

Name of Witness	Roy David INWOOD
Date of Birth	[REDACTED]
Address and contact details	[REDACTED]
Occupation	Farmer
Officer taking statement	Det Insp Mark Ainsworth
Date taken	22/3/2011

Roy David INWOOD states;

1. I am [REDACTED] years of age and I reside at [REDACTED] Boodua. I have lived at this address all of my life and in fact my family before me have lived here since 1911. I consider I have a very good local knowledge in particular issues affecting my property. I am a farmer by occupation and run five poultry farms in the Oakey area. I also have a number of head of cattle on my property. My house is a lowset brick house which sits some distance behind a dam we have on the property. I have a levy wall that is approximately 1.5 metres in height around the western side of the dam to protect my residence and other infrastructure on my property from water. Over the years I have raised the height of the levies on several occasions principally to hold back any flood water from the creek. These levies have been extremely successful in preventing flooding from the creek but cannot hold back waters coming from the Cooby Dam.

2. Situated on my property at the above mentioned address apart from my residence are a number of poultry sheds, egg sorting and packaging room, store room holding egg packaging, offices, grain storage facilities, car parking sheds and other items. I also grow produce crops on my property.

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Signature of officer [REDACTED]

400 George Street Brisbane
GPO Box 1738 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone 1300 309 634
Facsimile +61 7 3405 9750
www.floodcommission.qld.gov.au
ABN 65 959 415 158

Exhibit Number:

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Date:

19/4/11

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3. I recall the flood events of December 2010 and January, 2011. During December I from about Christmas day on there was flooding to the creeks and roads around our area. I would describe these flooding events as consistent with previous flooding events over the time I have lived in this area.
4. I recall on Monday 10th January, 2011 we would have about 4 inches of rain fall in the area. The creek was getting a little higher than normal. I recall on this date receiving a call from someone advising me that the Meringandan Creek was getting higher. They also advised me that the Cooby Dam was about .4 metre over the spillway. On Monday evening I received a phone call from a friend who advised me that there was 1.6metres of water falling over the Cooby Dam spillway.
5. About 5am on Tuesday 11 January, 2011 I awoke to see a quantity of water in my back yard. The water had got over the top of the 1.5 metre levy bank I had around my dam. I could also see that there was a large wave of water rolling through the paddocks adjoining my paddocks. I would estimate that this wave of water was about ½ metre in height but was extremely wide spread possibly up to a couple of kilometres in width. This water was coming from the east in the direction of the Cooby Dam and was travelling at a pretty fast rate.
6. I went out into my back yard and the water would have been knee high. I was having trouble standing as the water flow was pretty fast. I had about 70 head of cattle swept away by the water flow, feed bins were moved. The cattle were washed away to higher ground. I had three to four sheds of poultry washed away from this property and also one of our other properties nearby in [REDACTED] which is owned by my son

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and daughter in law (Damien and Sally Inwood). As a result I lost a large number of chicken, pullets and laying hens. I would estimate the property damage to my properties to have been about \$500 000.

7. On noticing the water going through my property, my daughter Roxanne contacted the Toowoomba City Council to advise them what was occurring. They told Roxanne to contact the SES. Roxanne did this requesting some assistance with sand bags however they were unable to assist.
8. Prior to the flooding on 11 January, 2011 my daughter Roxanne Manhire had contacted the Toowoomba Council helpline inquiring about the Cooby Dam levels, however they could not provide her with any information; other than to monitor the council web site.
9. Since the amalgamation of councils in 2008 this area has gone from being part of the Rosalie Shire to be part of the Toowoomba City Council. Since this time I would not know who our disaster co-ordinator is and I believe communication from Council in relation to issues has diminished somewhat in comparison with the days of the Rosalie Shire Council. To my knowledge there was no Evacuation Centre established in Oakey in relation to these floods, there was no information provided in relation to road closures and all communication relied heavily on word by mouth from local community members.
10. In relation to the Cooby Dam spillway overflowing there was no official warning provided by anyone in authority in relation to this. In previous years the local ranger utilised a phone warning system where the ranger used to contact farmers advising that the Cooby Dam was flooding. This

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would then commence a series of phone calls being made from farmer to farmer. On this instance no such warnings were received. For future events I would suggest that this is the most appropriate method of warning locals of pending flood events.

