural disasters that struck Queensland early this year.

So far about \$960 million in claims for property and business losses — or \$12m each working

day since Cyclone Yasi struck — has been paid to the insured flood and cyclone victims.

"This data demonstrates the absolute scale of those catastrophes and also provides some good information on the positive response from the insurance industry," Insurance Council of Australia president Rob Scott said.

He conceded there had been delays but said 97 per cent of received claims had been processed. "As of the end of April, only 1 per cent of claims, a bit over 1000 claims, have been in the internal dispute process within insurers. There are 3.1 per cent of claims that are yet to be determined," he said.

Mr Scott said most delays in claims were due to obtaining

hydrology reports from councils. Insurance companies rely on hydrology reports to determine the cause of flood damage when assessing claims. "As an industry we rely on accessing flood data from local councils and there's been a very significant delay in getting that information," he said.

Mr Scott said it was imperative that federal, state and local legislature worked together to provide comprehensive data of flood-prone areas to ensure consumers were protected from disasters.

"In a lot of areas there is inadequate or non-existent flood mapping data, which is why we have been calling on the government to support a digital elevation mapping system," he said. "We think

that there's a very strong reason for making that data transparent because it goes to the heart of people understanding if their properties and families are at risk."

The Insurance Council has flood mapping data representing 4.9 million homes in Australia, but Mr Scott said there were many significant gaps in the information.

For example, although 100 per cent of catchments in NSW had been mapped, only 17 per cent of flood-prone Queensland catchments had been documented.

"We understand that some councils in Queensland are concerned about releasing that data because it could indicate that some areas are significantly exposed to flood risk," he said.