



# QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE

## STATEMENT OF WITNESS



Occurrence #: \_\_\_\_\_

Statement no.: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Statement of**Name of witness: KAJEWSKI, Terry JohnDate of birth:            Age:            Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_**Police officer taking statement**Name: KAJEWSKI, Terry JohnRank: Inspector Reg. no.: 4005130Region/Command/Division: Southern Station: Toowoomba District Office**Statement:**

Terry John KAJEWSKI states:-

I am an Inspector of Police presently based at the Toowoomba District office. I was appointed as an Inspector on 3 April 2006. From that period until February 2008 I performed the role of Professional Practices Manager for the Southern Region. From February 2008 until now I have worked at the Toowoomba District office except for two periods where I relieved as the acting District Officer for the Dalby District. One of those periods of relief encompassed the period 2 January 2011 until 14 January 2011. I have held that position since Saturday 15 January 2011. As the acting District Officer, Dalby District I also assumed the role of the Dalby District Disaster Coordinator (DDC) for that period.

I was sworn into the Queensland Police Service on 3 September 1982. I have 28 of years policing experience having served in general duties at Toowoomba; in the Criminal Investigation Branch at Toowoomba; as the Officer in Charge of Goondiwindi and Gatton Criminal Investigation Branch; as the Officer in Charge of the Ipswich District Juvenile Aid Bureau and finally as an Inspector in various positions as previously outlined.

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## CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: KAJEWSKI, Terry John

On Sunday 2 January 2011 I commenced duty as District Officer, Dalby District at which time I assumed the role of DDC for the Dalby Disaster District. The role and responsibilities of the DDC is outlined in Section 26A of the Disaster Management Act 2003 as *"The function of the district disaster coordinator is to coordinate disaster operations in the disaster district for the group"*.

On 5 August 2010 I attended an information session at Toowoomba with regard to proposed changes to Queensland's Disaster Management arrangement. This session was facilitated by Inspector Richard Hahn of the Disaster Management Unit, Disaster and Major Event Planning Branch, Police Headquarters, Brisbane. I also participated in a South East Queensland Flood Planning workshop conducted at the Warilda Conference Centre, Woolloowin on Wednesday 15 December 2010. I previously completed courses in relation to Introduction to Disaster Management and Introduction to Disaster Risk Management Ipswich in 2002.

I have had no previous actual experience in coordinating disaster operations.

I assumed the role of DDC from acting Inspector Simon Chase on Sunday 2 January 2011 and a formal handover was completed. Acting Inspector Chase had been relieving as District Officer, Dalby District and had also been carrying out the DDC function. At the time I assumed the DDC role, disaster management operations were at different stages of response and recovery.

On 30 and 31 January I actually attended the Dalby District office at the request of acting Chief Superintendent Andy Morrow to familiarise myself with the arrangements that were already in place within the Dalby Disaster District. This familiarisation process involved:-

- Attending the Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) office located at 26 Wood Street, Dalby (previously Wambo Shire Council building) on Thursday 30 December 2010 where I initially met representatives and staff from the Western Downs Regional Council, the Queensland Police Service, the Queensland Ambulance Service, Emergency Management Queensland and Ergon Energy.

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- Attending District Disaster Management Group (DDMG) meetings at the Dalby District office from 1600 to 1700 on Thursday 30 December 2010 and 0900 to 1000 on Friday 31 December 2010.
- Listening to a teleconference facilitated by the State Disaster Coordination Centre on Friday 31 December 2010.

In response to the written requirement of the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry dated 28 February 2011, I provide the following information:

**The preparation and planning undertaken by the District Disaster Coordinator and the District Disaster Management Group in advance of and/or in relation to the 2010/2011 floods**

I am unable to comment on what preparation and planning was undertaken by the District Disaster Coordinator and the District Disaster Management Group in advance of or in relation to the 2010/2011 floods.

**The actions undertaken by the District Disaster Coordinator and the District Disaster Management group in respect of the 2010/2011 floods in relation to immediate management, response and recovery operations**

As previously indicated I assumed the role as DDC for the Dalby Disaster District on Sunday 2 January 2011. During the hand-over I was advised that the DDMG stood up at 1600hrs on Monday 27 December 2010. I was also advised of the existence of a Declaration of a Disaster Situation – District Level that was in effect from 12.46am on 28 December 2010.

