QFCI

Date:

Exhibit Number:

SOUTH BURNET

Enquiries: John Kersnovski Phone: .IK:KD IR: 1090173

29 August 2011

South Burnett Regional Council ABN 89 972 463 351 PO Box 336 Kingarov QLD 4610 F (07) 4162 6200 (07) 4162 4806

Ms Jane Moynihan **Executive Director** Queensland Flood Commission **GPO Box 1738 BRISBANE QLD 4001**

Dear Ms Moynihan

I refer to your request of 4 August 2011 for information and documentation in relation to the Murgon Shire Council Local law No 24, Levee Banks and its implementation.

The Murgon Shire Council was one of the four Councils that merged on 15 March 2008 to form the South Burnett Regional Council. Local Laws for each of the four former Shires continue in place at this time and consequently the Murgon Shire Council Local Law 24 is still applicable in the northern area of our region formerly covered by that Council.

An extensive search of Council's records has been conducted including archived materials by South Burnett Regional Council staff and discussions have taken place where possible, with former Murgon Shire Council staff to ascertain if any applications were received for levee banks in compliance with the Local Law. Unfortunately, staff have not been able to locate any applications nor investigations undertaken for the period 1 January 2000 to 15 March 2008 whilst the area was under the control of the Murgon Shire Council. No applications have been received by the South Burnett Regional Council for the period 15 March 2008 to the current time, for levee bank approvals.

I would also advise that Council does not have any records of levee banks installed within its region. Levee Banks were not generally used in the region to contain stormwater flows.

Many of the agricultural cropping areas of the region do have soil conservation measures in place that were installed by landowners in conjunction with what was, at the time, the Department of Primary Industry, Soil Conservation Branch. The measures consist of soil conservation waterways, inverts and contour banks and these are not considered as levee banks but rather as on-farm stormwater containment measures to protect cropping land.

Copies of the plans of the soil conservation measures in place across the region should be able to be obtained from the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation who is now responsible for agriculture in Queensland.

Customer Service Centres

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I apologise for the lengthy delay in advising you of our lack of documentation in regards to the Murgon Shire Council Local Law 24, Levee Banks. My absence from Council last week caused this lack of written response.

Yours faithfully

