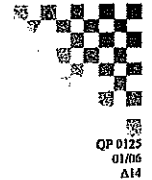




QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE
STATEMENT OF WITNESS



Occurrence #: _____

Statement no.: _____ Date: 10/02/2011

Statement of

Name of witness: HAUGHEY, Susan May

Date of birth: [redacted] Age: [redacted] Occupation: Manager

Police officer taking statement

Name: LINNETH, Paul Damien

Rank: Plain Clothes Senior Constable Reg. no.: 19419

Region/Command/Division: Southern Station: Toowoomba Stock and Rural Crime Investigatoion Sqaud

Statement:

1. I am a [redacted] female and I live at [redacted]

[redacted] This address is the Murphys Creek Tavern and I have lived there for the last 4 months as I am the manager of the tavern. The tavern was built about twelve months ago but has only been open for the last two months. My work number is [redacted] and I have a mobile number of [redacted]

2. As I have only moved into the Tavern recently I haven't seen any flooding before in this area. The tavern land is about two acres in size and the tavern is 500 square meters under roof with a bar, amenities, kitchen and verandah. The tavern is built at ground level on a concrete slab. The Murphy's creek is about 500 meters away over from the front of the tavern. There is the road, then a railway line, and a park that separates us from the creek.

3. I remember the 10th of January 2011 as it had been raining since four am in the morning and had gotten heavier as the day went on. At about midday I started taking photos with my Nikon digital camera of the area around the tavern and the surrounding area. I took numerous photos of the water as it rose and some of the damage it was doing to the area. I had about five

[redacted]
(Witness's signature)

(Justice of the Peace (Qual.)/
Commissioner for Declarations's signature)


[redacted]
(Signature of police officer
preparing statement)

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CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: HAUGHEY, Susan May

customers in the tavern and I was the only staff member working after 2pm when Will KNOX finished work and walked home.

4. It was at about 2pm that the water started to fill the road and I then saw cars were starting to turn back as the water was getting deeper. The water was coming down the road and it was starting to carry rain water tanks and other large items.
5. The drain out the front of the tavern started to back up due to the large amount of water and it was going into the car park which then pushed water into the tavern. The water was about 30 cm deep outside and was about 10 cm deep inside at this stage. The water then started to recede from the tavern as quickly as it had come in.
6. A couple of locals stopped by to make sure we were ok and I started to get some mops and started to get the water out of the carpets. A few more people turned up and started to help mop and clean up.
7. I don't know exactly what time it was but it may have been around four pm that I saw a fire and rescue truck pull up out the front and dropped Catherine SCHEFE off and brought her in as they just rescued her out of the creek. We got blankets and sat her down and two local ladies sat with her the whole time until the ambulance arrived. I had found out that she had lost her husband Selwyn SCHEFE and her daughter Katie SCHEFE in the creek.
8. From then on people started to arrive at the tavern, including the rural fire brigade and other locals. I decided to accept anyone who came as an evacuation centre as there was nowhere else for people to go. We gave people blankets and laid tarps on the wet carpet so that people could sit or lay on it. We had no water or power at this stage and were asking people if they had any bedding, torches and water as I knew we would need these items soon. I tried ringing my daughter but couldn't get out on the phone as the power was out. The mobile phone reception is none existent in the whole area.


(Witness's signature)

(Justice of the Peace (Qual.)/
Commissioner for Declarations's signature)


(Signature of police officer
preparing statement)

CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: HAUGHEY, Susan May

Sometimes you can walk around in the car park and you will get weak phone signal but this is rare.

9. I can't remember how many people we had in the tavern by dark but it felt like it was over flowing. The fire officers returned later along with the police at some stage. The rural fire officers tried to set up a command post inside and I saw the police officers in the car park with the boot of the wagon up and trying to work from there. I tried to feed kids and anyone else to try and keep them calm at this stage.
10. It was total chaos inside and out as the police were having trouble communicating with their head office. They asked if we had a phone line as their phones and radios weren't working well. The police were trying to find a key to the local school so they could set up out of the rain.
11. It was at 11pm and we had settled three families down in bedding inside the tavern. I could see people sleeping in cars in the car park as well. I kept making cups of coffee almost all night for anyone who wanted one and sat at the front door for the rest of the night. The Police came over often and would update me on things and ask questions about different things. At one point they were told that there may be another 400 mills of rain coming, but this didn't happen.
12. At daylight we started to cook some of the food we had for anyone who needed it. We knew that people were missing in the creek so some of the other locals got together and started to check on people in their homes.
13. All the families bar one then left and found accommodation in Toowoomba. All day people kept coming and going and we fed them as best we could. This basically went on for the next two weeks and have only just opened as a tavern as we had donations of food and other items coming in and we kept feeding the volunteers.

(Witness's signature)

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CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: HAUGHEY, Susan May

14. We had no assistance or saw anyone from the council or any other authority until Thursday the 13th of January at 4:30pm when two ladies from the Lockyer Valley Council showed up. The Police remained with us the whole time and helped us whenever they could.

15. There was no warning of any kind that we received about the flood. We have a tv on in the bar area but are normally too busy to stop and look at it.

16. On the 10th of February 2011 I attended the Toowoomba Police Station and provided Plain Clothes Senior Constable Paul LINNETH a copy of the photos I took and this statement.

[Redacted signature]

Susan HAUGHEY

Justices Act Acknowledgement

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 10/02/2011 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.

.....[Redacted].....Signature
 Signed at Toowoomba.....this...10th.....day of...February.....2011.

[Redacted witness signature]

(Witness's signature)

(Justice of the Peace (Qual.)/
Commissioner for Declarations's signature)

[Redacted police officer signature]

(Signature of police officer
preparing statement)