At that time disaster management operations were at different stages of response and recovery throughout the district. Essentially, the town of Dalby was in recovery mode to their first flood event that occurred on 27 December 2010 (3.54 metre peak in Myall Creek), the town of Chinchilla was also in recovery mode to their first flood event that occurred on 28 December 2010 (7.24 metre peak in Charley's Creek),

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while the township of Condamine was in response and recovery mode to their first flood which peaked on 1 January 2011 at 15.25 metres in the Condamine River.

I was aware that Dalby DDMG meetings held twice daily from 28 December 2010 up until January 2011. I continued to hold DDMG meetings for each morning and afternoon from Sunday 2 January 2011 until 15 January 2011 except where other circumstances prevented my attendance as outlined below:-

- Sunday 2 January 2011 – meetings at 0900 and 1600;
- Monday 3 January 2011 - meetings at 0900 and 1600;
- Tuesday 4 January 2011 - meetings at 0900 and 1600;
- Wednesday 5 January 2011 - meetings at 0900 and 1600;
- Thursday 6 January 2011 - meetings at 0800 and 1600;
- Friday 7 January 2011 - meeting at 0800 (no afternoon meeting due to visit by Governor General Quentin Bryce)
- Saturday 8 January 2011 - meeting at 0800 (no afternoon meeting due to visit by Premier Anna Bligh)
- Sunday 9 January 2011 - meetings at 0830 and 1600 (the morning meeting was chaired by my Deputy Executive officer Sergeant Brett Hunter);
- Monday 10 January 2011 - meetings at 0800 and 1600;
- Tuesday 11 January 2011 - meetings at 0800 and 1600;
- Wednesday 12 January 2011 - meetings at 0800 and 1600;
- Thursday 13 January 2011 - meetings at 0800 and 1600;
- Friday 14 January 2011 - meetings at 0900 and 1600;
- Saturday 15 January 2011 - meeting at 1500 (no morning meeting due to visit by Major General Mick Slatter)

The business of all meetings was recorded by minutes and also tape recorded. Those recordings are available if required.

At each of the DDMG meetings all members of the DDMG were briefed on the flooding response and any issues that were identified or forwarded from the LDMG or SDCC. Each member was then requested to address the group and provide an

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update on their organisations / groups response. At these meetings a number of issues were discussed including the management, response and recovery operations.

As previously indicated I was aware that the initial response for the Dalby DDMG centred on flooding in Dalby and Chinchilla. My primary concern at the time of commencing the role as the DDC for Dalby lay with the township of Condamine and principally the fact that most of the residents had been evacuated to Dalby or had self-evacuated to other towns including Miles and Chinchilla.

A number of roads were closed throughout the Dalby District and the DDMG was briefed on a daily basis by Transport and Main Roads staff regarding these closures. Additionally, police personnel and administrative staff based at Dalby and Chinchilla responded to numerous telephone calls and counter requests regarding road closures and conditions throughout the Dalby district and adjoining disaster districts. I personally witnessed this on a daily basis when I walked through the day room of the Dalby police station. On various occasions I also attended to inquiries at the counter of Dalby station when I was either arriving at or leaving the workplace.

During conversations with members of the LDMG I was advised that in addition to the Local Emergency Coordination Centre (LECC) established other centres were set up in Chinchilla and Miles to coordinate response and recovery operations in those towns.

During the course of the flood events within the Dalby Disaster area I was aware that three evacuations centres were established in Dalby at different times. During the first flooding event the evacuation centre was established at the Dalby Showgrounds. This evacuation centre remained in place for an extended period of time and was also initially used to house evacuees from Condamine on 30 and 31 December 2010. Some of these evacuees then moved to another evacuation centre at the Dalby Agricultural College. During the second flooding event at Dalby another evacuation centre was established at the Dalby South State School essentially because the town of Dalby is divided in two when the Myall Creek floods and it was thought that the evacuation centres already established would not be able to accommodate all the

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evacuees. One evacuation centre was also established at Chinchilla and another at Miles at different times during the flooding events. Some evacuees from Condamine during the second flooding event at that town were also housed at the Queensland Gas Company (QGC) "Wyndebri" work camp. These evacuation centres had been established to house persons whose residents had been inundated due to the floods.

