

QUEENSLAND FLOODS COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

Requirement to Provide a Written Statement to Commission of Inquiry

Rick Kearney, Councillor and Chair of the Local Disaster Management Group Goondiwindi Regional Council

In accordance with section 5(1)(d) of the *Commissions of Inquiry Act 1950* (Qld), I William Patrick (Rick) Kearney, Councillor and Chair of the Local Disaster Management Group, Goondiwindi Regional Council, provide the following statement of information. In providing the information this statement will be relative to the information request for the years 2010/2011.

1. ***Any recent experience of the Goondiwindi Regional Council in co-ordinating disaster events with other local governments using the 'Guardian' Disaster Management System.***
 - (a) Council has had no practical experience with this system.
 - (b) However, I have attended a demonstration of the software at a Disaster Management Conference and believe that there is significant merit in all Local Disaster Management Groups being provided with the opportunity to operate on the same management system (Guardian).
2. ***Goondiwindi Regional Council's recent experience with local emergency services being unable to access essential information and resources within the Queensland and New South Wales border region.***
 - (a) At approximately 7:00pm on 12 January 2011, a request was received from EMQ Toowoomba for a helicopter to be dispatched to recover person/s from a rooftop in the flooded Dumaresq River in Texas. While approval was initially given for the rescue, we were contacted a short time later and advised that the person/s were on the New South Wales side of the river and that their recovery would be attended to by New South Wales SES.
 - (b) The following day, I was informed that the person/s had not yet been recovered from the isolated property due to the confusion as to the location and whose responsibility it was.
3. ***Details of Goondiwindi Regional Council's contact with Sunwater Ltd during the January flood events and any formal relationship the Council or LDMG may have with Sunwater Ltd.***
 - (a) Council does not have any formal arrangements with Sunwater or StateWater from New South Wales. Council is only ever sent copies of the emergency action plans of these bodies from time to time.
 - (b) However, during the flood event, I made regular contact with the Sunwater operators at both Coolmunda Dam and Glenlyon Dam seeking information as to volumes, flows and predications for release of water from the dams.

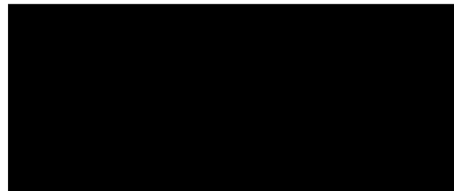
QFCI

Date: 03/05/11 JM

Exhibit Number: 222

4. Any meeting with the State Disaster Co-ordinator, regarding river heights and the evacuation of residents from low-lying areas and health facilities in Goondiwindi.

- (a) Meetings via telephone were held twice a day with the SDCC involving myself and the Mayor.
- (b) At those meetings, we had regular discussions comparing the collected information from the BOM as well as that of past flood studies and the local knowledge supplied to Council by a number of upstream irrigators and long time river height experts. All of the information led to a conclusion that a projected height of greater than 10.7m was extremely unlikely, the final result being a peak of 10.64m.



William Patrick (Rick) Kearney
Councillor