

**IN THE QUEENSLAND FLOODS COMMISSION OF INQUIRY
COMMISSIONS OF INQUIRY ORDER (No.1) 2011**

STATEMENT OF ALAN CHARLES KLEINSCHMIDT

I, ALAN CHARLES KLEINSCHMIDT care of Toowoomba Regional Council at 153 Herries Street, Toowoomba in the State of Queensland, Acting Director of Water Services of Toowoomba Regional Council, can say as follows:


1. I have prepared this statement in response to the request made by the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry by way of an undated letter received on 8 April 2011 ("8 April 2011 letter").
2. The request referred to the Statement of Kevin Flanagan dated 30 March 2011 and requested a response to issues raised by local residents in the Oakey area.
3. After setting out my roles and responsibilities, I address, below, issues raised in the 8 April 2011 letter.

My experience, qualifications, roles and responsibilities

4. I have been acting Director of Water Services since 1 April 2011. Before I was appointed to my present role, I served as Manager of Water Operations for 4 years. I have worked in water related roles in local government for 34 years and am an active member of the Australian Water Association. I hold a Bachelor's Degree in Applied Science and a Masters Degree in Applied Science.
5. During the flood events in the Toowoomba region, I was Manager of Water Operations. My role and responsibilities in this position were managing the operation of all of Toowoomba Regional Council's water supply systems, including dams, bulk water transport, water treatment and delivery, and wastewater collection and treatment systems. As Manager of Water Operations, I play a major role in development and implementation of Council's Dams Emergency Action Plans. With the Director of Water Services, Kevin Flanagan, Manager of Water Infrastructure Asset Management, Laurie Ashe, Manager of Water Projects Management, Greg Dinsey and Manager of Water Infrastructure and Coordination, John Betts, I was part of the Water Services Department senior management team. This team oversaw management of the Department's flood event response in accordance with Council's Dams Emergency Action Plans, and the maintenance and restoration of water and wastewater services throughout the Toowoomba region. With the Director of Water Services, I was a member of Council's Internal Disaster Coordination Group and provided daily briefings and advice regarding water and wastewater operational matters.

Supplementary Statement of Alan Charles Kleinschmidt
Filed on behalf of:
Toowoomba Regional Council

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29/4/11

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6. **“That the Cooby Dam contributed to the flooding of Oakey”.**
7. Cooby Creek is joined by Gomaren Creek and Little Gomaren Creek approximately 26 km north east of Oakey to form Oakey Creek, which continues through to the township of Oakey. Accordingly, any water that spills from Cooby Dam travels along Cooby Creek and contributes to the volume of water that enters Oakey.
8. As Cooby Dam was not full and had excess capacity at the commencement of the heavy rainfall on 9 January 2011, and as the Dam spills water more slowly than it receives it, the total effect of Cooby Dam was to reduce the amount of water travelling from Cooby Creek into Oakey Creek. This, in turn, reduced the amount of water flowing from Oakey Creek into Oakey.
9. Even without allowing for the mitigating effect of the Cooby Dam, the catchment area that flows into Cooby Dam is only a portion of the total catchment area affecting Oakey. Water from Cooby Creek that spilled over Cooby Dam did contribute to the water entering Oakey during the flood. However, the component of water entering Oakey that came from the Cooby Dam spillway was not a predominant contributor to the total water entering Oakey.
10. The total area providing runoff to Oakey is 550 km². This is comprised of the Cooby Dam catchment of 162 km² and an Oakey Creek Catchment of 388 km² which lies between Cooby Dam and the town of Oakey. The Cooby Dam catchment therefore comprises 29.5% of the total catchment area. (Cooby Dam Dam Break Analysis September 2004 – SunWater)
11. Cooby Dam is primarily a water supply storage but provides a level of flood mitigation during extreme rainfall events. During the period 13/12/2010 – 11/2/2011 the Cooby Dam storage volume increased by 15,000 ML. In the absence of Cooby Dam, this additional volume of water would have passed down Oakey Creek through Oakey town.
12. During a 1:50 Annual Exceedance Probability (“AEP”) flood event, peak inflows to Cooby Dam are estimated at 600 m³/s, and peak outflows at 330 m³/s, (QP-M-086 Cooby Dam Emergency Action Plan) further illustrating Cooby Dam’s flood mitigation role.
13. Although considered a record flood, on this occasion the criteria for a 1:50 AEP flood were not met and the maximum outflow at peak RL was 258 m³/s. In the absence of flow data for Oakey Creek at Oakey township it is not possible to quantitatively relate this outflow to the total Oakey Creek flow during the flood event.
14. **“That the Cooby Dam was overflowing with a potential of causing damage to life and property and the Emergency Plan was not activated and no one from the Cooby Dam or anyone from the Toowoomba Regional Council or LDMG contacted residents to advise them of the imminent flood”.**
15. The Cooby Dam Emergency Action Plan (“EAP”) was activated on 9 January 2011. Residents located on Cooby Creek immediately downstream of the Cooby Dam wall were notified of expected increases in water levels resulting from flow over the dam spillway. These notifications were commenced in advance of the Cooby Dam EAP requirement, in anticipation of Cooby Dam reaching Flood Event Event Stage 1 (“EV1”) late on the evening of 9 January 2011. Advice about the expected spillway flow was similarly provided to Council’s Disaster Management Coordinator/SES Local Controller, Norman Fry and Local Disaster Coordinator, Kevin Wruck, also in accordance with the Cooby Dam EAP provisions. I provide further explanatory details below.