I was particularly concerned about events as they unfolded on the evening of 9 January 2011 given the unknown amount of rainfall that had fallen in the catchment area around the Bunya Mountains, a prediction that a further 50 to 100 millilitres may fall in the ensuing 24 hours, the uncertainty regarding the Clydesdale gauging station and the fact that the catchment areas and waterways were already saturated. I conducted an inspection of the Dalby township from 2000 to 2045 that night and having observed water already entering some of the streets of Dalby I then participated in a meeting at the LDCC that night where key stakeholders were in attendance. During this time I also requested and received a hydrology report. I then attended to an Emergency Alert for Dalby which was issued at 2206 that night and subsequently progressively updated at 0730 and 1355 the following day. Advice was received from the Bureau of Meteorology that the Myall Creek was expected to peak at 3.8 metres by 1600 on 10 January 2011. The Myall Creek ultimately peaked at 3.49 metres at 0600 on 11 January 2011. As a result of this flooding event approximately one hundred (100) homes were again inundated, in excess of two hundred (200) evacuees were accommodated at the three centres in Dalby and five hundred and thirty seven (537) premises were without power.

At 1730 on 10 January 2011 I was provided with advice from Chinchilla police that there had been significant rainfall (190 millilitres) in an area to the north of Chinchilla within a short period of time earlier that day. Based on this advice and through consultation with Sergeant Hunter who worked in Chinchilla for a number of years and also given the events that I had been made aware of within Toowoomba and the Lockyer Valley that day I made the decision to instigate an Emergency Alert. This was issued at 1855 that evening. I also requested more specific advice regarding this rainfall and at 2015 I was advised that:-

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- 140 millilitres of rain had fallen in the catchment area for Rocky Creek between 1530 and 1830 that day and that this locality was approximately 5 kilometres away from Chinchilla;
- 120 millilitres of rain had fallen in the catchment area for Charley's Creek between 1530 and 2000 that day. Charley's Creek flows into the township of Chinchilla;
- 207 millilitres of rain had fallen in the catchment area for Branch Creek between 1530 and 1830 that day and that this locality was approximately 15 kilometres away from Chinchilla and that this watercourse links with Charley's Creek;
- it was still raining; and
- a number of weather reading implements had not been fixed after the flooding event in December 2010 which made it difficult to provide any more accurate advice to assist with predicting what level of flooding may be reached at Chinchilla.

This advice reinforced my initial thoughts with regard to evacuating residents from low lying areas of Chinchilla and I made arrangements for this to be attended to by police, SES and other emergency responders. Charley's Creek ultimately peaked at Chinchilla at 7.44 metres at 1000 on 12 January 2011. As a result of this flooding event thirty five (35) homes were again inundated, twenty two (22) persons were registered as evacuees and two hundred and thirteen (213) premises were without power.

For the entire period I was based at Dalby I constantly monitored the Condamine River with regard to the township of Condamine. There was a rapid rise in the river at 1900 on 10 January 2011. I requested an Emergency Alert at 2122 that night based on the fact that the river had risen .7 of a metre in the previous 3 hours and the river height was now at 9.6 metres. The road bridge at Condamine goes under water at 10.1 metres. This alert requested that residents consider self evacuation. Most residents of Condamine had self evacuated by 1400 on 12 January 2011. At 2330 on 14 January 2011 the river height was at 14.6 metres. Even at that height fifteen (15) residences and five (5) business premises were again inundated.

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During the period that I was DDC for Dalby I was mindful of the isolated townships of Meandarra, Tara, Flinton and residents who were on properties throughout the District. I was regularly in contact with Senior Constable John Evans of the Meandarra Police Division and he provided regular sitreps regarding his constituents which are reflected in the sitrep reports submitted to SDCC. On 11 January 2011 I requested a hydrology report based on information provided to me regarding the Meandarra area and in particular Brigalow Creek and the Moonie River. In the interim period Evans advised me that various residences within the Meandarra township were sandbagged on 10 January 2011. I was later advised by Jeff Perkins of the BOM that *"I can not provide much advice for Meandarra as we do not have any river height data on Brigalow Creek. It is included in our models as a local area for Cotswold but we do not have the ability to forecast for Meandarra itself."* On 11 January 2011 advice was received that no houses were inundated in the township.

The afore-going events led me to a request an extension of the existing Decaration of a Disaster Situation and this was effected on 11 January 2011.

