



QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE
STATEMENT OF WITNESS

QP 0125
01/06
SH

Occurrence #: _____

Statement no.: _____ Date: 17/03/11

Statement of

Name of witness: CROWLEY, Michael Joseph

Date of birth: [redacted] Age: [redacted] Occupation: Police Officer

Police officer taking statement

Name: _____

Rank: _____ Reg. no.: _____

Region/Command/Division: _____ Station: _____

Statement:

Michael Joseph Crowley states:-

I am an Inspector of Police, Manager of the Weapons Licensing Branch, Administration Division. I commenced in this position in a permanent capacity on 5 April 2005.

I joined the Queensland Police Service as a police cadet in January 1976 and was inducted on 14 October 1977.

I have 34 of years policing experience having served:

April 2005 - Present
Inspector - Manager
Weapons Licensing Branch

April 2003 - April 2005
Senior Sergeant/Acting Inspector - Acting Manager
Weapons Licensing Branch

Responsibilities:

Perform duties as Authorised Officer under the *Weapons Act 1990* and exercise the delegated authority of the Commissioner in respect to Weapons Act legislation and policies for licensing and administration activities.

Exhibit Number: 174
QFCI
Date: 28/4/11
JWM

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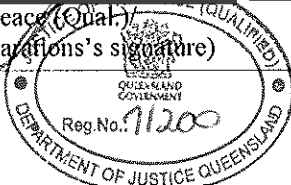
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(Justice of the Peace (Qual.)
Commissioner for Declarations's signature)

(Signature of police officer
preparing statement)

17/03/11



Provide leadership and direction to the Branch through continually monitoring and reviewing operations and performance to ensure efficient and effective co-ordination and maximisation of human, physical and financial resources towards the achievement of goals.

Initiate and promote the development and implementation of programs that improve the performance levels of individuals and work groups ensuring quality service delivery.

Monitor and recommend amendments to the Weapons Act and Regulations, and identify, modify, review and develop policy on weapons licensing related matters as required.

Develop and maintain a process of consultation and networking with members of the Police Service, the firearm industry, government agencies and the community to enhance the quality of internal practices and to ensure the achievement of desired policing outcomes.

Represent the Weapons Licensing Branch, the Division and the Service on a range of internal and external committees and forums and in interactions with other government agencies, law enforcement agencies and private organisations.

Respond to requests for advice and information from the Minister's Office on the Queensland Police Service's position in relation to aspects of weapons licensing and administration.

Develop, implement and undertake regular evaluation and review processes to monitor the efficiency and effectiveness of the Branch and identify strategic issues, generate innovative solutions and provide input into the Service Strategic Plan on weapons licensing.

Provide high quality advice and be recognised as an expert point of reference for matters relevant to weapons licensing.

May 2001 - April 2003
Senior Sergeant
Ipswich District (Development Program)

Responsibilities:

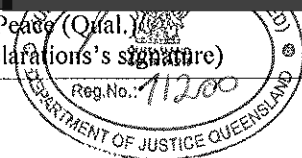
Operational policing management - Officer in Charge (relieving) of Ipswich Station (24hr station), Ipswich Watchhouse (Class 1 24hour), Ipswich District Traffic Branch and Ipswich District Tactical Crime Squad. Performed District Duty Officer functions attending critical situations e.g. seiges, industrial fires and major road crash incidents. Relieved as District Inspector responsible for Goodna Division and Station audits. Undertook discipline investigations and managerial resolution.

December 1995 - May 2001
Senior Sergeant, Administrator
Weapons Licensing Branch

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Commissioner for Declarations's signature)

(Signature of police officer
preparing statement)



CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: **CROWLEY, Michael Joseph**

Responsibilities:

Administrative duties – licensing and auditing coordination – stakeholder liaison – audit coordination – continuous improvement strategies – operational advise on licensing matters.

September 1991 - December 1995
Sergeant, Shift Supervisor
Wooloongabba/Dutton Park Station

Responsibilities:

General policing and patrol supervisor duties

April 1991 - September 1991
Senior Constable
Annerley Station

Responsibilities:

General policing duties

February 1989 - April 1991
Senior Constable
Criminal Justice Commission and
Fitzgerald Commission of Inquiry

Responsibilities:

Multi-disciplinary Investigative duties and Witness Protection

January 1983 - February 1989
Constable 1st Class - Senior Constable
Firearms Section

Responsibilities:

Performed firearms training, armourer, administrative and licence application adjudication duties. 1986-1988 performed specialist part-time duties with the Special Weapons and Operations Squad.

