

Name of Witness	Donald Raymond Hannah
Date of Birth	[REDACTED]
Address and contact details	[REDACTED] Glamorgan Vale, 4306 Mobile: [REDACTED]
Occupation	Aircraft engineer
Officer taking statement	Steven Geoffrey Bignell
Date taken	23 April 2011

Donald Raymond Hannah states:

1. I am a married man [REDACTED] years of age, and I reside with my wife on my property located at [REDACTED] Road, Glamorgan Vale. I am a self employed aircraft engineer and operate my own business trading as "D and C Aircraft" designing and manufacturing recreational, ultra-light and mirco-light aircraft. I am also a qualified pilot and studied meteorology for 2 years through the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. I am widely known in the local area as "Doc" Hannah, and I am Chief Executive Officer (CEO) with the local Glamorganvale Water Board. Part of my responsibilities with the Water Board is to ensure the continued supply of raw (untreated) water from the river system is pumped to holding tanks and on to our various property owner clients. The water is regarded as high priority "A" and is utilised for stock and limited domestic use, it is not for human consumption.
2. My wife and I have resided in the Glamorgan Vale area for the past 28 years and I am very familiar with the area. From previous experience and local knowledge I know that should the Glamorgan Vale catchments get 300 Millimetres or more of rainfall we will be flooded.
3. I recall that around mid December 2010 we had increasing heavy rains and in January 2011 we had some intensive storm build ups through and around our area. Around the 10th of January on we started to receive some very heavy rainfall and

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we know that around my place at 300 millimetres of rain we get quite severe flooding, so as the rainfall increased we knew that we were going to have problems

4. We knew that Glamorgan Vale itself would be cut off and that the local community would be cut into three separate and isolated areas, at Black Snake Creek, which runs through Glamorgan Vale itself, at Clous Road at Brian Bate's property, and also at Sandy Creek down at what was known as "Browns Bridge" where I live.
5. As predicted we were cut off at the points I indicated, with about a meter and a half over Browns Bridge, about a meter at Clous Road, and a little over a meter of water at Black Snake Creek through Glamorganvale. I should point out that the water was running at a rate as to dislodge and carry away a 6.2 x 6.2 meter Rural Fire building attached to a 150mm concrete slab and deposit it on the other side of Glamorganvale Road and move the 20 foot container, some 4.5 tone from the local hall. The water through Glamorgan Vale was running quickly and not back up stationary flood water.
6. At the time of the rain event I kept an eye on the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) website which gave a good indication to me of the rainfall at the time. From what I could see the whole the area below Wivenhoe Dam was subject to extremely high rainfall potential with similar rain patterns for a number of local catchments areas. This area included the Black Snake Creek catchments which is basically the area between Fernvale and Marburg and the hills behind Glamorgan Vale, an area of some nearly 10,000 hectares. The catchments area around the Lockyer Valley area which includes the other side of "The Nobby" and Mount Stradbroke, another 500,000 hectares of catchments, and the Bremer River catchments which is nearly 80,000 hectares of catchments. All the rain from these catchments feed into the Brisbane River from points below the Wivenhoe Dam.
7. I have no doubt that the catchments that fed into the Wivenhoe Dam got some significant rainfall but the problem as I see it was that the rainfall north of Wivenhoe Dam seemed to be a lot lighter than the rain that fell south of Wivenhoe

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Dam. The major problem as I see it was the rainfall that fell south of Wivenhoe Dam and west through the Lockyer, Black Snake Creek, Bremer and the mid Brisbane River catchments seemed to be dismissed or not taken with much heed.

8. The major flood for the Glamorgan Vale area was through Glamorgan Vale itself and south towards Marburg, that whole area is basically a natural flood plain along Black Snake Creek. Both high and low set houses have been built in this area so once we have a flood event the lower houses have the potential to be inundated.
9. As rain fell, water was being released from Wivenhoe Dam into the Brisbane River as part of the natural management processes of the dam, however with the large volume of water, seemingly not being considered, entering below the Dam, also feeding into the Brisbane River at a increasing rate, the river started to fill, flood and of course the water flow started to back up. To my way of thinking the official flood management was totally focused on Wivenhoe Dam itself and not the holistic consideration, the total evaluation of the catchment area, where a lot of the unforeseen major flooding came from.
10. As far as managing the Dam itself is concerned, I think they did a magnificent job considering the media frenzy and public suggestions. The issue that I feel seems to have been forgotten through the whole event is the impact that the flows from Black Snake Creek, Lockyer Creek and the Bremer River had on the already flooding river.
11. I personally was cut off at my property after the storms of the 10th and we were cut off from the rest of the community for about three or four days. Progressively, as the waters went down the community was able to get to different areas by 4WD, I started to contact the local residents, property owners in the area that I knew may be effected to see how they were travelling, whether the needed anything and if they were able to provide any assistance to others if needed. As it turned out this time round no one needed medivac or anything major. Our Community is only small and probably only consists of around 120 people in total.

