

<i>Name of Witness</i>	Betty Joan MICKELBOURGH
<i>Date of Birth</i>	[REDACTED]
<i>Address and contact details</i>	[REDACTED]
<i>Occupation</i>	Proprietor

I, Betty Joan MICKELBOURGH state:

1. I am a [REDACTED] year old married lady, and currently reside in the town of Surat. I own and operate a company 'Warroo Game Meats' which is involved in the processing of Kangaroo meat for the Pet food Industry.
2. Our business relies on the culling of kangaroos in the western Queensland area. We buy the kangaroos from shooters, transport them to our processing plant in Surat and then sell the meat and other products onto the retailers in other areas of the State.
3. Because of our location the business relies heavily on transport and access to other areas of Queensland. Surat is central to St. George, Tara and Roma, however at times of heavy rain, the road between Surat and those other towns is regularly cut off by flood water. When that occurs we are unable to get product either in or out of our processing facility in Surat.
4. Because of the way the Surat township was built we do not suffer flooding ourselves, however all of the towns around us do and this leaves us isolated like an island.

Exhibit Number:

QFCI

Date:

265  
04/05/11  
JMN

Witness Signature

[REDACTED]

Signature of Officer

[REDACTED]

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400 George Street Brisbane  
GPO Box 1738 Brisbane  
Queensland 4001 Australia  
Telephone 1300 309 634  
Facsimile +61 7 3405 9750  
www.floodcommission.qld.gov.au  
ABN 65 959 415 158

5. Since November 2009 and March 2011, we have experienced five and a half months of lost time, where we were unable to operate due to isolation or issues associated with that. This has had a devastating impact on our business and reduced our income to almost nothing. As it currently stands we are struggling to keep the doors open and the business operating.
6. We have at times employed around 20-25 people, sometimes more or less depending upon the time of year, but because of the flooding and isolation we have had to reduce those numbers dramatically.
7. At Christmas 2010 a lot of our staff took leave from the 23<sup>rd</sup> December, but because of the situation and isolation we were experiencing we were unable to operate and most were not able to come back. Some of our staff also live out of town and so this only further complicates things as they are not always able to get into town.
8. During the January flood event, we suffered from power shortages which affected the refrigerators which hold our stock. Because our business is situated at the end of the power line in town, we only receive what power is left after other residents have turned on their power.
9. Several times a day during the floods, the power would not make it through to our business, further affecting our business.



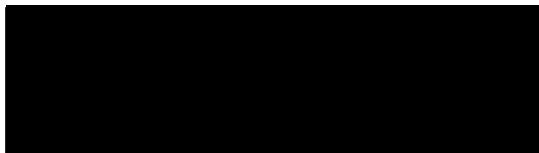
10. Compared to the supply when there is no flood, I believe that there was reduced power supplied to the Surat township during the floods but I was never informed about this by the power supplier or anyone else.
11. In addition, we tried to shift stock before the floods isolated the town to generate income. My staff checked road conditions on the internet before moving stock but found that there were inaccurate at times.
12. We would often find that roads that were indicated as open were actually closed and vice versa.
13. Eventually, we had to investigate ourselves to find out which roads were open. We had to ask other people on the roads to see whether the way they had come was open or not.
14. We used to operate depots in other towns where the shooters could bring the kangaroos to sell. But because of our isolation caused by the roads and the uncertainty of their closure, we had to shut down our outside sites with only our Surat depot open.
15. Since the January flood I have attended a number of recovery meetings. I have also prepared a list of the persons whom I have had contact with over this period (March 2010 - April 2011), to seek assistance. This includes applications for Disaster Relief and Recovery Assistance, for which our application was ultimately refused.
16. Apart from the personal impact on our business and finances and those associated with it, the flooding continues to have a devastating impact on the town of Surat. Surat is only little town and besides the Council, we



are one of the biggest employers. If we were to close it would have a large impact on the town. It would also impact on those people who supply us and the flow-on effect in the towns where they reside.

17. Already other businesses in Surat have closed because of what has happened and continues to happen. Surat has no Food Store anymore and we are forced to either buy from the one remaining Café, or travel to other towns to shop, that is when we can actually get to those other towns.

18. We do not want to shut because we have built our business up from nothing and don't want to shut the doors and be sold up to pay off our debts, only to be left with nothing. Unfortunately we may not have any choice and from payday Thursday to Thursday we never know whether we are going to continue or not.



**Betty MICKELBOURGH.**

4<sup>th</sup> May 2011.

**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 27<sup>th</sup> April 2011 and contained in the pages numbered 1 to 8 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 .....Surat.....this.....27<sup>th</sup>.....day of.....April.....2011....

