

QUEENSLAND FLOODS
COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

STATEMENT OF LISA MARGARET DESMOND

I, **Lisa Margaret Desmond**, of [REDACTED] Tavistock Street, Torquay in the State of Queensland, Chief Executive Officer, Fraser Coast Regional Council, do solemnly and sincerely declare that:-

1. I have been provided with a copy of the letter dated 10 August 2011 from the Commissioner, Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry requiring a sworn statement and documents from me which is attachment **LMD-1** and which details the topics my statement should cover.

Role

2. My qualifications include a Bachelor of Business, Masters of Commerce, Certified Practising Accountant and Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. I hold the position of Chief Executive Officer of the Fraser Coast Regional Council ("Council"). I have been employed by Council and its statutory predecessor the Hervey Bay City Council since October 2006. I have worked in local government for approximately 15 years.
3. The Fraser Coast region covers an area of 7,125 km from the Gunalda Range to the south, past Howard on the Bruce Highway to the north, east to World Heritage listed Fraser Island and west to Brooweena.

Item 1: The number of members in each State Emergency Service (SES) unit within the Council area

4. The Fraser Coast region has seven (7) operational SES units, with the following number of members recorded:

2009/10		2010/11	
Hervey Bay	49	Hervey Bay	54
Burrum Heads	12	Burrum Heads	12
Howard	9	Howard	20
Maryborough	40	Maryborough	30
Woocoo	14	Woocoo	18
Sandy Strait	7	Sandy Strait	6
Tiaro	17	Tiaro	17

5. Please note the above membership numbers are reflective of the number of volunteers registered. These registered volunteers are not necessarily active members of the SES (i.e. they do not all participate in training exercises and callouts).

Item 2: The equipment, if any, that the Council provides the SES units

6. Land and buildings are provided at each of the locations listed in paragraph 4, above. An additional building is also located at Glenwood, however this building is not currently utilised by an SES unit.

7. Grant funding in the amount of \$7,000 has recently been allocated for the purpose of contributing to the establishment of storage facilities on Fraser Island in the suggested locations of Orchid Beach, Happy Valley and Eurong. These storage facilities will hold emergency recovery and rescue equipment.
8. In addition to land and buildings provided for utilisation by SES units, vehicles, boats, trailers etc are also provided. A list of such vehicles can be found in Attachment **LMD-2** to this statement.
9. Computer and electronic equipment is also provided to SES units as follows:
 - (a) Hervey Bay – 2 x second hand computers;
 - (b) Burrum Heads – 1 x 42" LCD TV and 1 DVD player;
 - (c) Maryborough – 1 x second hand computer;
 - (d) Sandy Strait – 1 x second hand computer;
 - (e) Tiaro – 1 x second hand computer.
10. Items such as office equipment (including photocopiers, electronic whiteboards, telephone systems and data projectors), air conditioning units, portable radios, generators, recovery / rescue equipment, lights and ladders are also provided to SES units for utilisation when required during emergency events.

Item 3: Whether the Council employed any staff in SES positions on a full-time basis or any other basis; and if so:

- (a) **the remuneration paid to each staff member; and**
 - (b) **A copy of each staff member's statement of responsibilities; or, if a statement does not exist, a description of each staff member's responsibilities**
11. Council does not employ any staff in SES positions.
 12. Council does, however, employ a Disaster Planning Coordinator. It is the role of this officer to liaise with the SES units and manage the operational expenditure of these units. These duties would equate to at least 10% of this position.
 13. This information is relevant for both the 2009/10 and 2010/11 years.

Item 4: A description of the roles or tasks which SES units in the council area generally performed

14. The SES units in the Fraser Coast region undertake the following duties:
 - (a) Co-ordination of volunteer resources from local community;
 - (b) sandbagging during flood events;
 - (c) provision of tarpaulins for roofs;
 - (d) removal of tree debris;
 - (e) assistance with door knocks of affected residences likely to require evacuation during flood or emergency events;
 - (f) operation of flood boats during flood events to provide transportation for those stranded as a result of bridge closures;
 - (g) assistance with clean up post emergency events;
 - (h) temporary repair to damaged private dwellings or other essential buildings;
 - (i) assistance in traffic control.

Item 5: The form, amount and purpose of funding, if any the council provided to SES units.

15. For the 2009/10 financial year, Council received from Emergency Services Queensland a total of \$13,400 in annual subsidies for the SES units.

16. Council expended \$144,100 from the 2009/10 operational budget, including:

Unit	Amount
Hervey Bay	\$25,300
Burrum Heads	\$4,800
Howard	\$18,800
Maryborough	\$9,200
Woocoo	\$4,500
Sandy Strait	Budget not separate
Tiaro	\$11,500

17. Vehicle expenses for all units for the 2009/10 year was in the amount of \$70,000.

18. The operational costs for 2009/10 year can be split into three (3) areas:

- (a) Fixed costs - including items such as electricity, telephones, security and pest control;
- (b) Adhoc costs - including items generally related to building maintenance;
- (c) Operational costs - including fuel, registration, servicing of vehicles, toner, stationery and batteries.

