

STATEMENT TO QLD FLOODS COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

NAME: Mr John Rauber

OCCUPATION: Chief Executive Officer – Moreton Bay Regional Council

DATE OF STATEMENT: 9 September 2011

I, JOHN RAUBER, Chief Executive Officer of Moreton Bay Regional Council
[REDACTED] Strathpine, Queensland, being under oath, say as to the
points raised in the letter dated 19 August 2011 – **Reference Doc 1680908:**

1. Whether all documents requested by the Requirement dated 1 March 2011 have been provided to the Commission.

- 1.1 To the best of my knowledge, all documents requested by the Commission have been provided.

2. The details of any draft flood studies obtained or made available to the Council since March 2011.

- 2.1 Immediately following amalgamation, Moreton Bay Regional Council (MBRC) commenced the preparation of a region wide flood study referred to as the Regional Floodplain Database (RFD). A full copy of the currently available documentation was provided to the Inquiry on 22 March 2011 as part of Council's 'Submission of Information' package. No further documentation has been developed since this time. Further details on the RFD, including a project status update, are provided below.

3. Any changes to the Council's land planning processes, policies or other statutory instruments in response to flooding that occurred during the period 1 December 2010 to 31 January 2011, including drafts, considerations and adopted documents of Council.

- 3.1 There have been no changes to land planning processes in response to the flooding that occurred between 1 December 2010 and 31 January 2011 as the current planning schemes already cover flood issues through current provisions, codes and policies.
- 3.2 Council is in the process of developing a document referred to as the 'Moreton Bay Regional Council Floodplain Risk Management Framework'. This document is a work in progress that is currently being presented to internal stakeholders and has not yet been presented to or endorsed by the Executive Management Team or Council. The intention of this work is to develop a clear strategy for the identification, prioritisation and implementation of floodplain risk management measures in the region including the flood mitigation capital works program. Once further progress

is made on development of the framework, it will be presented to Council for formal consideration and adoption.

- 3.3 A copy of the current draft framework documents (Volumes 1 and 2) are included as **Attachments 1680908-1a and 1680908-1b.**

4. How information about flood risk for specific properties is made available and any processes for obtaining this information applicable to each of the following:

- a. members of the public;**
- b. insurance companies; and**
- c. prospective developers and their representatives.**

4.1 *Members of the public and insurance companies*

Council made available, in February 2011, regional scale flood mapping on its website for free download and viewing by members of the public. This mapping shows Council's available '1 in 100 year' (1% annual exceedance chance) flood mapping at a sufficient level of detail that residents may discern the general level of flood affectation for their property or frequently attended location (e.g. work or school). The mapping classifies the floodplain into different depth zones to assist with interpretation of likely risk. The mapping can be accessed by visiting Council's website www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au/floodplains. Flood studies used to derive this mapping are also available for free download from the website or for viewing at Council's customer service centres at Strathpine, Redcliffe and Caboolture. Copies of flood studies are also available for purchase for a standard fee.

- 4.2 In addition, Council provides a property-based flood search service whereby members of the public may request a flood search containing more detail about the flood affectation of their property. This search includes a more detailed map of the flood extent at the property of interest, along with an estimated 1 in 100 year flood surface elevation for the property where such information is available. An example flood search is provided on Council's website at the address described above. A standard search fee per property applies.

- 4.3 Council's process for providing flood information to insurance companies or prospective developers and their representatives involves a request being made by the interested party to Council. Requests are considered on a case by case basis; however in most circumstances the information is provided free of charge. The type of information requested by these parties normally comprises of the digital files necessary to allow one or more of Council's existing flood models to be re-deployed to test the impact of a development scenario. In some circumstances the request is for flood data in spatial data format suitable for use in a Geographical Information System.

- 4.4 Any recipient of digital files is required by Council to sign a data agreement that restricts the use of the information to the nominated purpose.

- 4.5 From a planning/development assessment perspective, Council has flood assessments for all watercourses in the Moreton Bay Regional Council area and the natural Q100 flood hazard areas are depicted of Council's internal

computerised spatial mapping system (GIS). Council has also recently assessed overland flows assuming the existing underground stormwater systems are blocked or overloaded. This gives development assessment officers very good information on where development applications impact on natural flood hazard management areas as well as runoff paths from minor catchments to the existing watercourses.

