

**IN THE MATTER OF  
THE QUEENSLAND FLOODS COMMISSION OF INQUIRY**

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

**STATEMENT OF ROBERT JOHN DRURY**

On the 6<sup>th</sup> day of May 2011, I, Robert John Drury of c/- 240 Margaret Street, Brisbane state on oath:

**Introduction**

1. I am employed by Queensland Bulk Water Supply Authority (*Seqwater*) in the position of Dam Operations Manager. I have held this position since about October 2007. Before this, I held a similar position with SEQWater Corporation from December 2004. In that role, I was largely responsible for the same matters as I am responsible for in my current role, although the number of assets I managed was much smaller.
2. As Dam Operations Manager, I am now responsible for the management of Seqwater's 25 dams, 48 weirs, 5 irrigation schemes and several other minor water sources. I report to Jim Pruss.
3. My role includes:
  - (a) the management of budgets and expenditure relating to the dams, weirs and irrigation schemes;
  - (b) managing staff and resource allocations to the abovementioned assets;
  - (c) coordinating and reporting on Seqwater's compliance with regulatory requirements relating to the abovementioned assets;
  - (d) reporting to Mr Pruss and Seqwater's Chief Executive Officer; and
  - (e) managing Seqwater's performance in relation to the the 5 irrigation schemes.

---

Filed on behalf of: Queensland Bulk Water Supply Authority trading as Seqwater

**Allens Arthur Robinson**

Lawyers

Riverside Centre

123 Eagle Street

Brisbane QLD 4000

DX 210 Brisbane

Tel (07) 3334 3000

Ref MGI:120128021

Fax (07) 3334 3444

4. My role does not include making decisions regarding releases of flood waters during flood events.
5. Prior to being employed by Seqwater, my previous employer was the Queensland Government (in the then Department of Natural Resources and Water) in the area of water regulation.
6. I have worked in various Departments since 1977 in the areas of water supply, sewerage schemes planning, water and sewerage treatment, irrigation supply, dam operations, water management and general operation and maintenance.
7. I hold a Bachelor of Civil Engineering and a Masters of Engineering Science from the University of Queensland.
8. This statement is provided to the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry pursuant to a "Requirement to Provide Statement" issued by the Commission dated 21 April 2011 (the *Requirement*), a copy of which is **Annexure RD1**. 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.

**My role in relation to the creation of the draft 'Protocol for the Communication of Flooding Information for the Brisbane River catchment – including Floodwater Releases from Wivenhoe and Somerset Dams' (Draft Protocol)**

9. During October 2010, releases of flood water were made from Wivenhoe Dam. This was the first time this had occurred for many years.
10. My understanding is that, at the time, concerns were raised by the Queensland Government that there were different communications to the public regarding the potential impacts of the releases from various agencies and organisations.
11. As a result, the Queensland Government, through the Department of Environment and Resource Management (*DERM*) and Emergency Management Queensland (*EMQ*) initiated the development of the Draft Protocol.
12. DERM and EMQ involved the Brisbane, Ipswich and Somerset Councils, Seqwater, the Bureau of Meteorology (*BoM*), the Water Grid Manager, the Dam Safety Regulator, the Queensland Police Service and the Department of the Premier and Cabinet in the process.
13. My understanding is that the process was led by EMQ and generally involved the following:
  - (a) there was an initial meeting I attended with EMQ, DERM and representatives of some of the agencies referred to above. I cannot now remember when that initial meeting occurred;
  - (b) EMQ circulated an initial draft of the proposed protocol;

- (c) there was a further meeting in late October 2010 which was attended by representatives of most of the agencies referred to above. I attended that meeting for Seqwater. In the meeting, the initial draft was discussed along with the process for finalising the draft;
  - (d) the various agencies provided comments on the initial draft to EMQ;
  - (e) EMQ circulated further drafts;
  - (f) the various agencies provided further comments on the further drafts; and
  - (g) EMQ finalised the Draft Protocol and sent it to the relevant agencies.
14. I led Seqwater's involvement in the Draft Protocol. As part of this, I:
- (a) reviewed the drafts;
  - (b) consulted with various Seqwater personnel on the term of the drafts. These people included John Tibaldi, Mike Foster, Jim Pruss and Peter Borrows; and
  - (c) provided comments back to EMQ on the drafts.
15. There were significant changes from the initial draft to the final Draft Protocol.
16. In the time available since receiving the Requirement I have not been able to locate and retrieve all of emails which were sent in relation to the development of the Draft Protocol given they occurred over some months. However, I have provided the Commission separately with several documents showing the development of the Draft Protocol which I have been able to locate in the time available.
17. The Draft Protocol was circulated by the Premier to the Brisbane City Council, Ipswich City Council and Somerset Regional Council on 22 November 2010. Annexed and marked **RD2** is a copy of the Premier's letters and the Draft Protocol.
18. On 23 November 2010, the Councils provided feedback on the Draft Protocol. Annexed and marked **RD3** is a copy of an email I received from EMQ attaching the marked up version of the Draft Protocol.
19. Although the protocol was not finalised, since 1 December 2010, I have acted as though the Draft Protocol is operational and I have sought to comply with the version shown in **Annexure RD3**.
20. One practical effect of the Draft Protocol is that when releases from Wivenhoe Dam are to be made, Seqwater is to issue to the Water Grid Manager, which is the State's designated lead public communication agency in respect of such releases of floodwaters from Wivenhoe Dam, Technical Situation Reports (*TSRs*).


