

Summary of Events

Sunday 9 Jan 2001

- Advice was received from SEQWATER that releases from Wivenhoe were to be reduced as increased flows were being experienced in Lockyer Creek. However as the Lockyer peaked flows would be increased and it would be necessary to increase releases over Monday to a level that would cut the Brisbane Valley Highway sometime Monday afternoon.
- The Mayor received advice that an emergency SMS notification had been received warning of the likelihood of flooding in low lying areas adjacent to Lockyer Ck. Lowood SES was activated to assist with evacuations if required. Mayor and LDC attended Lowood SES building until midnight. Levels in Lockyer creek at Lyons Bridge had stabilised by this time.
- A call was received from a property on Clarendon Road reported to be surrounded by water. The SES was unable to get access due to levels in the Lockyer and attempted to get someone from Coominya to assist in a 4-wheel drive.
- The Lowood-Minden Road was cut near the Lowood STP.
- Lyons Bridge was some metres under water.
- SES Controller contacted and asked to make arrangements for an LDMG meeting in Esk for 1.00pm Monday to look at Stage 1 activation of LDMG.

Monday 10 Jan 2011

- Geoff Fisher Bridge was closed first thing Monday due to above expected rainfall Sunday night.
- Only way to get to Esk was via Pointings Bridge.
- Lockyer Creek was rising.
 - Gatton-Esk was closed at the Gatton End by Lockyer Ck.
 - Lyons Bridge was closed
 - Pointings Bridge closed at about 7.30/8.00am.
- Decision made that Mayor, CEO and LDC to meet at Fernvale Futures.
- LDMG meeting cancelled as access to Esk was not possible for most members.
- Phone link up with SDMG during afternoon. Received update from BOM advising that 3 days of general rainfall of 50-100mm expected across the SE.
- Received advice from the Esk Office that Redbank Creek had burst its banks and the Office had been flooded. This resulted in the shutdown of the electricity and the loss of e-mails/internet communications for Council.
- The normal Disaster Coordination Centre in Esk was made inoperable when the Council Offices were inundated.
- Early evening decision made to meet at the Futures building each day until travel to Esk was possible.

Tuesday 11 Jan 2011

- Localised flooding overnight had closed Burns Street, Banks Creek Road, Schmidt Road area and the BVH. Fernvale was effectively cut into 4 zones. A number of houses adjacent to Stinky Gully and Burns Street were flooded by local stormwater.

- Sometime early morning the power went out.
- Mobile phone coverage was poor.
- Local flood water receded early after noon and allowed access to Fernvale Futures. Stinky Gully flooding still cut Fernvale into two.
- Flooding had damaged water mains in Fernvale and water had been turned off by QUU at the Lowood reservoir.
- Landline phones stopped working around midday.
- The loss of landlines also meant there was no landline internet. Poor mobile coverage meant no wireless internet.
- A decision was made to use Fernvale Futures as the evacuation centre as it was central, visible and had drinking water and functioning toilets.
- A generator was sourced and a light was set up at the entrance to the Futures building.
- A number of people came to the evacuation centre for the night.

Wednesday 12 Feb 2011

- Mobile phones still not working well.
- Large areas had been flooded overnight as a result of flooding from the Brisbane River.
- QRFS personnel attended the evacuation centre early and were tasked to check for stranded persons and to assist with any evacuations.
- Evacuation Centres were operating at Lowood High School and Fernvale Primary School, which had opened overnight as people could not get to the Futures Centre.
- Received advice that others were caught on the eastern end of Schmidt Road and a third evacuation centre had been set up in the Condamine drive area for those unable to get out.
- Flooding in Black Snake Creek was receding, which allowed travel to the Warrego and to Lowood.
- Meeting was held in Lowood at Lowood QAS station. Police/QFS/SRC/SES/QAS attended.
- An LDMG meeting was organised for the afternoon at the Fernvale Futures building.
- Derek Taylor from EMQ arrived during the afternoon.
- As the major impacts were in the Lowood-Fernvale area it was decided that the LDCC would operate out of Fernvale.
- Some resupply requests had already been received from communities isolated by earlier river rises.
- Request to DDMG for provision of experienced staff to assist in running the Incident Management Team.

Thursday 13 Jan 2011

- Access to Esk was possible by travelling south to the Warrego Highway then to Gatton and across the Gatton-Esk Road.
- No landline phones and mobile service is limited.
- Decision made to shift LDCC to Esk as communication issues made effective operation impossible. MAYOR/CEO/LDC returned to Esk.
- LDMG meeting was held in Council Offices at Esk 2.30pm. Many people attended via phone hook up. Decision to hold daily meetings.