4.6 ***Prospective Developers and their representatives***

There are three (3) formal ways that developers and their representatives can obtain information about flood risk:

- PD Online – Property Search
<http://pdonline.moretonbay.qld.gov.au/Modules/propertymaster/default.aspx>
- Flood Search
<http://www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au/living.aspx?id=728>
- Pre-lodgement Service
<http://www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au/development.aspx?id=824>

4.7 **PD Online**

Through Council's corporate website (www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au), *PD Online* allows 24 hour/7day access to carry out a search on specific properties and view mapping that shows Major Streams, Waterways and Wetland Protection Areas free of charge. Enquirers cannot obtain flood extent mapping from this enquiry but can quickly determine whether there is a likelihood of being impacted by flooding.

4.8 **Flood Search**

Enquirers can also request a *Flood Search* through Council's Corporate website. A Flood Search attracts a fee and can also be requested by phoning Council during business hours. After lodging the request and payment of the relevant fee the enquirer will receive a *Flood Check Property Report* which shows the mapped extent of Q100 year flood inundation over the land. The report also gives the maximum Q100 flood level, its data source and the stormwater catchment name.

4.9 **Pre-lodgement Service**

Council has always provided a free pre-lodgement advice service. This service can be requested through Council's corporate website, by email, phone or fax to Council. This service is well used by prospective developers in the MBRC region.

4.10 Following the request a meeting is arranged with the applicant who is encouraged to provide an agenda or list of issues. Council provides senior experienced technical staff for these meetings. At the meeting detailed information from Council's GIS mapping system can be viewed and detailed information provided for a wide range of issues including whether the development is within the natural flood hazard management area or subject to major flooding. Details are also often provided of latest estimated flood levels and the extent of inundation during the Defined Flood Event / Q100 flood. Advice is also provided, where necessary, on typical mitigation measures and other planning scheme, State Planning Policy and other statutory requirements. Where developers are required to provide detailed reports on flooding, stormwater management or other mitigation measures they will be referred to Council's Drainage, Waterways and Coastal Planning area for further information.

5. Whether and to what extent Council's infrastructure (for example, sewers, roads, stormwater) was affected by flooding that occurred during the period 1 December 2010 to 31 January 2011, citing specific examples where possible.

5.1 The 2011 flood event caused damage to Council's road, parks and building assets. Total damage to all assets is estimated at \$31.29M, comprising \$27.1M damage to road assets, \$3.53M damage to park assets, and \$661K damage to Council building assets.

5.2 A cross section of flood affected infrastructure within MBRC was as follows:

5.3 Roads:

- 5.3.1 Gap Road, Bellthorpe - damaged section of road - longitudinal crack down approximate centreline of pavement in steep rural country was reconstructed - coincided as main route of transporting avocado crop out of Bellthorpe to market;
- 5.3.2 Bellthorpe Range Road, Bellthorpe - a 1.5km section of roadway was severely damaged - major erosion, loss of guardrail, drainage failure and localised batter / bank slippages - this section has been closed since January 2011 - current works at tender stage for reconstruction - estimated time to reopen March 2012;
- 5.3.3 Jimna Court, Deception Bay - major pavement and supporting retaining wall failure leading to structural damage to immediate upstream dwellings (x2) - initially damaged in October 2010 rains; further damaged in December 2010 / January 2011 rains - restricted / limited access for residents in Jimna Court whilst the pavement and supporting earthen embankment was redesigned and reconstructed, with the inclusion of substantive drainage system - October 2010 through to July 2011;
- 5.3.4 Mt Nebo Road, Mt Nebo - major landslips affecting pavement and associated access;
- 5.3.5 Bridge - Laceys Creek Road - abutment erosion, significant shoulder erosion.