21. My understanding is that the Water Grid Manager treats releases of water from Wivenhoe Dam as an "Alert" level incident under the Water Grid Emergency Response Plan and ordinarily assumes responsibility for public communications in respect of the releases of flood waters.
22. Seqwater has provided further information in relation to the Grid Emergency Response Plan in paragraphs 112 – 131 of Seqwater's supplementary submission to the Commission dated 4 April 2011. I believe the matters referred to in those paragraphs to be true.
23. My understanding is that it was initially envisaged that the BoM and the Councils would incorporate information into the TSR. Accordingly, the form of the TSR attached to the Draft Protocol referred to the inclusion, where practicable, of information from BoM and the Councils regarding releases from Wivenhoe Dam in addition to information provided by Seqwater.
24. I had a number of communications with Daniel Spiller and other officers of the Water Grid Manager after the Draft Protocol was circulated on 22 November 2010 by the Premier, in relation to the form of the TSR. The intended content of the TSR changed from that referred in the Draft Protocol as I understood (from discussions at the Protocol meetings held by EMQ) that the BoM and the Councils had not agreed to ordinarily incorporate their information into a TSR, unless they decided otherwise. In practical terms, the TSR became solely an update from Seqwater to the Water Grid Manager and did not include information incorporated into the TSR by BoM and the Councils.
25. This form of the TSR is the form I used during the January 2011 Flood Event, which I discuss below.
26. Following the January 2011 Flood Event, I became aware that Mr Brian Cooper, who had been engaged by the Water Grid Manager to review the event, suggested further changes to the form of the TSR.
27. Since that time, I have proposed a new format for the TSR in consultation with the Water Grid Manager and the Dam Safety Regulator and this new form is now under discussion with these agencies. Annexed and marked **RD4** is the form of the new TSR I have proposed.
28. Additionally, there have been further discussions in relation to the Draft Protocol and a further draft has been circulated by EMQ. This further draft is annexed and marked **RD4A**. My understanding is that a new draft will be circulated shortly.

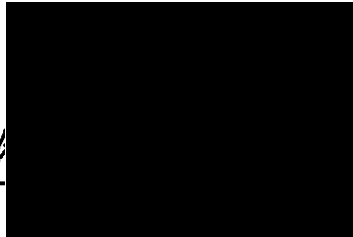
**Communications with the staff of the Flood Operations Centre between 6 January 2011 and 19 January 2011 and my role in relation to the Flood Operations Centre's communications with external agencies between 6 January 2011 and 19 January 2011**

29. During the January 2011 Flood Event, my principal roles were as follows:
- (a) I was emailed situation reports issued by the Flood Operations Centre;
  - (b) I prepared the TSRs and emailed them to Mr Daniel Spiller of the Water Grid Manager. In preparing the TSRs I would copy and paste matters detailed in the situation reports prepared by the Flood Operations Centre, into the relevant column headings in the TSR template;
  - (c) generally, I emailed the information in the situation reports to Tony Trace of the Ipswich City Council, Chris Lavin of the Brisbane City Council and Tony Jacobs of the Somerset Regional Council at about the same time as sending the TSRs to the Water Grid Manager;
  - (d) I spoke regularly with the flood operations engineers to seek information, request clarification of information they had provided or provide assistance as requested. I deal with these discussions further below. On 11 January 2011, I also spent the afternoon in the Flood Operations Centre because I was concerned Seqwater's Margaret Street premises might be affected by loss of power;
  - (e) I spoke regularly with Mr Daniel Spiller in relation to the information in the TSRs;
  - (f) I checked scripts for the 1800 number operated by the Water Grid;
  - (g) I had many discussions with internal Seqwater personnel in relation to the event generally;
  - (h) to assist in the preparation of a brief to the Minister following the event.
30. As required by the Commission, annexed and marked **RD5** is a bundle of emails I sent or received during the period 6 January 2011 to 19 January 2011.
31. In relation to my discussions with the flood operations engineers, I am not now able to recall verbatim the discussions I had. I have reviewed the flood event log and to the extent the log records discussions with me, my best recollection is that the log is, with one exception, a reasonable reflection of the calls I made or received.

32. The one exception is the call recorded at 12.55am on 10 January 2011. I do not recall Mr Ruffini referring to fuse plugs at that time and do not believe he did refer to the fuse plugs.

**SWORN by Robert John Drury in the presence of:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness Signature

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

GOBIND GARY SINGH KALSI - SELECTOR  
Print Name

**IN THE MATTER OF  
THE QUEENSLAND FLOODS COMMISSION OF INQUIRY**

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

**STATEMENT OF ROBERT JOHN DRURY**

**INDEX OF ANNEXURES**

<b>Annexure No.</b>	<b>Document</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Page No.</b>
RD1	"Requirement to Provide Statement" issued by the Commission	21/04/2011	1-2
RD2	Premier's letters and the Draft Protocol	22/11/2010	3-18
RD3	Email from EMQ and Draft Protocol	23/11/2010	19-30
RD4	Proposed new form of TSR	22/02/2011	31-33
RD4A	Email from EMQ and further draft protocol	24/03/2011	34-48
RD5	Bundle of emails during the period 6 January 2011 to 19 January 2011	Various	

---

Filed on behalf of: Queensland Bulk Water Supply Authority trading as Seqwater

**Allens Arthur Robinson**  
Lawyers  
Riverside Centre  
123 Eagle Street  
Brisbane QLD 4000

DX 210 Brisbane  
Tel (07) 3334 3000 Fax (07) 3334 3444  
Ref MGI:120128021

mgib A0117382540v1 150540

**Note regarding statement of Robert Drury,  
6 May 2011**

Attachments to this statement are available on the [exhibits](#) section of the website.

Exhibit number: 430

Tendered by QFCI, 19 May 2011