October 1977 - January 1983
Constable - Constable 1st Class
Mackay, Thargomindah and Charleville Stations
As well as earlier Training Stations

Responsibilities:

General Policing Duties

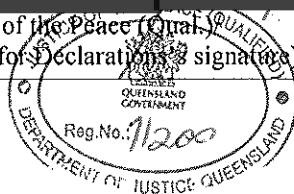
Inducted: 14 October 1977

January 1976 - October 1977
Cadet - Probationary
Queensland Police Service Academy

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(Justice of the Peace (Qual.))
Commissioner for Declarations & signature

(Signature of police officer
preparing statement)



CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: **CROWLEY, Michael Joseph**

During my Service, I have completed only basic disaster management training during the Management Development Program Residential Course in 2000 and the Incident Commend Course in 2004.

In response to the written requirement of the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry dated 9 March 2011, I provide the following information:

The information I have provided relates to my involvement as Community Liaison Officer for Murphy's Creek and Helidon for the period from 16 January 2011 to 22 January 2011.

The information in this statement does not relate to my involvement in the flooding in Central Police Region where I performed duties in the logistical supply cell for the Region and flood operations duty Inspector in Rockhampton from 30 December 2010 to 6 January 2011.

In response to the written requirement of the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry dated 9 March 2011, I provide the following information:

- I had no involvement in the preparation or planning undertaken in the Southern Region in advance of or in relation to the 2010/2011 flood events;
- I had no involvement in the immediate management, response or recovery operations in respect of the 2010/2011 flood event in Southern Region apart from my role as Community Liaison Officer for Murphy's Creek and Helidon where I liaised, assisted and advised members of the public and various groups as to where necessary information or assistance could be provided by the appropriate authorities in the area;

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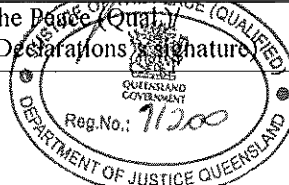
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(Signature of police officer
preparing statement)

17/3/11



- I had minimal involvement in relation to resourcing, coordination or deployment of personnel and equipment in respect of the 2010/2011 flood event in Southern Region.

I was assigned QPS staff to assist members of the public and various groups from primarily the Helidon Evacuation Centre to respond to special requests for escorted access to the exclusion area. These actions were in response to the communities anger over their inability to access the exclusion area to identify if their homes were habitable or still there or able to retrieve important personal items such as medication, identification and documents. It also included the ability for business operators to access their warehouse within the exclusion area to remove stock before it perished, this was undertaken only once the buildings had been cleared, forward command approval obtained and under escort; and

To ensure appropriate staff were placed at evacuation centres to monitor and assist the public throughout the response to the event.

- I had no involvement in relation to management, maintenance or reinstating the supply of essential services (water, power and communications) in respect of the 2010/2011 flood event in Southern Region;

- I had no involvement in relation to resourcing accessed concerning weather forecasts and how the information was disseminated amongst relevant persons in respect of the 2010/2011 flood event in Southern Region.

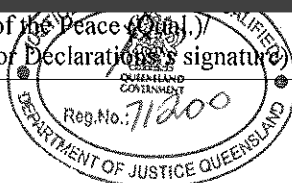
I did however assist in the dissemination of severe storm warnings, post the actual Lockyer Valley flood event, received from the Forward Command Post to community members at Helidon and Murphy's Creek.

- In relation to the measures taken to inform the communities about the 2010/2011 flood event in Southern Region and the responses thereto. As outlined, I was appointed as Community Liaison Officer for Murphy's Creek and Helidon for the period from 16 January 2011 to 22 January 2011.

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Commissioner for Declarations & signature


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preparing statement)

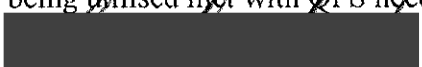



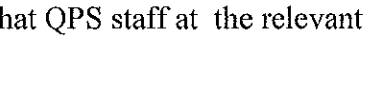
Initially my role was to act as 'go between' for the members of the community and the Queensland Police Service but this eventually extended into covering other Government Agencies (local, state and federal). I provided assistance to community members or other groups, to access urgent items or matters from Grantham during the exclusion period. I also directed them to where the necessary agency information, advice or assistance could be obtained.