5.4 Parks & Reserves:

- 5.4.1 Sweeney Reserve, Petrie - major damage / loss of existing infrastructure - park furniture, playground equipment, shade structures, road and car parking pavements, toilet block etc - park has been closed since 11 January 2011;
- 5.4.2 Centenary Lakes, Caboolture - major damage / loss of existing infrastructure - fences, softfall to numerous locations, irrigation systems (electrical equipment), pumps overhauled, park furniture, footpaths, park furniture, playground equipment, shade structures, road and car parking pavements, toilet block etc - park has been closed since 11 January 2011.

5.5 Buildings & Facilities:

- 5.5.1 Dayboro Pool - replacement of pool heating units;
- 5.5.2 Dayboro Art Gallery - footpath repaired and external wall sheeting repaired and repainted;
- 5.5.3 Mt Glorious Road - LED early warning (fire) sign replaced.

5.6 In relation to sewer infrastructure, I understand that the Queensland Flood Commission of Inquiry has sought information from Unitywater regarding water and sewerage infrastructure matters. Unitywater are best placed to provide information pertaining to the degree if any, of the flood affectation of these assets, as well as the capacity of such assets.

6 For point 5, details of the reconstruction of this infrastructure including costs and programs.

6.1 Complete list of damaged assets is noted as per **Attachment 1680907-1**.

7 Funding arrangements for repairs to damaged Council infrastructure.

7.1 Council is progressively repairing and remediating its damaged infrastructure assets through a combination of Council, State and Federal Government funding sources, such as rate revenue and National Disaster Relief & Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) revenues.

7.2 Council has received \$2.8M from the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) / NDRRA as the initial tranche of funds. Council is working with the QRA in progressing funding submissions/applications.

8 Any policies or other documents which require property owners to have an evacuation plan and/or route in the case of flooding.

8.1 MBRC does not have any formal policies or documents which require property owners to have an evacuation plan and/or route in the case of flooding.

8.2 MBRC's emergency (now disaster) web link provides information with regard to:

- 8.2.1 preparing emergency checklist and plan (Red Cross and EMQ webpage links);
- 8.2.2 evacuation advice - when to evacuate, where to go, what to take and how to prepare, make the decision, mandatory evacuations and what not to take;
- 8.2.3 evacuation centre advice – location of fifteen evacuation centres and their status (open or closed);
- 8.2.4 what is a flood, what you can do to prepare for floods, including access to information such as flood maps etc, what to do whether you evacuate or stay.

9 A description of the Regional Floodplain Database Project, including, but not limited to, its purpose, the method used to obtain information and the status of the project.

9.1 Following amalgamation, MBRC commenced the preparation of a flood study known as the Regional Floodplain Database (RFD). The project covers 2700 square kilometres of catchment including numerous complex

rural and urban floodplains. The project is possibly the single largest flood study ever undertaken in Australia and will require \$2.4m and three years to complete.

- 9.2 The RFD is being prepared by Council's Drainage Waterways and Coastal Planning Unit (DWCP) under the guidance of a Study Advisory Group. The project is also being delivered with the assistance of several experienced floodplain consultant teams. The project is funded by Moreton Bay Regional Council, Emergency Management Queensland and Emergency Management Australia under the Natural Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP).
- 9.3 The purpose of the RFD is to provide Council and the community with a detailed description of flood behaviour for all river and creek floodplains in the region. This information will underpin Council's strategic decision making with respect to floodplain management and assist the community gain a better appreciation of their flood risk.
- 9.4 It is estimated that the project will take a further 12 months to complete to a stage where all data is stored onto Council's centralised GIS database. Following this, the RFD will go into maintenance mode.
- 9.5 A full copy of the currently available documentation for the project was provided to the Inquiry on 22 March 2011 as part of Council's 'Submission of Information' package. This information is preliminary, subject to change and not publicly released, however may be of use to the Inquiry should it wish to better understand more about some particular aspects of the project.

10 Whether, and to what extent Council has considered implementing a 'buy-back scheme' to residents who own properties that are particularly susceptible to flooding.

- 10.1 MBRC are currently preparing a draft flood affected property buy back policy. Council is scheduled to be presented with a draft policy for consideration in late September 2011 / early October 2011.

All the facts sworn to in this affidavit are true and correct to my knowledge and belief except as stated otherwise.

Sworn by JOHN RAUBER at)
Strathpine this 9th day of September 2011
before me, Angus James Conaghan:

