

Name of Witness	Geoffrey William JAGO
Date of Birth	[REDACTED]
Address and contact details	c/o [REDACTED], Emerald (Ph: [REDACTED])
Occupation	Business Owner
Officer taking statement	Detective Sergeant Stephen Platz
Date taken	16/08/2011

Geoffrey William JAGO states:

1. I am a [REDACTED] year old married male presently residing in Emerald with my family. I have lived in Emerald since March 1999. I am the owner and manager of Emerald Exhaust and Suspension located at 103 Hospital Road, Emerald which is within an established industrial estate with surrounding buildings that were built in the 1980's and 1990's. I recently moved to this current location as of mid July 2011. Prior to this, my business was located at 3 Egerton Street, Emerald which is located at the western end of the street, adjacent to Morton Park. There is a small drainage channel that borders this park and runs from north to south.
2. In late December 2008 Emerald experienced localised flooding which affected some low lying properties. During this flood the Fairbairn dam was only partially full, prior to the rain event, but some of the local creeks were close to their maximum height at the same time. The floods caused the drainage channel at the rear of my old Egerton premises to overflow and flood some of the low lying park areas. The water level came to about 650mm from the floor level of my premises and we suffered no damage as a result.

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3. Between the 31st day of December 2010 and the 1st day of January 2011 Emerald suffered a severe flood that affected a significant number of properties. At this time Fairbairn dam was at full capacity prior to the flooding but the local creeks were empty or had minimal water in them. My workshop at 3 Egerton Street was flooded and we had about an inch of water above floor height. The water rose from the drainage channel at the rear of the premises and was flowing from a south westerly direction before it entered the shop. Despite this flooding, I did not suffer any property damage as we had put all equipment up off the ground and the walls and floors are better brick and concrete. The council had given us a good three day warning of the potential for flooding and I had made preparations.
4. At the peak of the flooding at around 6.00am on the 1st of January 2011, I went for a walk to the railway line which runs parallel to the Capricorn highway. I could see that the water was backing up on the southern side of the line and was restricted from flowing due to the raised bed the line sits upon. I went to the intersection of Clermont and Opal Street where the Railway line crosses the road. I measured the difference between the flooding on the southern side of the line to the northern side. I would estimate that there was approximately 600mm in difference between the two sides. There are only about two small culverts in the line near to the town that allow the water through which causes this water to back up.
5. As I had no damage to the shop I did not make a claim to my insurance company, AMP. I did however experience a loss of business for two months after the floods just due to the affect on local infrastructure in the town.
6. In mid July 2011 I moved into my new premises at 103 Hospital Road, Emerald. Directly to the rear of this premises is the LN1 drain which is the main flood mitigation channel for this part of town. Prior to buying the premises I made inquiries with regards to the flooding at this location. The shop was flood affected and about 300 mm of water came through. There was minimal building damage as it mostly has better brick and concrete walls and floors. The flooding had come from the LN1 drain which inundated the entire channel and overflowed into the shop. From my observations I made on the day of the floods and its current state,

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the LN1 drain could not cope with the flow of water and it was prevented from doing this due to the amount of debris clogging up the three relatively small culverts that go under the Gregory Highway. This created a damming effect which I believe caused flooding in this particular industrial estate. Furthermore, the drain was not clear of vegetation which also hampered the flow. Sunwater has since poisoned the vegetation in the channel but it is still there and needs clearing.

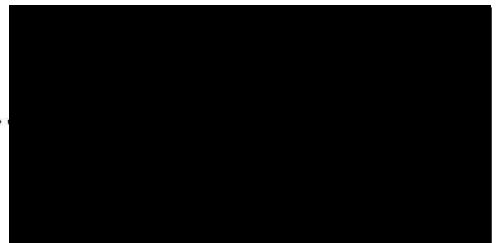
7. I am unable to get flood insurance at a reasonable price at my current shop. The last quote I had was for a premium of about \$4,000 which is too much. I accept that where I am and in fact most of Emerald is in a flood zone but there should be more effort in reducing the depth and duration of the flooding. I also believe that people need to take more responsibility in planning for floods, as in Emerald we always get a few days warning. Each flood is unique and I believe it is difficult to predict the nature of the flood every time but I think the following measures would help Emerald in reducing the impact of flooding;

- The railway line needs more openings to allow the water to flow through naturally. I suggest that the track should be on pylons instead of the bank of soil it rests upon.
- The LN1 drain needs constant maintenance and clearing of debris.
- Open up culverts at drainage channel crossing with roads such as where the LN1 meets the Gregory Highway. The current culverts are too small and get clogged with rubbish during floods.
- The construction of buildings should be so that they are resistant to floods. Materials such as better brick are not affected by water and just require cleaning afterwards. This was the case with my previous workshop.

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- Residents and business owners should heed flood warnings and make flood preparations. Prior to the flood we had sufficient time to put our equipment up and away from the in-coming flood water.




G. W. JAGO

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 17/08/2011 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.

..........Signature

Signed atBrisbane/.....this....17th.....day of.....August....2011

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... Signature of officer