- Fernvale Futures was used as a local co-ordination centre due to the amount of activity in the south of the region.
- Flood Debris cleanup commenced.
- Damage to the water intake at Lowood has placed the supply to Fernvale, Lowood, Laidley and Gatton at risk. Bottled water being supplied by QUU.
- Numerous arterial roads still closed.
- Problems with waste collection.
- Shops and service stations having problems getting supplies.
- Power outages to Fernvale/Lowood, Kilcoy and Gregors Creek areas.
- Ongoing issue of resupply to isolated communities.
- Planning for recovery activities started. Re-establishing arterial road network the major priority. Damage assessments started.

Friday 14 Jan 2011

- Incident Management Staff from GCCC arrived.
- Energex connected a generator to supply the CBD only of Fernvale.
- Water being tankered to the reservoirs supplying Fernvale/Lowood.
- Boil water notice issued.
- Fernvale/Lowood landline phones restored 2.00pm. Other areas still out.
- Some Community Recovery Personnel arriving to areas with access. Starting with Toogoolawah/Esk.

Saturday 15 Jan 2011

- 5,000 customers without power.
- QFRS – Rapid Response Teams undertaking Rapid Damage Assessments.
- Lowood landlines down.
- Issue with security at Lowood Evacuation Centre. Police called.

Sunday 16 Jan 2011

- Access achieved to all towns. Some rural communities still isolated – North of Linville, West of Harlin, Kipper Creek and East of the Brisbane River. Food drops continued.
- Community Recovery staff sent to Lowood and Fernvale.
- Confirmation by Fernvale Lions Club that meals were being supplied to 2,000 Saturday.
- Second generator online late Sunday.
- External SES crews arrived.
- Limited reticulated water made available Fernvale/Lowood, Laidley and Gatton.

Monday 17 Jan 2011

- Mapping equipment arrived to assist IMT operation.
- Limited supermarkets re-supply underway.
- 1 of the 3 inoperable mobile towers back online. Mobile reception still poor.
- Requested ADF assistance to remove flood debris.
- Lowood landlines restored.

- Confirmation by QFRS of inundation numbers – 482.

Tuesday 18 Jan 2011

- Command Centre at Kilcoy closed.
- Fernvale Evacuation Centre downscaled and only providing meals to emergency workers.
- QFRS provided Rapid Damage Assessment details to LDMG.
- All reticulated water supplies now restored. Boil water notice still current.
- Ipswich Waste now collection southern areas and Cleanaway is doing the northern areas.
- Geoff Fisher Bridge out of water, but still closed as TMR needed to inspect and Energex had lines across the road.
- Deputy Premier toured Region.

Wednesday 19 Jan 2011

- Brisbane Valley Highway reopened with 15 tonne limit.
- Mobile services restored to normal.
- Lowood Water Treatment Plant off line. Tankers delivering water directly to reservoirs.
- Security Officer provided to Lowood Evacuation Centre.

Thursday 20 Jan 2011

- Fernvale power restored.
- Lowood Water Treatment Plant operational with limited production.

Friday 21 Jan 2011

- ADF personnel in Fernvale area.
- Last of the Evacuation Centres closed. (Lowood & Esk)
- Releases from Wivenhoe scaled back and Twin Bridges the only crossing not out of water.
- Press release by Energex that power should be on to all areas except flooded houses.
- GCCC staff left – SRC staff took over IMT duties.
- LDMG changed from incident action to recovery action.

Wednesday 23 Jan 2011

- Recovery Groups established – Social, Economic, Environmental and Infrastructure.

Monday 24 Jan 2011

- Boil water notice for Lowood and Fernvale withdrawn.

Tuesday 25 Jan 2011

- ADF withdrawn from Somerset.
- Fernvale Futures closed as a co-ordination centre for incident action.

Thursday 27 Jan 2011

- Last planned resupply was called off as access was established to the last isolated community – “North of Linville”.

Friday 28 Jan 2011

- Last programmed pick up of flood debris, any additional pickups to be logged with Council for co-ordination of pickups as required.

Friday 4 Feb 2011

- Fernvale School closed as recovery centre and moved to old IGA.
- LDMG no longer to hold special meetings. Recovery Groups to continue work.

Sunday 6 Feb 2011

- Esk and Lowood recovery centres closed.

Wednesday 2 March 2011

- DDMG debrief held in Yamanto Police Complex, Ipswich.