Examples of this included:

- I attended public forum meetings with the Assistant Commissioner, Southern Region, DDC, Forward Commander of the Response Operations and other members of the QPS as well as local council representatives at Helidon, Murphy's Creek and Grantham to provide information on the response to the flood event.
- I attended the Evacuation Centre at Helidon and Murphy's Creek Community Centre on a regular basis to assist with any queries from members of the public in relation to the QPS response.
- I arranged for a member of the QPS to be present at the Helidon Evacuation Centre and Murphy's Creek Community Centre during the day to assist in responding to queries and provide information those community members.
- Spending time with members of the community who were displaying anger and frustration at community meetings to ascertain the reasons for the anger and what was needed to resolve their concerns and directing them towards the appropriate agencies for assistance.
- Advising community groups, such as Murphys Creek, who were working outside of the appropriate legislative network in recovery and directing them towards the LDMSG at Gatton for appropriate assistance.
- When the town of Grantham was closed to general access by way of a series of roadblocks, members of the community needed to gain access for people assisting them in recovery. My role was to ensure the identification system being utilised met with QPS need and that QPS staff at the relevant


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Reg.No. 71200


(Signature of police officer preparing statement)

roadblock complied by allowing or denying access where necessary and informing members of the public of the limited access.

I found staff within the Southern Region both positive and helpful. The issues I liaised with them varied in level of complication and seriousness but I always received professional responses from the members involved. The level of satisfaction, from the members of the public or the organisations I made the inquiries on behalf of, was always high. This was based upon comments and feedback received.

- I had no involvement in relation to communications between the DDMG, SDMCC or the SDC in respect of the 2010/2011 flood event in Southern Region;

During the period I attended daily 6am briefings with the DDC, Forward Commander and other key QPS representatives in relation to the current status of the disaster response, proposed course of actions for that day and other community matters. I was also in daily telephone communication with the DDC providing updates on community feelings or issues raised.

- I had no involvement in the availability and provision of services or logistical support within the disaster management hierarchy before the 2010/2011 flood event.

I was provided with QPS human resources to maintain a policing presence at the Helidon Evacuation Centre and Murphy's Creek Community Centre and assist with providing a response to community requests for assistance. The resources provided were both adequate and allocated in a timely manner.

- In relation to the involvement with Commonwealth agencies in relation to the provision of emergency response measures, personnel, equipment or services during the 2010/2011 flood event in Southern Region and the responses thereto.

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preparing statement)



I had a limited involvement with the Australian Defence Force who had staff on the ground at Grantham and Murphys Creek. My involvement related primarily to advising Australian Defence Force through the Forward Command Post of issues or requests by members of the community or organisations within the community.

In both areas, the professionalism of the Australian Defence Force was outstanding. The troops and their management were working tirelessly in assisting the communities and their efforts were very positively commented on by those they were helping.

My only other involvement with other Federal Agencies was through the Evacuation and Community Centres where I directed persons with various inquiries received towards the relevant Federal Agency (e.g. Centrelink).

- In relation to the involvement with State agencies in relation to the provision of emergency response measures, personnel, equipment or services during the 2010/2011 flood event in Southern Region and the responses thereto.

My only involvement with State Agencies was through the Evacuation and Community Centres where I directed persons with various inquiries received towards the relevant State Agency (e.g. Department of Housing). I also arranged for State Agency representatives to attend a community meeting held at the Murphy's Creek Community Centre.

- In assessing the adequacy of equipment and communications systems in the Region during the 2010/2011 flood event in Southern Region. I found the equipment available more than met any needs I had. I was not aware of any event during my period of deployment where equipment was not made available to meet the needs of staff.

The principal method of communication during this period was by mobile telephone. Communications systems during the event, apart from normal geographical limitations, also met my needs.

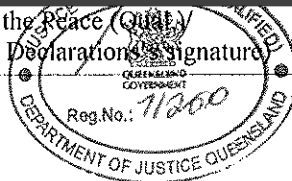
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- In relation to the adequacy of the community's response during the 2010/2011 flood event in Southern Region. The communities in Grantham, Helidon and Murphys Creek dealt with the issues they experienced primarily in the same manner. There was a strong sense of community that developed and an active push to help each other in recovering from the event.