19. Council funded \$50,000 from its 2009/10 capital budget for the following projects:

- (a) Howard SES - \$20,000 toward building renovations;
- (b) Burrum Heads SES - \$30,000 toward new building (carried forward);

20. Council did not receive any grant funding for the 2009/10 year.

21. For the 2010/11 financial year, Council received from Emergency Services Queensland a total of \$13,700 in annual subsidies for the SES units.

22. Council expended \$149,100 from the 2010/11 operational budget, including:

Unit	Amount
Hervey Bay	\$24,000
Burrum Heads	\$5,200
Howard	\$17,700
Maryborough	\$18,000
Woocoo	\$5,200
Sandy Strait	Budget not separate
Tiaro	\$19,000

23. Vehicle expenses for all units for the 2010/11 year was in the amount of \$60,000.
24. The operational costs for 2010/11 year can be split into three (3) areas:
- (a) Fixed costs - including items such as electricity, telephones, security and pest control;
 - (b) Adhoc costs - including items generally related to building maintenance;
 - (c) Operational costs - including fuel, registration, servicing of vehicles, toner, stationery and batteries.
25. Council funded \$110,000 from the 2010/11 capital budget for the following projects:
- (a) Burrum Heads SES - \$30,000 toward new building;
 - (b) Howard SES - \$80,000 for carpark, fencing and upgrades.
26. Council received \$54,455 in grant funding for the 2010/11 financial year for:
- (a) Tiaro SES - \$4,455 for air conditioning;
 - (b) Burrum Heads SES - \$50,000 toward new building.
27. In addition to the responses provided above, the following general comment is made:
28. **Expenses:** The State Emergency Service by its name is a State initiative however the operational funding for individual units is largely the responsibility of Local Government.
29. An increased monetary commitment from the State Government is required to support the operational needs of the SES units. Given the similarities in concept of the SES and Rural Fire Brigade, it is suggested that the bodies operate under similar funding and management models, rather than the current significantly different models.
30. **Vehicles:** Of all the costs associated with the SES, vehicle replacement and ongoing operational expenses are the most significant. It seems that Local Government is responsible for these costs unless a specific grant can be obtained for a replacement.
31. Even in cases where grants have been successfully obtained, Council contributions are still required in order to fund a significant proportion of the capital costs associated with the acquisition. It would be advantageous for SES vehicle replacement to be managed via a State funded replacement program to include all associated capital replacement costs.
32. **Responsibility:** The State Emergency Units are managed from a personnel, training and operational deployment by Emergency Management Queensland. However, the planning responsibility for each of the units currently falls to the Local Government. This gives rise to a situation where the planning and operational aspects are governed by different organisations. As an example, it is the sole responsibility of a Local Government to create or disband an SES unit without the involvement of EMQ. This includes decisions on where and in what form the SES Units take.

33. A review of this arrangement is recommended to ensure a clear and single point of management for the SES Units.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true, and by virtue of the provisions of the *Oaths Act 1867*.

Signed

[Redacted Signature]

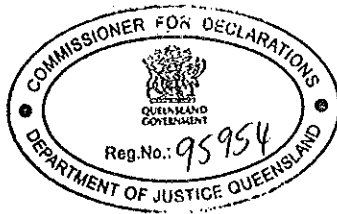
.....
Lisa Margaret Desmond

Taken and declared before me, at Hervey Bay this 21st day of September 2011.

[Redacted Signature]

Justice of the Peace/ Commissioner for Declarations

MIRIAM GRACE TKACZYNSKI



Our ref: Doc 1680118

19 August 2011

Ms Lisa Desmond
Chief Executive Officer, Fraser Coast Regional Council
PO Box 1943
HERVEY BAY QLD 4655

Dear Ms Desmond

I am writing to you because, as stated in the Commission's Interim Report (at p180), the Commission is continuing to examine matters relating to the State Emergency Service (SES). As part of its inquiries, the Commission is seeking information from local governments which were affected by the Queensland floods.

Please find enclosed a Requirement for the provision of the following information, for each of the financial years 2009-2010 and 2010-2011:

- The number of SES units within the council area and the number of members within each unit
- The equipment, if any, that the council provides the SES units
- Whether the council employs any staff in SES positions on a full-time basis or any other basis; and if so:
 - The remuneration paid to each staff member; and
 - A copy of each staff member's statement of responsibilities; or, if a statement does not exist, a description of each staff member's responsibilities.
- A description of the roles or tasks which SES units in the council area generally perform
- The form, amount and purpose of funding, if any, the council provides to SES units.

