

QFCI

JM

Date:

29/4/11

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Kevin Wruck

Exhibit Number:

190

**From:** Kevin Flanagan  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 January 2011 3:48 PM  
**To:** Kevin Wruck  
**Cc:** Laurie Ashe; Alan Kleinschmidt  
**Subject:** RE: Oakey Flood Report attached

Kev,

David has done a good job with the report and shows up a couple of areas that need improvement.

He refers to the Cooby Dam EAP ( in hindsight I suggest) viz

The Cooby Dam Emergency Action Plan indicates  
*"Flood event 1 is activated when storage Level is RL 479.04, 0.5m above Full Supply Level and rising to RL 480.04, 1.5m over the spillway crest"* .  
and calls for, among others, the Jondaryan (sic) Service Centre Manager to be notified.

and

The Cooby Dam Emergency Action Plan indicates  
*"Flood event 2 is activated when storage Level is RL 480.04, 1.5m above Full Supply Level and rising to RL 481.3, 2.76m over the spillway crest "*  
and again calls for, among others, the Jondaryan (sic) Service Centre Manager to be notified.

However what he fails to say is that the TRC DCC has the responsibility under the EAP to do the notifying. In the First case the DCC was not activated when Cooby went to EV Stage 1 ie 22.30 on 9/1 .You were at our Flood event centre at the time. The TRC DCC was not activated until mid 10/1. The DCC was given updates on spillway levels from when it was activated. Given the enormity of the disaster that hit on 10/1 the the DCC was obviously not in a position to make the notification required under the EAP especially when at that stage there was no threat to Oakey. I did get a number of calls from staff that were manning the DCC over that time relaying requests for info from Oakey regarding the impact that Cooby dam spilling would have on flood levels at Oakey. My consistent response was as David states viz.

*"the impact that the overflow of Cooby Dam is having on the Oakey flooding is minimal and they have no data on spillway flow v Oakey flooding. Their plans only cater for dam failure."*

David seems to be inferring that the response was not good enough and that we TRC should have been providing flood forecasting for Oakey.

We do not have flood models/gauges/history of how the Catchment above Oakey performs under flood events. ( that is a role for the BOM and DERM and they do not have them also ) . We do have inundation plans that show impacts of Dam Crest Flood (DCF) , Sunny Day Failures, Probable Maximum Flood Failures. Our assessment of the discharges over the spillways showed that they were nowhere near these events. In fact when we reached Flood event 2 for a short period of time early on 11/1 our max discharge was only about 290 cubic metres per second compared to the DCF of 1920 cubic metres per sec. Hence my statement that the outflows

14/03/2011

from Cooby would have a minimal impact on flooding being experienced at Oakey.

As for notifying about Event Stage 2, That was my call and at the time viewing BOM sites and advice from the field I did not consider it necessary to complicate the matter any further by announcing that we were going into Event Stage 2 albeit for a rather short period. Further I question what staff at Oakey would have been able to make of such notice.

David has got the the causes of the flood pretty right except for his comment on Cooby

### Climate Summary

Oakey's flood surge was contributed to by a combination of:

- Very high and continual rainfall on Sunday , Monday and Tuesday 9, 10 and 11 of January in the town and Oakey Creek catchment areas sustaining high water levels in the Oakey Creek
- Significant additional flows in the Oakey Creek due to Cooby Dam overflowing on Sunday 9 January, and continuing to do so at higher levels on Monday and Tuesday.
- The spreading of Doctors Creek and Army Aviation Training Centre drainage
- The 'backing up' of the Oakey Creek through Oakey as the huge volumes of water from Toowoomba's floods reached the Westbrook and Oakey creeks, on Monday 10 and Tuesday 11 January.

The flows from Cooby were not Significant additional they in fact were regulated flows from about one third of the upstream catchment. If Cooby was not there the flood in Oakey would have been worse.

There are a number of lessons to be learnt.

- the EAP needs to consider that agencies that are required to carry out actions under the plan may not be in a position to act as they (as was the case with TRC and indeed Somerset RC below Cressbrook ) were experiencing their own emergencies at the time.
- Three dams can be experiencing events at the same time as flooding occurs in surrounding areas.
- We need to ensure that the Oakey Community and that is emergency services and Oakey Service Centre staff understand that we do not have the capacity to predict flood levels at Oakey.

**Kevin Flanagan**  
**Director Water Services**  
**Toowoomba Regional Council**

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**From:** Kevin Wruck  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 January 2011 1:13 PM  
**To:** Kevin Flanagan  
**Subject:** Oakey Flood Report attached

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**From:** Norman Fry  
**Sent:** Thursday, 27 January 2011 11:02 AM  
**To:** Kevin Wruck  
**Subject:** FW:

**Norman Fry**  
**Disaster Management Coordinator/Local SES Controller**  
Finance & Business Strategy  
Toowoomba Service Centre

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**From:** David Totenhofer  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 25 January 2011 1:55 PM  
**To:** Ian Stevenson; Jason Bradshaw; Norman Fry  
**Subject:**

Attached is my report on the Oakey Flood of January 11 th 2011

Jason, can you pass this on to the the Director, Water Services, as they requested to review any comments on Cooby Dam

I am happy to discuss the important issues that will arise from this

**David Totenhofer**  
**Community & Economic Development Officer**  
Community Development & Facilities  
Oakey Service Centre

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*"Don't judge each day by the harvests you reap,  
but by the seeds you plant". (R.L. Stevenson)*