**The actions undertaken by the District Disaster Coordinator and the District Disaster Management Group in respect of the 2010/2011 floods in relation to resourcing, coordination and deployment of personnel and equipment**

During all DDMG meetings that I chaired from 2 January to 15 January 2011 all issues relating to resourcing, coordination and deployment of personnel and equipment were discussed. As previously indicated those discussions were recorded by minutes and also tape recorded.

I was aware that acting Superintendant Brett Schafferius, Toowoomba District had previously assisted with the provision of additional police officers who were deployed to the township of Chinchilla to assist local officers in the policing response. On 3 January I made a further request for staff to Schafferius for further staff to support in the Dalby Disaster area. This request was approved and police from Toowoomba Tactical Crime Squad and General Duties provided further assistance during the entire time that I was the DDC at Dalby.

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I was also aware that Miles police were assisting with regard to the Condamine response and recovery and that Sergeant Ben Wiltshire was instrumental in convincing residents of Condamine that they need to evacuate on 30 December 2010. On 3 January 2011 I contacted the Roma DDC, Mark Stiles and confirmed that Miles police would continue to assist with providing a 24 hour police presence to Condamine.

The DDMG received a number of requests for assistance from the LDMG. These requests for assistance were discussed with the relevant agency and any request that could not be met by the group was referred to the SDCC by way of a Request for Assistance form. At this point in time, I have not specifically referenced any Requests for Assistance, however, I undertake to do if required by the Commission of Inquiry. Of note was the transport by helicopter of a woman from Jandowae to Dalby on 11 January 2011. This lady gave birth on the following day to a healthy boy.

During DDMG meetings it was resolved to establish One Stop Shop at the Dalby Multi-tenant centre located at the corner of Drayton and Nicholson Streets Dalby. This was facilitated by the Department of Communities and ultimately this initiative catered for:-

- Department of Communities - emergency payments for those affected by the floods as well as essential contents replacement and structural repairs and assistance;
- Centrelink - Financial assistance;
- Lifeline - Counselling and Support;
- Red Cross - referral and assistance;
- Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority / Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation - assistance for Primary Producers and Small Businesses, grants and loans;
- Housing assistance; and

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- Other referrals were provided on a needs basis including assistance to source medical assistance, help with clean up of yards and homes, support to access other services such as mental health and disability services support.

**Measures taken by the District Disaster Coordinator and the District Disaster Management Group to manage, maintain or reinstate the supply of essential services (water, power and communications) during the 2010/2011 floods**

The DDMG discussed the management, supply and reinstatement of essential services during the meetings chaired by myself from 2 to 14 January 2011. As a result of those discussions, plans were put in place by the member agencies such as Ergon Energy (power) and Western Downs Regional Council (water and sewerage) to restore those services to various towns in the District as soon as the flood waters receded sufficiently to allow access to key infrastructures including the water treatment plants at both Dalby and Condamine.

By way of general comment I can indicate that there were at least seven different floods throughout the Dalby Disaster District during December 2010 and January 2011 (Dalby x 3, Chinchilla x 2, Condamine x 2). There were also other towns such as Tara, Warra, Flinton and Meandarra that were isolated for lengthy periods of time. Flash flooding incidents also occurred at Jandowae and Bell. There were also properties along rivers that were flooded and in some instances isolated for extended periods of time.

The water treatment works located on the Condamine River near Loudon Bridge for the Dalby township was inundated on two occasions. On the first occasion water tankers and bottled water supplies were sourced via the LDMG, DDMG and SDMG. A request for assistance was forwarded to the SDMG for water tankers and these were supplied. The water was then sourced from Toowoomba, Oakey, Bell and Jandowae water treatment plants. On the second occasion water tankers were again sourced, however, were not able to respond as effectively as in the first flood as vital roads were cut including the Warrego Highway, thereby limiting access into Dalby. On this occasion water was sourced from Bell and Jandowae, however, the supply of water at this time was not as critical.

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The LDMG issued appropriate media alerts to their constituents throughout this period of time which highlighted the need to boil water and also to conserve water. Boiled water alerts were issued for the towns of Warra, Chinchilla and Condamine. Additionally, advice in relation to boiled water alerts and other health issues was provided by Queensland Health. This timely advice assisted greatly in ensuring the health of the local residents was not compromised. The water supply for the Dalby township stands at approximately 13.2 mega litres at full capacity. The town generally uses between 3 and 4 mega-litres on a daily basis. During the second flood the supply of water reached a level of 4.2 mega litres. That was the lowest level of water supply throughout the floods.