16. The Cooby Dam EAP, was activated at 16:30 on 9 January 2011. The Water Services Dam Event Management Room commenced operation at 17:00.
17. The Cooby Dam EAP requires the Manager Water Infrastructure Asset Management to advise Council's Disaster Management Coordinator/SES Local Controller, Norman Fry to alert downstream residents within 5 km of the dam wall when EV1 is reached. These residents are upstream of the Meringandan Creek confluence and are the only residents impacted by Cooby Dam spillway overflows without contributions from downstream tributaries. Two properties only are affected. The Cooby Dam EAP also identifies all properties which may be impacted when Flood Event Stage 2 ("EV2") is reached.
18. EV1 is the third stage of readiness under the Cooby Dam EAP and is invoked when the water level reaches 0.5 m above the spillway.
19. At 17:45 on 9 January 2011 the Manager Water Infrastructure Asset Management, as a precautionary measure, issued instructions for those residents within 5 km downstream of the dam wall to be notified by Water Services Department officers that Cooby Dam was expected to reach full storage level and commence spillway overflow that evening. Confirmation that the affected residents had been notified was received at 22:10.
20. Cooby Dam reached full storage level at 19:23 on 9 January 2011 and EV1 at 22:10. The downstream residents identified under the Cooby Dam EAP for notification at EV1 were therefore notified earlier than required under the EAP.
21. When EV2 is reached, the Cooby Dam EAP requires the Manager Water Infrastructure Asset Management, Laurie Ashe, to advise the Council's Disaster Management Coordinator/SES Local Controller, Norman Fry that notification is required to all identified downstream residents of possible flooding. Council's Disaster Management Coordinator/SES Local Controller, Norman Fry was contacted and updated on Cooby Dam status at 18:00 and 19:00 on 9 January 2011.
22. During this flood event, Cooby Dam did not exceed EV1 apart from a short period between approximately 07:30 and 09:00 on the morning of 11 January 2011 when the water level slightly exceeded the EV2 trigger level. As the water level stabilised and then began to recede within a few minutes of reaching the EV2 trigger level EV2 was not activated.
23. The Local Disaster Coordinator, Kevin Wruck attended the Water Services Dam Event management Room at about 19:40 on 9 January 2011. We reviewed the LDCC's role under the EAP.
24. Throughout the course of the event, Cooby Dam levels and status reports were provided to the LDCC through daily briefings to the Council's Internal Disaster Coordination Group.
25. Water Services Department officers received a number of informal requests to confirm rumours about the failure or imminent failure of the Cooby Dam wall and the effect of that failure on flooding in Oakey. All callers were verbally informed that that there was no risk of the Cooby Dam wall failing.
26. I am aware that a number of media releases were issued informing residents about flooding in Oakey and the effect of the Cooby Dam spillway outflow on Oakey flood levels. A media release was issued on 10 January 2011 advising Oakey residents about possible



flooding due to rises in Gowrie and Oakey Creeks. A media release was issued on 12 January 2011 addressing rumours about a further large flood and the release of large amounts of water from Cooby Dam.

27. A media release was issued by Water Services Department on 28 January 2011 providing advice to the community about the role of Cooby Dam and the impact of the dam spillway overflows on Oakey Creek flooding.

Dated: *15th* April 2011.



Alan Charles Kleinschmidt

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