11. The Cooby Dam was built in the 1930's and at the time of construction there were no flood gates constructed allowing water to be released from the dam. There was however a tunnel constructed to assist in the release of water if needed but this tunnel is full of debris and would obstruct any flow of water. I have since been informed by the Toowoomba Regional Council that the tunnel was not built to release water therefore the Cooby Dam can never release water. Prior to the rain in December, 2010, the dam got down to about 8% of water volume. This would have been an ideal time for the Council to clear the debris from the tunnel. With the consistent rainfall in December/January the dam overflowed.

12. In my view the Council have continually ignored previous attempts from myself and other persons to prepare for flooding of the Cooby Dam. Property approvals in the area have increased significantly altering hill contours and changing the course of waterways

13. The Cooby Dam played a significant part in the 1974 floods in this area. At that time flooding of my property was again caused by the of the Cooby Dam over flow. On that occasion the level of water that flowed through my property was lower than the flood of 11 January, 2011. After the 1974 floods representation was made to the Council to raise the walls of the Cooby Dam and flood gates, Council refused saying the 1974 flood was a one off event and would not happen again. Prior to the

construction of the dam in the 1930's the buildings and sheds on my property had never been inundated with water.

14. In 1976 the overflow of the Cooby Dam again resulted in flooding in my area. Significant numbers of crops were lost and it took six months for the land to fully recover and to produce a harvest. Further floods caused by the dam overflow occurred in 1981, 1984 and 1988. These floods cost land owners dearly replacing stock, fences, crops, yet the Council still did not listen to the local community with regards to raising the dam wall or putting in flood gates.

15. In 2006 the rejection by Council for a \$27 million upgrade of Cressbrook and Cooby dams has significantly contributed to this recent flood event. The area of concern below the Cooby Dam is not just restricted to livestock and farms but the growth of the Oakey area has seen a significant population rise and a big increase in residential properties.

16. Another contributing factor to the recent 2011 floods was the inability of Oakey Creek to flow and disperse water due to the amassing of overgrown trees, shrubs and debris which has accumulated. I have lived on my property for 74 years and am aware of what creeks cause flooding problems to my property, resulting in my construction of levies to protect the farm.

17. In relation to response to the flooding event on my property, we managed the issue ourselves. At a later stage we received some assistance in restoring lost fences by a couple of volunteer groups coordinated by, 'Landcare 'Blaze Aid' and 'Aussie Workers'. They provided help for a number of days and did a great job. There was no government assistance

provided to me in relation to physical resources. I can say that the Council did a reasonable job in restoring roadways once the water receded.

18. I believe this area needs a local community group established with an appointed co-ordinator to assist the community in times of disasters where an appointed leader could take charge keeping the community informed as to what is going on.


19. On 2nd February, 2011 I prepared a document and forwarded the same to the Premier of Queensland outlining my concerns with the Cooby Dam and the impact it has on the Oakey area. I can produce documents in relation to issues surrounding the dam. Included in these documents are numerous letters I have forwarded to the Council and other persons in authority regarding issues I have raised in this statement.

20. I can also produce a number of photographs pertaining to flooding on my property in January, 2011.



R.D.INWOOD.

<u>Justices Act 1886</u>	
I acknowledge by virtue of section 110A(5)(c)(ii) of the Justices Act 1886 that:	
(1)	This written statement by me dated <u>22/3/11</u> and contained in the pages numbered 1 to <u>6</u> 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.
Signature
Signed at <u>Oakey</u> this <u>4th</u> day of <u>April</u> 2011	

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