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**OFFICE COPY**

Bureau of Meteorology  
GPO Box 413  
**BRISBANE QLD 4001**

Dear Sir / Madam

**RE: JANUARY 2011 FLOOD EVENT**

I write on behalf of the Goondiwindi Regional Council Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) to acknowledge the support and assistance provided by your organisation during the recent January 2011 flood event. Our LDMG found that the information and support provided by the Bureau of Meteorology was both readily accessible and professionally delivered. Thank you to all involved.

In addition, I would advise that following the flood event the LDMG conducted a series of debrief meetings with relevant stakeholders to identify what worked well and those areas where some further attention may be required.

The items listed below have been identified as requiring input from the Bureau.

**i.) Data Sharing – Flood Modelling**

Once the January event recorded flows in up stream stations that were beyond the range of historical events the degree of accuracy of predictions was somewhat reduced. Council has the following flood modelling data available which included significantly higher flows than those previously recorded:-

- A flood study was completed in early 2007 by Cardno Lawson & Treloar and comprises an extensive airborne laser survey within a 12km radius of Goondiwindi. The information comprises numerical flood modelling data using SOBEK version 2.09.004, flood mapping and flood mitigation assessment.

Council is able to provide any of the information relating to this study that you may deem relevant to input into your modelling.

**ii.) River Height Bulletins**

The frequency of River height bulletins was raised in several forums with those in the up stream areas suggesting that 6 hour intervals were in some cases the entire period of the main event for them. The town of Inglewood for example sees a peak only 10 to

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12 hours from the release of water from the Coolmunda Dam whilst the town of Texas and rural areas in that vicinity have only a matter of hours from the time significant rain falls in the catchment areas.

The LDMG was aware of the provision of almost continuous data through the Bureau website and found it to be important in the decision making processes. Those not yet familiar with this service or those trained to access radio updates have commented that 6 hourly updates were not sufficient.

*The LDMG request the Bureau*

1. *consider increasing the frequency of issuing river height bulletins during an emergency event; and*
2. *advise residents of the availability of detailed information on the bureau website. (Council may be able to assist in this process through its various networks)*

### **iii) River Monitoring Stations**

The LDMG and Stakeholders have suggested the requirement for additional river monitoring stations, situated at more regular intervals, along the Dumaresq River System upstream of Texas and possibly Canning Creek to determine the likely inflows and impact upon the McIntyre Brook. There have also been some requests from rural landholders downstream of Goondiwindi for an additional station or 2 to provide them with more accurate information.

*Advice is sought from the Bureau regarding the process for establishing additional river monitoring stations. Council understand that they will be required to source funds for the establishment of the stations but requires your advice in relation to ongoing maintenance and the best possible locations in terms of any information gaps that you see from your perspective.*

### **iv) Regional Dams - Water Release Notification**

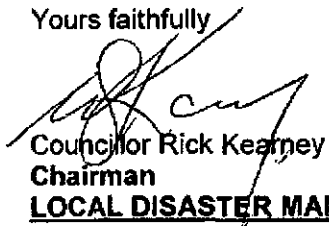
The LDMG seeks clarification relating to the flow of information between the Bureau and the various State Water Boards regarding the release of water from regional dams during a flood event. The potential impact of this type of water release on river heights during a flood event could significantly influence decision making outcomes particularly when timeframes for action are very small. Whilst the various operating procedures of the water facilities provide that they contact BOM, in practice it appears that this does not always happen with BOM detecting the releases at their first gauging station on the relevant system. Again in areas where warning timeframes are narrow, this additional time may be of significance.

*Council seeks your advice as to whether state boards actively notify the Bureau of dam releases?*

Your feedback to the items raised above will provide greater clarity in the improvement of Councils Disaster Management Plan and associated task lists.

Once again I commend you on the terrific work carried out by the Hydrology team under what were very trying and unusual circumstances, and look forward to working together to further improve our preparedness for anything that may challenge us into the future.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rick Kearney', is written over the typed name and title.

Councillor Rick Kearney  
Chairman

**LOCAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT GROUP**