

13 October, 2011

**Enquiries:** Paul Bawden  
**Phone:** 1300 007 662  
**Office:** Roma

Ms Jane Moynihan  
Executive Director  
QLD Floods Commission of Inquiry  
GPO Box 1738  
Brisbane QLD 4001

Dear Ms Moynihan

**Statement to Queensland Flood Commission of Inquiry**  
**Maranoa Regional Council**

I Paul Bawden, Chief Executive Officer, Maranoa Regional Council provide this written statement under oath to Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry in response to their questions of 3 October, 2011.

- 1. An overview of the interaction between Maranoa Regional Council (Council) and Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) regarding interim floodplain mapping including any consultation, data sharing or provision of information.**  
The approach to the mapping has been presented at a regional information session. The final maps were presented by Senior Officers of QRA.
- 2. An account of materials received by the Council from QRA since release of the interim floodplain mapping, including hard copy map books.**  
The Council has received hard copy map books from QRA.
- 3. The Council's understanding of what the interim floodplain area (yellow shaded area on maps available at [www.qld.gov.au/floodcheck](http://www.qld.gov.au/floodcheck)) represents.**  
The Queensland Government has stated:

"The Interim Floodplain Assessment Overlay Mapping has been derived from overlaying available state-wide information sources, including best available:

- Drainage location information
- Contour information (typically 10 metre contours)
- Satellite imagery (typically Landsat 5)
- Interpreted or actual flood information from 2010/2011 events
- DERM gauging station information
- Pre-clear Vegetation Mapping of Landzone 3 (Alluvium) and Landzone 1 Estuarine and SALI Soil Flooding Limitation Mapping

**QFCI**

Date:

11/11/11 JM  
999

Exhibit Number:

Maranoa Regional Council  
Cnr Bungil & Quinlin Streets  
Roma Queensland 4455  
P 1300 007 662 F 07 4624 6990  
E [council@maranoa.qld.gov.au](mailto:council@maranoa.qld.gov.au)

Postal Address  
PO Box 42  
Mitchell Queensland 4465  
ABN: 99 324 089 164  
[www.maranoa.qld.gov.au](http://www.maranoa.qld.gov.au)

The interim floodplain area represents for Council an ability to introduce more triggers for additional assessment of development applications in those areas. In addition to the above information, more detailed assessment is required using available historical information, including on ground detailed geo-coded flood height levels, from recent extreme flood events.

The detailed flood impact assessment being produced for the Roma Town area not only identifies the extent of previous and possible flooding that may affect the urban area but also provides details on potential flood water levels to allow for determination of minimum floor heights. The detailed flood assessment also allows for a process of modelling potential changes in hydrological flows and levels of overland flow associated with proposed new land uses, building works and operational works that involve changes or obstructions to natural ground level.

It should be noted that the Maranoa Regional Council has been operating with five planning schemes inherited following amalgamation. The new planning scheme for the whole Regional Council area is at an advanced stage and will incorporate the detailed flood mapping currently being finalised.

**4. A comparison of the area covered by the interim floodplain area with other flood mapping, development lines, natural hazard management areas or areas derived from flood studies available to the Council.**

Yellow area on interim floodplain area is much larger than Council is flood area as defined in current town planning scheme for the township of Roma. Maranoa Regional Council does not have a documented floodplain area for any of the other communities. The Council has commissioned a Flood Study in Roma that is well advanced and which process will include the promotion of interim floodplain maps to public and feedback on interim floodplain maps

**5. An explanation of whether the Council intends to use the interim floodplains maps provided by QRA in its emergency management, land planning or any other Council function, and**

**a. if so, for what purpose and why**

**b. if not, why**

While a useful resource, Council has secured funding to undertake a more detailed assessment of flooding, including the production of hydraulic modelling for Roma Town. This modelling will identify levels as well as extent of flooding for the Urban Area. For other urban areas outside the detailed flood map overlay area such as Mitchell, it is probable that the new planning scheme will refer to the interim floodplain mapping, as a trigger map for further assessment.

Given the planning scheme only manages land use change, the imperative for Council is to undertake detailed flood water analysis in those parts of the local government area that are experiencing the highest level of development applications. That area is within the Roma Town area due to the pressures from increased coal seam gas exploration and extraction activity.



6. **An explanation of whether, and if so how, the Council intends to incorporate the interim floodplain mapping or the Model Interim Floodplain Assessment Code (which appears as schedule 1 to the QRA Guideline Planning for strong, more resilient floodplains) into its planning scheme.**

The current Roma Town Planning Scheme was approved by the relevant State Government Minister with the incorporation of all but the Flooding provisions of State Planning Policy 1/03. This approval is common for smaller local governments who did not have the resources at the time to undertake full hydrological studies. This leads to a process of assessment that requires development within the flood mapping overlay in Roma Town to be assessed against both the planning scheme and State Planning Policy 1/03.

The principals embodied in State Planning Policy 1/03 are similar to those espoused in the Model Interim Floodplain Assessment Code. Given the new planning scheme is close to lodging with the State Government, for its first State interest check, it is proposed to use the Code in the new planning scheme. It should be noted that Council's planning consultant was afforded the opportunity to directly review the interim code by the QRA prior to its release.

A response to the use of the interim mapping is highlighted in Council's response to Question 5.

7. **If the interim floodplain mapping is to be incorporated into the planning scheme, an explanation of how Council officers assessing development applications will use the map.**

As identified above, the maps will be used in the new planning scheme as an overlay trigger map, in similar fashion to the State Government's Regional Ecosystem maps.

That is, proposed applications that are within either the Council's detailed overlay map or the Interim Floodplain maps will trigger additional assessment against provisions to protect life and property against flooding with a high probability of damage and / or prolonged isolation due to flood waters.

8. **Whether, and if so how, the Council intends to use the interim floodplain mapping performed by the QRA to set habitable floor level or other flood height relevant to development in the Council area.**

As identified earlier, more detailed assessment triggers and assessment provisions will be incorporated into the new planning scheme for the regional Council area. The basic principles of protection of life and property associated with any proposed development and any offsite effects, including maintaining access will be embedded into the planning scheme. This includes the identification of a 300mm minimum floor height above known flood levels from a defined flood event (DFE) adopted by the Council.

9. **The Council's plans, if any, to promote the interim floodplain maps to the public, and if so for what purpose.**

Council's information is held on its website and displayed at key facilities.

**10. An account of any public feedback, enquiry or comment given to Council about the QRA interim floodplain maps by residents or the Council area.**

The Council has not received specific public feedback/comment about the QRA flood plain maps.

If you require any further information or have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me on [REDACTED]

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

Paul Bawden  
Chief Executive Officer

Maranoa Regional Council  
Cnr Bungil & Quinlin Streets  
Roma Queensland 4455  
P 1300 007 662 F 07 4624 6990  
E [council@maranoa.qld.gov.au](mailto:council@maranoa.qld.gov.au)

Postal Address  
PO Box 42  
Mitchell Queensland 4465  
ABN: 99 324 089 164  
[www.maranoa.qld.gov.au](http://www.maranoa.qld.gov.au)