

21 September 2011

Attn: Jane Moynihan  
Executive Director  
Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry  
GPO Box 1738  
Brisbane QLD 4001

Dear Ms Moynihan,

**Re: Commission's Interim Report – request for further information**

I refer to your letter of 19 August 2011 requesting additional information relating to the State Emergency Service (SES) as part of flood affected local governments in Queensland.

In response to the questions raised, I now provide the following details for Maranoa Regional Council:-

**1. The number of members in each State Emergency Service (SES) unit within the council area.**

The Maranoa Regional Council SES Unit consists of (6) groups at this time, those being Roma, Mitchell, Surat, Wallumbilla, Begonia and Injune.

The SES membership system is broken down into two (2) classifications – “Active” or “Reserve.” “Active” is defined by members who are available to attend training on a regular basis and are also available for callout. “Reserve” members are those who have joined the SES, have completed minimal training and may be available for activation in a major event. The number of members for each group as at 20 August 2011 (being same for 2009/10 and 2010/11) are:-

- Roma SES has a total of (37) Active members and (19) Reserve members.
- Mitchell currently has (17) active members and (2) reserve members.
- Surat has (10) active members and (8) reserve members.
- Wallumbilla has (25) active members and (18) reserve members.
- Begonia has (10) active members and has (4) new recruits as probationary members.

Injune has no active members and (19) reserve members.

Injune is supported by Council staff in the event of an activation until suitably qualified SES members can be deployed from the neighbouring SES groups. In major events this support may be supplied from the Banana Shire Council's, Taroom SES Group or Central Highlands Regional Council's Rolleston Emergency Services Unit.

## **2. The equipment, if any, that the Council provided the SES units**

The Maranoa Regional Council supplies the following assets to the Maranoa Regional SES Unit and Groups.

### **a. Roma (this is a joint centre for SES and Rural Fires)**

- Accommodation - two sheds located at 10-12 Whip St, Roma to house operations/training centre and vehicles/flood boat/trailers
- One Toyota Landcruiser 4WD Wagon. Vehicle owned/maintained by Maranoa Regional and is a dedicated SES vehicle.
- One Isuzu rescue response truck. Vehicle owned/maintained by Maranoa Regional Council and is a dedicated SES vehicle.
- Two trailers, one for general rescue/traffic control equipment and one emergency lighting trailer.
- Council plant and equipment including operators are available on an as needed basis.

### **b. Mitchell**

- A new SES accommodation building is currently being built (Mitchell Show Ground) with funding received by Maranoa Regional Council through the Sustainable Resource Community initiative. SES equipment, vehicles, flood boat and trailers are currently stored in the existing SES building located at 92 Mary St, Mitchell.
- Council plant and equipment including operators are available on an as needed basis.

### **c. Surat**

- Accommodation, one shed located at 89 Burrowes St, Surat to house operations/training centre and vehicles/flood boat/trailers
- One Toyota Landcruiser 4WD Wagon. Vehicle owned/maintained by Maranoa Regional and is a dedicated SES vehicle.
- Two trailers, one for general rescue/traffic control equipment and one storm damage response trailer.
- Council plant and equipment including operators are available on an as needed basis.

### **d. Wallumbilla**

- Accommodation, one shed located at Showgrounds, Warrego Highway, Wallumbilla to house operations/training centre and vehicles/flood boat/trailers.
- Two Toyota Landcruiser Troop Carriers. Both vehicles are owned and maintained by Maranoa Regional and are dedicated SES vehicles.
- Two trailers, one for general rescue/traffic control equipment and one Road Crash Rescue response trailer.
- Council plant and equipment including operators are available on an as needed basis.

e. Begonia

- Accommodation, one shed located at Begonia Community Sports Complex, Begonia to house flood boat/trailers/equipment.
- Council plant and equipment including operators are available on an as needed basis.

f. Injune (this group is currently inactive due to lack of active members) this facility is a joint centre for QFRS and SES.

- Accommodation, one shed located at Lot 3, Third Avenue, Injune to house operations/training centre and vehicle/flood boat/trailers.
- Council plant and equipment including operators are available on an as needed basis.

All of the above equipment was available for the 2009/10 and 2010/11 financial years.

**3. Whether the Council employed any staff in SES positions on a full-time basis or any other basis.**

Council does not directly or in-directly employ a person or persons to undertake the duties of a SES worker.

**4. A description of the roles or tasks which SES units in the Council area generally performed.**

The SES within the Maranoa Regional has the following approved functions:

- Agency Support including communications, welfare, emergency lighting, food handling, air observation, re-supply and evacuation.
- Floodboat operations
- Incident Management. Emergency Operation Centre/Emergency Coordination Centre trained only
- Road Crash Rescue (only Wallumbilla, SES primary response)
- Land Search
- Storm damage operations including Working at heights, temporary roof repairs, chainsaw operations, debris cleanup and sandbagging.
- Traffic management including incident site, traffic control and road closure/diversion

**5. The form, amount and purpose of funding, if any, the Council provided to SES units.**

The Maranoa Regional Council provides an annual operating budget of \$53,000. This amount has been provided as an annual operating budget for the past 5 years. This amount does not include the honorarium.

The Acting Director Operations has a delegated authority for expenditure to the value of \$150,000. In addition to this Council also replaces the unit vehicles as per Council's 10 year plant replacement program. Council also provides additional funds for capital works on an as required basis.

Should you require any additional information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact my office on 1300 007 662.

Yours faithfully,



Paul Bawden  
**Chief Executive Officer**