The water treatment works at Condamine was also compromised during the first flood. However, back-up treated water was available but on the advice of Queensland Health this water was tested prior to use. The ADF supplied a portable water treatment plant when the town was re-entered after the second flood and this supplied adequate water for the town and recovery staff. The water treatment plant is now operational with the use of temporary water pumps. The original pumps are still buried under silt and cannot be accessed for repair at this stage.

All arrangements regarding power were managed through the LDMG or DDMG. Essentially, Ergon Energy staff:-

- had a representative at LDMG and the DDMG;
- worked with other response agencies to ensure that the power was left on for as long as safely possible. Power was disconnected to parts of Dalby, Chinchilla, Warra and Condamine at predetermined flood heights;
- assisted with the connection of a generator to the Telstra tower located at Condamine to provide essential telecommunications;
- left power on at water treatment plants until latest possible time. Re-entry for repairs to the plants was facilitated as early as possible through the use of floodboats with the assistance of Ergon, private electrical contractors, SES and QAS;
- used helicopters to access isolated towns and customers and bore those costs;

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- reconnected power as the first available opportunity after flooding had receded;
- facilitated the earliest possible reconnections of power to housing and businesses to allow for cleanup. In most instances at least one power point and one light were made operable. This was more than they were required to perform as the customer is responsible for repairs on their side of the meter box;
- utilised local contractors to provide assistance; and
- provided an emergency generator that was located at DDCC.

Communications throughout the District were generally not a concern other than at Condamine. Communications were a problem initially during the first flooding event at Condamine. A generator was sourced and connected by Ergon Energy to provide essential communications, particularly when the township was evacuated and then isolated to the extent that there were only police, ambulance and approximately six SES volunteers (actual residents) that remained in the town. This generator was sourced through the LDMG.

Condamine was the only township that experienced some problems with sewerage. Initial reports were received that septic tanks had been breached and that raw sewerage had been dispensed into the Condamine River. Further inquiries established that there were some breaches in this regard but the problem was not as widespread as initially thought. The LDMG provided private contractors to empty all septic tanks and make them suitable for use. The LDMG also embarked on a rigorous program to ensure that all residents were appropriately advised and equipped with personal protection equipment. There were only isolated reports to QAS staff at Condamine of minor infections.

**Measures taken by the District Disaster Coordinator and the District Disaster Management Group to inform the community about the 2010/2011 flood events and the response thereto**

At the time I assumed the DDC role in the Dalby Disaster District on Sunday 2 January 2011 I was aware that the Mayor of the Western Downs Regional Council

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and member of the Dalby Disaster Management Group, Councillor Ray Brown had been appointed as the group media spokesperson. I had already heard a number of radio interviews provided by Brown informing the community about the flood and the response. During my sojourn at Dalby Brown continued to provide media interviews to the community with regard to the floods and the responses that had been put in place. The performance of Brown and staff from Western Downs Regional Council in terms of advising their constituents could not be faulted.

Since these events occurred Brown has provided me with the following summary regarding his media involvement which highlights that a number of interviews took place to inform the community about flooding events and how various agencies were responding to those events. *Participated in over 1700 interviews and maintained written notes of these including:-*

- *Radio - Local : ABC - 4GR - 4AK - 4WK - 4DDD - CFM - Downs FM - Rebel FM;*
- *State : ABC - 4BC - Christian Radio - 4KQ - MMM - Southern Cross Media;*
- *Interstate : 2UE - 2SM - 7BU - ABC National - ABC Tas - ABC Landline - ABC 7.30 Report - Weather Channel - ABC Vic - ABC Sydney - 2GB - MTR Melbourne;*
- *International : NZ News - CNN News - German Radio/TV;*
- *Television - Local : WIN TV;*
- *State & Interstate : ABC - Ch9 - Ch7 - Ch10 - Sky News - ABC News24 - SBS - Weather Channel;*
- *Newspapers - Local : Dalby Herald - Chinchilla News - Northern Downs News - Chronicle;*
- *State : Courier Mail - Brisbane Times - Sunday Mail - QLD Country Life;*
- *Interstate : Australian - Financial Review - Sun Herald - The Age - AAP - Sydney Morning Herald; and*
- *Internet : Toowoomba.com*

Additionally, I have been provided with copies of all media releases and alerts attended to by the Western Downs Regional Council. This documents confirm that the WDRC were particularly effective in providing timely and accurate advice to

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members of the wider community. I am able to produce copies of those documents if required.

When the township of Condamine was first evacuated on the evening of 30 December 2010 and into the following morning a number of concerns were raised by residents regarding various issues including:-

- If people were transported to accommodation across the river by authorities – how will they get back? People have been told that they will have to find their own way back.
- What help will be given to residents for the clean up of their homes etc?
- Why didn't the residents get sufficient notice to allow them to get animals and essential items protected before they had to evacuate, given that there was up to a 6 hour wait for some people at the air strip? And why did the media know of the evacuation before the community did?
- At what point will the residents be able to return and how will this be done? Will residents have to find their own way back to the community?
- The travellers were told to lock their cars and caravans before they left – were the caravans and cars moved to higher ground?
- Will residents be allowed to return if the water in the southern end of the town goes down?
- Can there be a written report or recording of the 1pm meeting tomorrow for the residents who are not present.

These issues were addressed through the formulation of a recovery strategy for the township of Condamine through consultation between all representatives of the LDMG and DDMG. On 2 January 2011 I attended the evacuation centre at the Dalby Agricultural College in company with Philip Berting who is the Chief Executive Officer for the Western Downs Regional Council. At this time we presented key aspects of the Recovery Strategy to the group who comprised mainly of the evacuees from Condamine. This meeting took place from 1300 to 1430. A follow up meeting was located at the same locality on the following day from 1330 to 1430. I am able to produce a copy of the document *Recovery Strategy Condamine Flood December 2010*.

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At 0630 on 5 January 2011 I specifically participated in an interview with Channel 10 and ABC reporters in order to outline the recovery response for Condamine. Additionally, I provided daily updates to the QPS Media and Public Affairs Branch regarding the current situation within the Dalby Disaster District and focusing principally on Dalby, Chinchilla and Condamine.

I personally attended the evacuation centre at the Dalby Showgrounds on 2 January 2011. On 7 January 2011 I accompanied the Governor General Quentin Bryce, Mayor Brown, CEO Berting to a feedlot property at "Condabri" on the Condamine River, Condamine and Chinchilla. On 8 January 2011 I accompanied the Premier Anna Bligh, Major General Mick Slatter and Mayor Brown to Condamine. On these occasions I provided advice to various attendees regarding the response and recovery efforts that had been embarked upon at the various localities.

On 15 January 2011 I accompanied the Major General Mick Slatter, Senator Joe Ludwig and Mayor Brown to the local Disaster Coordination Centre at Wood Street, Dalby then to the evacuation centre at the Dalby Showgrounds, then to the Community Recovery One Stop Shop, then to a residence that was inundated during the floods and finally an inspection of the Loudon Bridge. I again provided advice to various attendees and also took advice from them regarding the response and recovery efforts that had been embarked upon at these localities. While at the evacuation centre I took the opportunity to meet and thank the contingent of fifteen (15) New Zealand workers from the Civil Defence and Emergency Management. Those members had assisted in recovery efforts at Dalby, Condamine and Chinchilla.

**The nature and timing of all communications between the District Disaster Coordinator and/or the District Disaster Management Group and the Local Disaster Management Group and/or the Local Disaster Management Coordinator relative to the 2010/2011 flood events.**

I assumed the role of Dalby DDC on Sunday 2 January 2011. I convened and chaired meetings of the DDMG each day until Saturday 15 January 2011 at which time I completed a hand-over to Inspector Michael Bianchi. During those meetings several

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of the members attended in person while others communicated via teleconference. Communications in those instances were direct and verbal. The Western Downs Local Disaster Coordinator, Philip Berting, also attended those meetings facilitating direct communications from myself as the DDC to him as the LDC. There were also numerous telephone calls and meetings between the two of us between 1 and 15 January 2011. From 9 January until 19 January 2011 Graham Preston sometimes deputised for Berting and the same processes were adopted.

During my period as DDC for Dalby, I also spoke directly to the Local Disaster Coordinator in Chinchilla, Ms Tania Thornton and the Local Disaster Coordinator in Miles, Ms Helen Thomas, on various occasions regarding the response, recovery and repatriation of Chinchilla and Condamine. Both persons also dialled into the daily DDMG meeting when required and provided verbal reports and advice during those conferences.

I am also aware that a number of email communications were sent by the Deputy Executive Officer for the DDMG, Sergeant Brett Hunter to the group members of the DDMG.

Situation reports (Sitrep) were provided by the LDCC to the DDCC. On occasions these sitreps were not received within appropriate timeframes however I have reviewed all of them and can confirm that they are an accurate representation of the information provided to the DDMG.

The nature and timings of all communications between the District Disaster Coordinator and/or the District Disaster Management Group and the State Disaster Management Group and/or the State Disaster Management Coordination Committee and/or the State Disaster Coordinator relative to the 2010/2011 flood events.

I participated in a daily teleconference with the SDCC at 1100 each day from 2 January 2011 until 14 January 2011 save for 8 and 9 January 2011 at which time I was represented by my appointed Executive Officer or Deputy Executive Officer.

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I also approved the submission of daily Sitreps to the SDCC on each day between 2 and 15 January to inform the State group of the situation in the Dalby Disaster District. These were Sitreps numbered 12 to 39.

The SDCC also provided daily sitreps to the DDC regarding the flooding response and recovery efforts.

**The availability and provision of services or logistical support within the disaster management hierarchy before and during the 2010/2011 flood events, including an assessment of the adequacy and timeliness thereof.**

As Dalby DDC from 2 January until 15 January 2011 I had cause to seek the provision of services and logistical support from the SDCC. This was done by way of Requests for Assistance to the SDCC. I approved a number of Requests for Assistance which were submitted to the SDCC for action.

The availability and provision of services and logistical support during the flood recovery period when I was the Dalby DDC was adequate and timely, however, in some instances were compromised due to flood events that occurred elsewhere from 10 January 2011 onwards and also because of poor planning in some instances by local suppliers.

**Any involvement with Commonwealth agencies, including but not limited to Emergency Management Australia or the Australian Defence Force, in relation to the provision of emergency response measures, personnel, equipment or services, including an assessment of the adequacy and timeliness thereof.**

I am aware that Australian Fence Force helicopters and staff were utilised to evacuate residents from Condamine on 30 December 2010 and similarly utilised after my time as DDC at Dalby in the repatriation of the Condamine township.

(Witness's signature)

(Justice of the Peace (Qual.))  
Commissioner for Declarations's signature

(Signature of police officer  
preparing statement)

## CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: KAJEWSKI, Terry John

Centrelink were involved in the recovery efforts throughout the District.

**An assessment of the adequacy of equipment and communications systems in the District during the 2010/2011 flood events.**

During my time as the Dalby DDC I was not aware of any shortfalls in the supply of equipment. All needs for equipment were either met locally or via Requests for Assistance to the SDCC.

The only real problem encountered with communication systems in the District during my time as Dalby DDC was with respect to Condamine during the first flooding event until a generator was connected to Telstra tower in order to facilitate mobile telephone communications.

**An assessment of the adequacy of the community's response in the District during the 2010/2011 flood events.**

I found that a small proportion of the residents of Dalby were blasé about the flooding events that occurred in Dalby from 9 to 11 January 2011. I witnessed people carrying alcohol across the flooded creek from one side of town to the other. I was also present when a young mother had to be stopped from entering the flooded creek on foot with her young child. Generally, the Dalby community responded well and progressed with day to day activities and business undertakings when the floodwaters subsided.

Staff from the QGC were particularly active in the Miles, Chinchilla and Condamine townships in terms of flood recovery efforts. When I attended "Condabri" property there were a number of these workers on site assisting with the clean up of sheds and equipment. This was also evident at Condamine.

The residents of Chinchilla appear to be well versed with what is required with respect to evacuating from low lying areas when Charley's Creek floods. This was

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(Signature of police officer preparing statement)

CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: **KAJEWSKI, Terry John**

particularly evident during the second flood that occurred when those residents evacuated from low lying areas within a very short time frame. .

I am of the view that most residents of Condamine did not believe that the town would be inundated to the extent it was during the first flood event and hence the reason why they were reluctant to evacuate in the first instance. The turnaround in their attitude was quite apparent during the second flood event that occurred within a fortnight of the first event when most of the residents self evacuated.

During my visit to Condamine on 7 and 8 January 2011 it was apparent that the community has responded well to the first flood event and that their main purposes were to prepare the State School for the beginning of the new school year and also to repatriate the Condamine Hotel as this locality acts as the social hub for the townspeople

**The circumstances of any human fatality within the District, including the measures taken to prevent and/or respond to any such fatality, during the 2010/2011 flood events.**

There were no flood related human fatalities within the Dalby Disaster District during the 2010/2011 flood events, however there was a death reported at Myall Creek near the junction of the Brymaroo – Irvingdale Road and Mirtchins Road on 13 January 2011. While that locality is within the Toowoomba District Disaster area it also falls under the Peranga Police division within the Dalby Police District. This incident was attended to by Senior Constable Brameld of the Goombungee Police Division (Toowoomba District) and Senior Constable Vanderham of the Peranga Police Division (Dalby District). This incident can be directly attributed to floodwater running off the Bunya Mountains. My inquiries to date reveal that there is no gauging station in place between this locality and the headwaters of the Myall Creek. As a result of this incident Senior Constable Vanderham conducted an aerial patrol of the Myall Creek in a helicopter but did not locate any further vehicles or bodies.

(Witness's signature)

(Justice of the Peace, Qld.)  
Commissioner for Declarations's signature

(Signature of police officer  
preparing statement)

## CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: KAJEWSKI, Terry John

By way of general comment, I would also indicate that three male residents of the township of Tara died during the period of time that I was the DDC for Dalby. One person died (believed to be natural causes) in the process of driving a WDRC water supply truck from Tara to Condamine as part of the recovery effort for Condamine on the morning of 8 January 2011. Another person was electrocuted on 10 January 2011 when he was in the process of fuelling a generator at 266 Treasure's Road, Wieambilla via Tara. Another young male died in a motor cycle incident at Fagan's Road, Tara on 13 January 2011. This young person was part of the Weranga Rural Fire Brigade. This unit was involved in various response and recovery activities during the Dalby floods. These occurrences had a devastating effect on this small community and I made arrangements to ensure that counsellors were placed at Tara at the earliest possible opportunity.

**The measures taken within the District to protect private and public property and/or preserve vital infrastructure in connection with the 2010/2011 flood events.**

Measures taken to protect private and public property included placing police officers into the town of Condamine which had been totally evacuated on two occasions. Initially two police officers and then four police officers were in place in Condamine at all times whilst the town was evacuated working on a 24 hour roster. From a staffing perspective, initial support was provided by the Toowoomba District and later supplemented by the Logan District.

No other special measures were required to protect private and public property or vital infrastructure during my time as DDC Dalby.

**Any special consideration that should be given to the District by reason of particular regional or geographic differences.**

There are some regional and geographical differences which would warrant any special consideration for the Dalby Disaster District. These are mainly based around the local government boundaries which cross over other government agency

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(Signature of police officer  
preparing statement)

CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: **KAJEWSKI, Terry John**


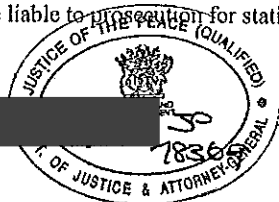
boundaries. For example, the towns of Miles, Condamine, Taroom and Wandoan are in the Roma Police District, but come under the governance of the Dalby Disaster District. The towns of Cecil Plains, Yarraman, Cooyar, Peranga, MacLagan, Quinalow and Millmerran, although they lie in the Dalby Police District, come within the Toowoomba Disaster District. This was particularly evident with regard to the death that occurred at Myall Creek and was reported on 13 January 2011.

The re-alignment of these boundaries would assist in command and control of police resources during further disaster events.

The information contained in this statement is provided on the basis of the knowledge, information and material currently available to me and my interpretation of the information sought by the requirement at this point in time.

  
T J Kajewski

**Justices Act Acknowledgement**

Justices Act 1886	
I acknowledge by virtue of section 110A(5)(c)(ii) of the Justices Act 1886 that:	
(1)	This written statement by me dated date and contained in the pages numbered 1 to page_number 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.
Signed at <u>Yarraman</u> this <u>11th</u> day of <u>MARCH</u> 20 <u>11</u>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-end;"> <div style="width: 45%;">             .....Signature         </div> <div style="width: 45%; text-align: center;">  </div> </div>

(Witness's signature)

(Justice of the Peace (Qual.)/  
Commissioner for Declarations's signature)(Signature of police officer  
preparing statement)