

<i>Name of Witness</i>	Robert George WHALLEY	
<i>Date of Birth</i>	[REDACTED]	
<i>Address and contact details</i>	[REDACTED]	Glamorgan Vale [REDACTED]
<i>Occupation</i>	Business Operator	
<i>Officer taking statement</i>	Detective Sergeant Glen CATCHPOLE	
<i>Date taken</i>	22/04/2011	

I, Robert George WHALLEY states;

1. I am [REDACTED] years of age and reside at [REDACTED] Glamorgan Vale. I have lived in Glamorgan Vale since 1991 and at this address since 1997. I have been a Director on the Glamorgan Vale Water Board between 2000 and 2005, a Councillor of the Shire of Esk between 2004 and 2008 and presently Chairman of the Somerset Regional Business Alliance between 2009 and 2011.
2. On the topic of the Wivenhoe Dam operators being slow to act, I state, while I was a Councillor of the Shire of Esk in 2005 we raised and pushed hard for the "dam operators" to make sensible changes in communication to send information via email or text to the Mid Brisbane River Irrigators regarding timing and volume of any releases, as they in particular were directly affected by the water releases. This was eventually realised some years later approximately in 2009. The Somerset Regional Business Alliance requested the same information to be sent but this was originally rejected by the operators, however they subsequently changed their minds and now forward this information for us to send to our members (local business operators).

Exhibit Number:

293

QFCI

Date:

06/05/11

JW

Witness Signature [REDACTED]

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Signature of officer [REDACTED]

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3. As a Councillor of the Esk Shire Council we found it very difficult to get the general public to come forward and assist when planning for disaster management, as the threat was not real to most people', since the events of 2011 I believe this has changed. Also whilst a Councillor between 2004 and 2008 I was aware that there were plans in place for disaster management, however I cannot explain the full details of these plans.
4. How did the Somerset Regional Council Disaster Management Group handle the situation? The SRC was put in an unenviable position and responded as best they could consider the SRCDMG Headquarters at the new Simeon Lord room at the Esk Council Building was submerged in floodwater on Monday the 10<sup>th</sup> of Jan, a day before the Somerset Region flooded, so all communications there were knocked out. This was a major shock as Esk had never flooded before this event.
5. In my opinion, a lot of money and time could be spent trying to set up disaster management plans around Queensland, but at the end of the day, we would be better off educating people that disasters, whether Bush Fire, Flood or Cyclone can and will happen, people actually need to put some thought into their own personal plan in the event of a Bush Fire, Flood or Cyclone. What to do? Where they need to go? I know People are just so insulated from the reality of a disaster that an education program needs to happen. The average Joe Blow needs this knowledge to have the ability to react to a natural disaster.

Witness Signature [REDACTED]  
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Signature of office [REDACTED]

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6. What is very interesting is that in all disasters, the average person on the ground are the ones who usually have to deal with the problem, we all need to know and accept this as fact, and be educated as to how to handle ourselves in this event, as it can take hours or days for any Rescuers or Authorities to get into certain areas.
7. I am aware that Doc HANNAH with the support of the local community of Glamorgan Vale has set up a local area disaster management group, as we now know we are best to deal with these events in the future until help arrives.
8. In the January 2011 floods there were so many affected at once it took days for authorities to even realise who needed assistance. I am aware that north of the Shire at Lineville and the Mt. Stanley areas were cut off for approximately a week and a half. The area around Wivenhoe Pocket was cut off completely for approx four days.
9. I think for the future all properties to be sold must have a due diligence clause stating if the property has ever been flooded.
10. The State Government must fund an education program, run by the local councils, to notify all those in flood plains or historical flood areas of what to do in an event, and have a means to contacting these people for warnings.

11. I also would like to say that there should be one meaning to 'flood damage' as far as any insurance policies are concerned.

.. [REDACTED] .....

R G WHALLEY

**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 22/4/2011 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.

[REDACTED] .....Signature

Signed at Clonmel this 28<sup>th</sup> day of April 2011....