Murphys Creek benefited further from the military expertise of a local community member who, in the period immediately after the event, took command of the community resources (human, physical and financial) and directed towards the various recovery tasks. The member concerned was a retired military officer and his experience and training definitely benefited that community as they worked and liaised with the various agencies during the response and recovery.

The negative aspect of this eventuated from a lack of understanding at local community and council level of assistance available through the State and Federal legislation. To that end unnecessary costs were incurred by the community sourcing and deploying equipment and people.

As assistance became available through the State and Federal response, the community was made aware of it and they sought to integrate back into the appropriate network.

Helidon and Grantham did not have the benefit of that level of expertise and were more reliant on State and Federal assistance.

At each of the centres locate at Murphys Creek, Helidon and Grantham unofficial community leaders emerged and acted as a focal point for agencies including the QPS to liaise and communicate with the effected communities.

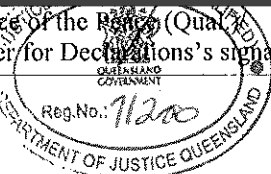
- I had no involvement in relation to the circumstances of any human fatality in respect of the 2010/2011 flood event in Southern Region, nor the measures taken to prevent or respond to any such fatality;

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- I had no involvement in relation to the protection of private and public property or the preservation of vital infrastructure in respect of the 2010/2011 flood event in Southern Region;
- I have no knowledge of any special consideration that should be given within the region by reason of any regional or geographical differences in respect of the 2010/2011 flood event in Southern Region;
- In respect of the 2010/2011 flood event in Southern Region, I have no knowledge of any feature of the disaster preparation and planning stages or the disaster response and recovery operations which presented particular or may require practical or legislative change to improve disaster management in the region;
- In respect to my role as Community Liaison Officer at Murphys Creek and Helidon. My overall impression was the scale of the event and the level of destruction was significant and had an overwhelming effect on the community.

From my understanding the Community Liaison Officer role was implemented as a result of community dissatisfaction with the level of information provided to the community to that time. This was then addressed by the QPS in an effective and professional manner.

Community members at Murphys Creek expressed their concerns that they were not receiving the same focus of community response as being given to the Grantham community. To alleviate these concerns a community meeting was organised to address concerns and provide up to date information on agency responses.

A lack of understanding at local community level also hampered their access to assistance available through the State and Federal legislation. While QPS intervention tried to direct their requests to the appropriate authorisation

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process, the lack of a local council liaison officer limited their knowledge of what assistance was available.

As time progressed and the communities became more organised, they were able to access the assistance available from the relevant agencies.

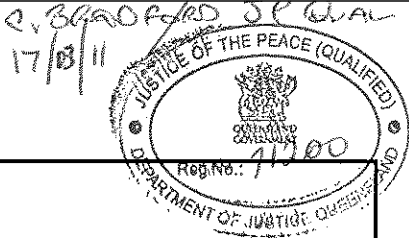
During my deployment there were several negative opinions stated to me regarding the Lockyer Valley Regional Council and the lack of assistance and coordination available from that group. This appeared to be resentment in relation to the time taken for the Council to respond to requests for assistance.

In my opinion the coordination of the council response improved significantly with the integration of Murweh Regional Council members who had experience of flood disaster management, al be it not to the scale of devastation experienced in the Lockyer Valley.

- I have no notes, documents, or recordings of those issues raised with me by the communities of Grantham, Murphys Creek or Helidon relating to the Terms of Reference including conversations with individuals within any of those communities.

[Redacted]
Michael Joseph Crowley
Inspector 3752

[Redacted]



Justices Act Acknowledgement

Justices Act 1886

I acknowledge by virtue of section 110A(5)(c)(ii) of the Justices Act 1886 that:

- (1) This written statement by me dated 17/03/2011 and contained in the pages numbered 1 to 11 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.

.....Signature

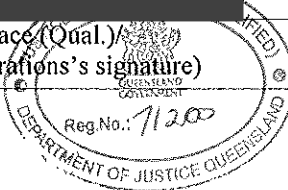
Signed at Brisbane this 17th day of March 2011

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Commissioner for Declarations's signature)



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preparing statement)