

Name of Witness	Rebecca Anne MACDONALD
Date of Birth	[REDACTED]
Address and contact details	[REDACTED] Emerald [REDACTED]
Occupation	Teacher assistant
Officer taking statement	Detective Sergeant Stephen Platz
Date taken	18/08/2011

Rebecca Anne MACDONALD states:

- I am a married mother of two children currently residing at [REDACTED] Emerald. Our house is located in a residential development located on the North western side of Emerald. This development was approved approximately 8 years ago when the house was first built by the previous owner in 2004. We purchased the property in April 2009. The block is Lot 2 SP: 1755010 within the Central Highland Regional Council area. There is a light industrial area zoned to our north about 250 metres from our back boundary and the LN1 storm drain borders our property.
- At the time of purchasing the property in 2009 I made inquiries with regards to the 2008 flood at the site. I spoke to the Real Estate agent that we were dealing with, Ray White, and they informed us that the block was inundated in 2008 but not the house. Around February 2009 I rang the then Emerald Shire Council and spoke to a woman, I can't remember her name, from town planning. I asked her about the flood height for the 2008 flood at the said block. She said the block was inundated but it was 0.6 metres off the floor boards of the house. She did not provide me with any further information concerning future flooding. As a result of these inquiries I felt confident that we would not be affected by significant flooding.

QFCI

Date:

11/11/11

Exhibit Number:

972

Witness Signature

Page Number 1 of 4

Signature of officer

400 George Street Brisbane
 GPO Box 1738 Brisbane
 Queensland 4001 Australia
 Telephone 1300 309 634
 Facsimile +61 7 3405 9750
 www.floodcommission.qld.gov.au

3. On the 3rd December 2010 we experienced flash flooding which resulted in the LN1 drain overflowing and flooding our backyard but not causing any damage. I noticed that the culverts over the northern railway crossing became blocked with farm debris causing the culvert to back up and pool water. At this time the LN1 drain was full of trees and other vegetation. I believe this prevented the water from flowing freely.

4. On the 31st December 2010 Emerald experienced heavy flooding. On this day we received a warning text message telling us to evacuate the property. Prior to leaving I witnessed the flood water approach the property. We had been monitoring the water in the LN1 channel and it appeared to be at its maximum capacity and was starting to breach its banks. We then put our belongings and pet in our Ute and evacuated the premises. Just prior to leaving, the water from the LN1 drain had broke its banks and started to pool on our north western corner, gradually working its way towards our house.

5. When we finally got back into our house in the afternoon on the 1st January 2011 water had flooded our house to about 1.5 metres. The walls, floors, kitchen, furniture, fixtures and other miscellaneous items were damaged or destroyed.

[Redacted]

6.

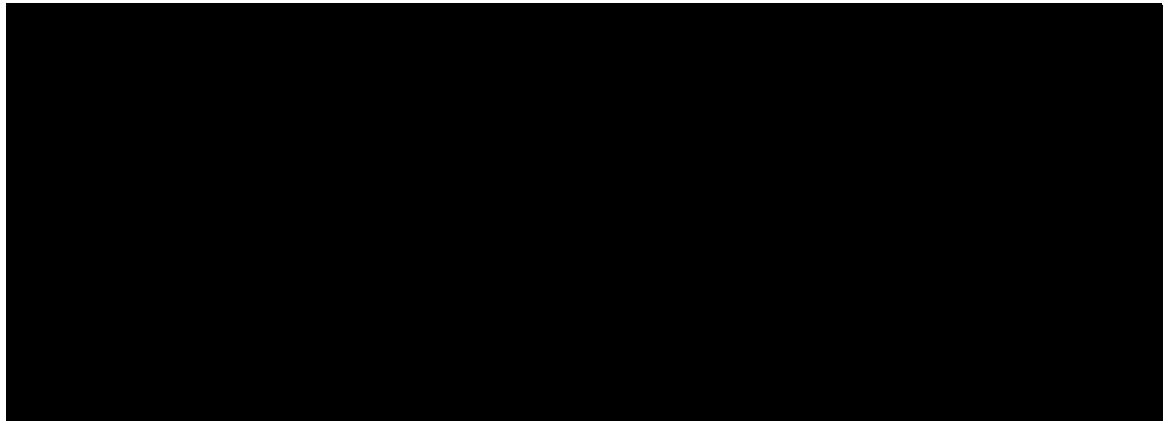
[Redacted]

7.

[Redacted]

Witness Signature

Signature of officer



8. I believe that one of the main causes for flooding in our area is the lack of maintenance of the LN1 drain at the rear of the property. Furthermore, it is not a sufficient size to cope with the large volumes of water from farm and town run off. This is complicated due to the lack of sufficient sized culverts that cross the drain because of roads and railway lines. The culverts at the Gregory highway became clogged with debris and dammed the flow of water forcing it back towards surrounding properties.

9. A number of residents in our area have raised these issues concerning the LN1 drain with the council during a community meeting that was held around March this year. The council did not provide any answers to the questions raised with regards to the LN1 drain.

10. My other concern with regards to future flooding is the proposal of a concrete batching plant to be located in the light industrial land on the opposite of the LN1 drain. The proposal suggests that the back of this building will be about 250 metres from the rear corner of our property. Without any changes to the LN1 drain and the raising of land to build the plant, I fear that this could cause further flooding as it would force the flow of water onto our property. There have been 135 objections by the local community concerning this development and a decision is still pending.

11. I do not think the council has kept pace with development and its responsibilities to provide effective drainage in the town. The LN1 cannot cope with the storm water drains that flow into it and no one seems to want to take responsibility for it. It is owned, to my knowledge, by Sunwater as an irrigation channel but the

Council uses it for their main storm channel. Since the floods I have not seen any improvement to the drain and the culverts, including the main ones at the Gregory highway that have not been improved

R.MACDONALD

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 18/08/2011 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 atEmeraldthis.....18thday of....August....2011