[Redacted Signature]

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12. There was no formalised plan for any local disaster management prior to the January flood events, since the floods it is my intention to set up a Disaster Management Group to deal with future events. I will point out that when flooded Glamorgan Vale area is cut into three areas.
13. On this occasion initially everything was ok and we were able to communicate and check on everyone until the phones went out. With the loss of power to all but one area and limited land line service, then the mobile phone coverage went down, we were basically bugged, and we were forced to use UHF radios for communications. Once the radios were set up I could communicate with a Water Board contractor from A & M Contracting to arrange for the pumping stations to get back on line. A & M contracting is also on call to the local council and was involved in road repairs for them.
14. As mentioned earlier, when the Glamorgan Vale area floods the local community is split into three separate isolated areas, because of this I had identified three high ground areas and obtained agreement in principal by owners to offer their properties as "Safe areas" or "Key Points", suitable for aviation evacuation points. These locations were Beattie Hill off Beattie Road, Bob Wally's property at Glamorgan Vale and the School residence at Glamorgan Vale, which I've since been told we aren't permitted to use, so the third will now be my own property.
15. Once the waters had subsided enough for me to get to Glamorgan Vale my priority was to get to the Water board office and get the systems back up and running so as to ensure the water supply to our district customers, as a lot of the property owners in the flood effected areas would have lost their stock water troughs and tanks to flood waters. The electricity was out so I contacted the engineer at the Somerset shire and got the emergency contact number for the Energex emergency crews. Powerlines were down and they did a great job in restoring mains power back to our two pumping stations and thereby ensuring water supply to our customers was a little closer.

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16. With respect to the disaster management role for the community at large, it was my intention that we were to run an advisory service from the Water Board office so as to be able to have the necessary information on hand to be able to advise people on the current flood status, where they could go for food, water, clothing, bedding and first aid etc.
17. Once we started to set up and got an idea of the gravity of the situation, the local politicians Wayne Went and the federal Shane Neumann came out and asked us what we needed, I told them bottled drinking water, and within an hour and a half of that request a truck turned up with a load of bottled water which we unloaded and stored in the water board office and handed out as required.
18. A couple of days later the flood waters subsided enough for people to be able to reach the Fernvale Futures complex at Fernvale, some 8 km from Glamorgan Vale this was the actual official emergency point, so we started directing people to that location for any assistance they needed. Fernvale Futures is where Centrelink, Lions and all the other Government assistance organisations had been based. I also travelled to Fernvale myself and collected copies of the paperwork people needed in order to apply for the Government financial relief packages.
19. My main role through out this event was to first provide safety assistance, provide stock water supply and advice to people on where they needed to go in order to get the assistance they needed, if they came to or contacted the Water Board office the only other assistance we provided was advise where to go, documentation for flood support and the provision of bottled water.

PROBLEMS IDENTIFIED

20. No early warning systems in our area, I am not aware of any text messages that were received by any of the residents in our area, and apart from the occasional news report for our local area no other systems currently exist to warn the residents of any impending flood events.

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21. I also believe that the road systems around the local community are poorly designed for water drainage, and so is the cleaning of the water ways of debris, however having said that, just prior to the January floods I did ask (on behalf of residents) the Somerset Regional Council to remove vegetation and debris in Black Snake Creek which was attended too as requested very quickly by the council.
22. There is also a problem with the water run off at the T intersection at the end of Glamorgan Vale Road. On the other side of the T intersection is Black Snake creek into which the run off from the nearby hillside should flow, however due to the design of the intersection all the run off flows down to the intersection and rather than flowing into the creek deviates just prior to the intersection away from the creek and inundates a nearby residential area.
23. The other problem is that generally people had no idea what was going on and that is the reasoning behind starting the flood emergency relief group.
24. The local Disaster Management Group I referred to earlier is comprised of local community individuals from the flood plain community, Bob Wally, Geoff Beattie, and my self as the three individuals who own the 3 high spots identified at this time as being the most appropriate evacuation points. The Group has since had three meetings the first being on the 20th of January 2011 and the last being on or about the 18 April 2011. As the group is still in its infancies we do not have minutes of attendance sheets however we have put out our first news letter, a copy of which is attached.
25. The Group has not as yet been officially recognised by local, State Emergency Plan or management. It may never be officially sanctioned, however at this point in time it is our intention that the community needs to be in position to look after itself in the preliminary stages of any disaster event with respect to accommodating displaced persons, and the provision of food, water, first aid and medical emergency evacuation as needed. I have also designed and am in the process of manufacture a community early warning system to warn low lying residents of rising water levels in the relevant water ways. In brief the "Night

Owl” early warning system is designed to be a self sustainable system powered by mains, solar and battery power, which will deliver early warnings, either by hard wired or radio communications direct to individual homes in the affected areas.

26. The system would also provide a warning to the group co-ordinator, Paul Suljac who is the local Operations Officer for the Rural Fire Brigade. It will be Paul’s decision to activate the community Disaster Management Group and to advise the Emergency Services of any impending disaster event.

[Redacted]
D Hannah

Justices Act Acknowledgement

Justices Act 1886

I acknowledge by virtue of section 110A(6C)(c) of the Justices Act 1886 that:

- (1) This written statement by me dated 23/4/2011 and contained in the pages numbered 1 to 7 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 Glanmorgan Vale this 28th.....day of April 2011

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GLAMORGAN VALE FLOOD EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT GROUP

"Looking after each other"

Newsletter No 1.

On the 30th March the Glamorgan vale Hall hosted the third meeting of the local flood emergency group. At this meeting a number of topics were discussed and progression towards a flood monitoring and management plan for the Glamorgan vale area is a little closer to being achieved.

A general overview was presented as to the progression to date, milestones achieved and what the group needs to accomplish to stand officially recognised under the State Emergency Management Plan.

The topics discussed during this meeting included:

1. The need to have safe areas, (Key Points) to which people effected by flooding may relocate and areas suitable for air evacuation should the need for medical relocation arise. It was suggested that three such areas would be required. Negotiations with owners of these properties has achieved agreement in principal and as the process of official recognition of the Glamorgan vale Flood Emergency Management Group (GFEMG) is achieved and included in the state plan, final agreements with these generous people will be undertaken.

2. The ability for those persons offering their properties as Key Points to be protected under a form of legislation in the event of group activation. This protection action and associated legislation needs to be further assessed and documented. Discussions with the chairman of Somerset Regional Disaster Management and legislation will further highlight such protection, also an invitation to address the GFEMG will be offered to Mr. Tony Jacob when he returns from leave. The outcome will be advised in the near future.

3. The meeting was advised of the design completion of the "Night Owl" early flood warning system. Manufacture, testing and initial installation is still to be accomplished, Thanks to Daryl and Alison Brown who kindly gave their permission to install the first "Night Owl" early warning system at their property in Glamorgan vale for evaluation trials.

Discussions on the requirements for an additional two "Night Owl" systems, possibly to be located outside Marburg and midway to Glamorgan vale on Black Snake Creek respectively, also took place. The meeting was advised that although the original "Night Owl" system did not require a Radio telemetric processing unit or automatic paging interfacing devices, the planned additional remote "Night Owl" types would require such technology and therefore grant funding would be required if the need for the additional two devices is firm. Further discussion on this topic will be undertaken in the future after researching possible access to grant funding.

4. A general activation plan was discussed should commencement be required. The logical process would be along the lines of:

- (a) Activation of possible inundation is sensed by "Night Owl" at Browns property and alerts them.*
- (b) Browns advise Murray Drain by phone, Murray has offered his experience with emergency services and has agreed to act as Co Coordinator of GFEMG.*
- (c) Murray will confirm the flood rise rate and make the decision to recommend the activation of GFEMG to the Rural Fire Service (RFS) First Officer by phone.*
- (d) The RFS First Officer will confirm the activation of GFEMG to Murray. In doing so, also activates the Local Emergency Plan, the First Officer also advises Key Point persons of the activation.*
- (e) Key Point persons contact Murray for instruction.*

Remember folks, we have a long way to go getting this off the ground and I do appreciate feedback and ideas. This Newsletter, suggested by Elona, goes a long way in keeping us all informed, so if you attended any of the GFEMG meetings or wish to be kept abreast of events happening let us know and we'll include you in the news letter circulation.

Next meeting date is 20th April 7-00 pm for 7-30 pm start. All welcome.

Regards,

Doc Hammah