Please note that the return date for the Requirement is Friday, 23 September 2011.

The Commission does not require the Council to include in its response any information which it has provided to the Commission at an earlier time. However, if the Council has already provided any of the information sought, it would assist the Commission if that were indicated in the response to the Requirement; however, the Commission would also be pleased to receive any further or updated information the Council can provide.

Should you wish to comment on any other matter relating to the SES (for example, 'command and control' during a disaster or overall management of the SES), the Commission would be pleased to hear your views.

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Telephone 1300 309 634
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www.floodcommission.qld.gov.au

Please do not hesitate to contact Mr Lachlan Zangari on telephone 3008 5847 should you have any queries.

Yours sincerely



**Jane Moynihan
Executive Director**

Encl.

Our ref. Doc 1621378

19 August 2011

Ms Lisa Desmond
Chief Executive Officer, Fraser Coast Regional Council
PO Box 1943
HERVEY BAY QLD 4655

REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE INFORMATION TO COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

I, Justice Catherine E Holmes, Commissioner of Inquiry, require the Chief Executive Officer, Fraser Coast Regional Council to provide the following information, documents, records and other things to the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry pursuant to section 5 of the *Commissions of Inquiry Act 1950 (Qld)*, for each of the financial years 2009-2010 and 2010-2011:

1. The number of members in each State Emergency Service (SES) unit within the council area.
2. The equipment, if any, that the council provided the SES units.
3. Whether the council employed any staff in SES positions on a full-time basis or any other basis; and if so:
 - a. The remuneration paid to each staff member; and
 - b. A copy of each staff member's statement of responsibilities; or, if a statement does not exist, a description of each staff member's responsibilities.
4. A description of the roles or tasks which SES units in the council area generally performed.
5. The form, amount and purpose of funding, if any, the council provided to SES units.

Material is to be provided to the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry by Friday, 23 September 2011.

Material required can be provided by post, email or by arranging delivery to the Commission by emailing info@floodcommission.qld.gov.au.



Commissioner
Justice C E Holmes

Vehicle	Type	Year	Rego	Vin	Details
Burrum Heads					
	Ford Courier	2001	145GGH		104813km
	Trailer				General Purpose
	Trailer				Welfare
Hervey Bay					
car	Toyota Hilux	2002	523GSR		86500km
	Toyota Landcruiser	2001	666GJU		46747km
	Toyota Hiace Commuter	1999	592FBQ		50577km
Trailer	Trailer	2002	BJ8978		Storm Damage
	Trailer	1985	QG2902		Storm Damage
	Trailer	1986	QG3230		Traffic Control
	Trailer	2005	CB4270		Open
	Field Kitchen	1988	220QHK		Command Post
	Caravan		QG3617		
	Boat Trailer	2006	793QMC		
Howard					
	Ford Courier	1999	50RHX		125000km
	Trailer		QG1799		Welfare
	Trailer		QG2170		Rescue
	Trailer		182QQW		Traffic Control
Maryborough SES					
Car	Toyota Landcruiser	1993	QGX 312	JT721508006527	Maryborough SES HQ - Reed Avenue
Car	Toyota Hi Lux	1999	QGF 308	MR33LNG70602216	Maryborough SES HQ - Reed Avenue
Trailer	HQ Trailer		QG-1056		Maryborough SES HQ - Reed Avenue
Trailer	Traffic Control		621-QPX		Maryborough SES HQ - Reed Avenue
Trailer	General Purpose		QG3556		Maryborough SES HQ - Reed Avenue
Boat	4.6mx1.8x.75m		25800QD		Maryborough SES HQ - Reed Avenue
Boat Motor	37.3kw		BF50A2		Maryborough SES HQ - Reed Avenue
Boat Trailer	Boat Trailer		BO 1243		Maryborough SES HQ - Reed Avenue
Sandy Straits Group					
Car	Nissen Patrol	1997	858 QGU	JNWW60A0562991	Sandy Straits SES HQ - Eckert Road Boonooroo
Trailer	No. 756		OG-3968	6AKTHO000KR0T	Sandy Straits SES HQ - Eckert Road Boonooroo
Tiara SES Group					
Car	Toyota Landcruiser	1993			Copenhagen Street Tiara
Car	Nissen Narvara Twin Cab	2009			Pepper Road Glenwood
Boat	4.6mx1.8x.75m				
Boat Motor	37.3kw				
Boat Trailer	Boat Trailer				
Woocoo SES Group					
Car	Landcruiser Discovery	1997		SALLDHMF7A999535	Woocoo SES HQ - Boundary Road Oakhurst
Trailer	Box	1981	QG2381	BEDIND811213	Woocoo SES HQ - Boundary Road Oakhurst
Trailer	Storm	2007	CM6508	679T20AEA700JN06	Woocoo SES HQ - Boundary Road Oakhurst