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11 October 2011

Justice C E Holmes
 Commissioner
 Queensland Flood Commission of Inquiry
 GPO Box 1738
 BRISBANE QLD 4001

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 Your Ref: Doc 1741307
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Dear Justice Holmes

RESPONSE TO REQUEST TO PROVIDE INFORMATION

Thank you for your correspondence dated 3 October 2011 in relation to the above request to provide information in regards to the recently released floodplain mapping provided by the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA).

I would like to stress at the outset that Council only received a letter on 27th September 2011, from the QRA which was dated 23rd September 2011 (attached), which included the floodplain mapping for the area and as such due to the timing of this request there has been insufficient time for Council technical staff to undertake any critical assessment or review of the mapping provided and as such the responses to the questions below will reflect this situation.

My responses to each of your questions are;

1. *an overview of the interaction between the Rockhampton Regional Council and the QRA regarding interim floodplain mapping, including any consultation, data sharing or provision of information.*

Council had no direct involvement or interaction with the QRA in the formulation of the floodplain mapping for the area. As advised above, Council received correspondence dated 23rd September 2011 from QRA advising of the draft floodplain mapping.

2. *an account of materials received by the Council from the QRA since the release of the interim floodplain mapping, including hard copy map books.*

As at the date of this response, to the best of my knowledge Council is only in receipt of the letter dated 23rd September 2011 which indicates a Mapbook will be supplied in hard copy and electronic format. I do not believe that Council has yet received these items.

QFCI

Date: 11/11/11 JM

Exhibit Number: 1000

3. *the Council's understanding of what the interim floodplain area (yellow shaded area on maps available at www.qld.gov.au/floodcheck) represents.*

I understand that the floodplain mapping identified as a yellow shaded area represents areas of possible inundation based on a possible peak flood height for the Rockhampton regional area. I understand that this mapping was informed by the 2010/11 flood events but is also based on historical flood data recorded for the area.

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.*

As advised Council has not had an opportunity to critically review or assess the recently released QRA floodplain mapping against Council's existing floodplain mapping or data. Council has recently adopted new floodplain modelling and mapping which was undertaken as part of a successful funding submission by the former Rockhampton City Council and Fitzroy Shire Council to the Natural Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP). This modelling provides data on flood heights and water velocities allowing Council to accurately model the impacts of differing river heights on land in the Fitzroy River floodplain that fell within the former Council and Shire areas.

QRA's floodplain mapping goes beyond the extent of the NDRP funded study and has also mapped the minor catchments and will therefore be beneficial in providing data for the more remote areas within the Regional Council area.

5. *an explanation of whether the Council intends to use the interim floodplain maps provided by the 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*

As advised, Council has not yet had an opportunity to critically review or assess the recently released QRA floodplain mapping for the Rockhampton Regional Council area and as such is not in a position to determine how it may, or may not, use this information.

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 stronger, more resilient floodplains) into its planning scheme.*

As advised, Council has not yet had an opportunity to critically review or assess the recently released QRA floodplain mapping for the Rockhampton Regional Council area and as such is not in a position to determine how it may, or may not, use this information.

The higher flood risk areas within Rockhampton have been historically included in the current planning schemes that were adopted and remain in force from the former Rockhampton City Council and Fitzroy Shire Council areas.

Specifically, those areas of greatest risk with the highest residential populations have previously been identified due to their flood risk, based on flood height and possible water speed for a Q100 flood event, to ensure that further development or intensification of development in these areas is restricted or prohibited.

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 advised, Council has not yet had an opportunity to critically review or assess the recently released QRA floodplain mapping for the Rockhampton Regional Council area and as such is not in a position to determine how it may, or may not, use this information.

Council is presently in the process of creating a new regional planning scheme which is expected to be adopted in late 2012 and the QRA floodplain mapping may be utilised to assist in the formulation of this scheme.

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

As advised, Council has not yet had an opportunity to critically review or assess the recently released QRA floodplain mapping for the Rockhampton Regional Council area and as such is not in a position to determine how it may, or may not, use this information.

The existing planning scheme in the Rockhampton area already provides controls in regards to habitable floor levels based on previously identified Q100 flood levels.

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

As advised, Council has not yet had an opportunity to critically review or assess the recently released QRA floodplain mapping for the Rockhampton Regional Council area and as such is not in a position to determine how it may, or may not, use this information.

The Local Disaster Management Group has adopted a position, which is supported by the recently released Flood Commission of Inquiry Report, that it will seek all available avenues to provide information to local residents regarding likely hazards to build local resilience. I would anticipate that whilst a decision has not yet been made, a link to the QRA floodplain mapping will be incorporated into Council's website under our disaster management framework to make this information available to the public to support the LDMG's desired position.

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

Given the short period of time since the release of the QRA floodplain information it is probably as expected, that there has not been any public feedback, enquiry or comment to Council as yet.

Should you have any further enquiries regarding this matter please feel free to contact me on the above mentioned phone number.

The information provided in this letter is accurate to the best of knowledge at the time.

AND I MAKE THIS SOLEMN DECLARATION CONSCIENTIOUSLY BELIEVING THE SAME TO BE TRUE, AND BY VIRTUE OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE OATHS ACT 1867-1988.

Taken and Declared before me at ROCKHAMPTON, QUEENSLAND this 11th day of October 2011.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature]

Evan Pardon
Chief Executive Officer

[Redacted signature]
Justice of the Peace
Commissioner for Declarations

