



QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE
STATEMENT OF WITNESS

QP 0125
01/06
A14

Occurrence #: _____

Statement no.: _____ Date: 07/03/2011

Statement of

Name of witness: MORROW, Gregory Allen

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

Police officer taking statement

Name: _____

Rank: _____ Reg. no.: _____

Region/Command/Division: _____ Station: _____

Statement:

Gregory Allen MORROW states:-

I am an Inspector of Police and the appointed District Officer for the Warwick District. I have held this position since February 2006.

I joined the Queensland Police Service as a police cadet on 20 January 1975 and was sworn in as a Constable on 1st April 1977.

I have 36 years policing experience having served general duties in Brisbane, Dalby, Tambo, Adavale and Logan areas. I have also performed criminal investigation duties in Brisbane and Cloncurry. In 2000 I was promoted to Inspector and performed duties in Mackay, Charleville and Warwick Districts.

On 13 February 2006 I was appointed as DDC for the Warwick District Disaster Management Group. The role and responsibilities of the DDC is to chair meetings, to develop relationships with other disaster management stakeholders, to ensure all legislative requirements are met, ensure all DDMG members understand and are effective in their roles, display leadership of the DDMG through the facilitation of meetings, training and exercises, to prepare, test and continually improve the District

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(Witness's signature) (Justice of the Peace (Qual.)/ Commissioner for Declarations's signature) J.P.(C'DCC)
(Signature of police officer preparing statement)

CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: MORROW, Gregory Allen

Disaster Management Plan, report to the State Disaster Management Group and ensure the DDMG maintains a state of readiness for activation including an effective District Disaster Coordination Centre.

In performing the role of DDC, I have received training in disaster management through attending training courses in Coordinating Resources, Managing Media, Business Continuity Management, Exercise Management, and Evacuation Management. I have also participated in a number of desk top exercises in relation to cyclones, flooding, bushfires and pandemic influenza. Between the 2nd and 4th November 2010 the Warwick District Disaster Management Group as well as the Southern Downs and Goondiwindi Regional Council Local Disaster Management Groups participated in a desk top exercise titled 'Orko' which provided training in relation to a flooding scenario.

On the 1st December 2010 a DDMG meeting was conducted where a debrief was held in relation to exercise 'Orko'

I have also gained further experience as a DDC at Warwick during the 2008 Equine Influenza incident which affected Queensland as well as flooding in Charleville also in 2008.

I was the DDC at Warwick during recent floods which affected the District in January 2011. Just prior to the 10th January there was heavy rain and localised flooding in the Warwick area with the potential of further flooding. I began to monitor Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) forecasts. On the morning of 10th January 2011 as the DDC I began to monitor the local situation as it was developing. I made contact with the Southern Downs Regional Council and was advised that their LDMG activated at 10.00am on that day. I continued to monitor the situation and on the morning of 11th January 2011 at about 0730hrs I activated the Warwick DDMG. This activation was by way of telephone contact with all members advising them of the activation. No meetings were held as such due to the local circumstances of many members being located in Toowoomba and not able to physically attend. Also there were no requests for assistance received at that time and as the DDC I remained

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in a monitoring role. I decided to activate the DDMG due to the information being supplied to me as to the potential of the pending flood event.

I was advised that the Goondiwindi LDMG was activated at 1.00pm on 11th January 2011.

In response to the written requirement of the Qld Floods Commission of Inquiry dated 28 February 2011, I provide the following information:

The preparation and planning undertaken by the District Disaster Coordinator and the District Disaster Management Group in advance of and/or in relation to the 2010/2011 floods

Exercise 'Orko' was conducted between the 2nd and 4th November 2010. This exercise was designed around a hypothetical but realistic extreme weather event. The aim of this exercise was to enhance the readiness of the DDMG and LDMG's by practicing disaster management arrangements in the context of an extreme weather event. The aim of the exercise was to trigger the disaster management arrangements in response to a major flood, exercise whole of government disaster management relationships, exercise LDMG evacuation plans, exercise re supply arrangements, exercise the establishment of a recovery transition strategy and evaluate the communication flow between disaster management groups.

On the 1st December 2010 a DDMG meetings was held and a debrief of the exercise conducted.

On the 27th December 2010 I became aware of a flood occurring in the Warwick area where the LDMG activated but the DDMG did not. I was on leave at the time and was not the DDC. This event was successfully managed by the Southern Downs LDMG and gave that group an insight into the level of preparedness required when dealing with major flooding events.

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[Redacted] J.P. (C'DCC)
(Justice of the Peace (Qual.)/
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CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: MORROW, Gregory Allen

The actions undertaken by the District Disaster Coordinator and the District Disaster Management group in respect of the 2010/2011 floods in relation to immediate management, response and recovery operations


As previously stated the DDMG was activated at about 0730hrs on 11th January 2011 by telephone. Formal meetings were not conducted due to many members being in Toowoomba and had responsibility over a number of DDMG's which were already activated. During the entire event there were very limited Requests for Assistance received and these were managed by the DDC and XO.

Between the 10th and 16th January 2011 the DDC and XO continually monitored the situation as it unfolded across the District and managed any assistance requests as they came in. All requests could be managed locally and there was only a need to contact the Queensland Ambulance Service for the arrangement of transport of patients from the Goondiwindi Hospital and Kaloma Aged Care Home at Goondiwindi to Inglewood and Warwick. They also arranged return transport after the event.

Both LDMG's managed the on going recovery arrangements at local level through their Recovery Committees.

The actions undertaken by the District Disaster Coordinator and the District Disaster Management Group in respect of the 2010/2011 floods in relation to resourcing, coordination and deployment of personnel and equipment

Throughout these events both LDMG's managed their own resourcing, co ordination and deployment of their own personnel and equipment. The only assistance requested and made available through the DDMG was the arranging of Queensland Ambulance Service to assist in the evacuation and return of patients from the Goondiwindi Hospital and Kaloma Aged Care home.


(Witness's signature) / *J.P. (Qual.)*
Commissioner for Declarations's signature) (Signature of police officer preparing statement)

CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: MORROW, Gregory Allen

Measures taken by the District Disaster Coordinator and the District Disaster Management Group to manage, maintain or reinstate the supply of essential services (water, power and communications) during the 2010/2011 floods

The issues surrounding the supply of essential services such as water, power and communications was managed by both LDMG's. No requests for assistance were received in this regard by the DDC or DDMG.

Measures taken by the District Disaster Coordinator and the District Disaster Management Group to inform the community about the 2010/2011 flood events and the response thereto

Information concerning the flooding was communicated to the community by both LDMG's. Both groups had a media and public communication strategy. The DDC used Police Facebook site to give an update of information. The DDC also assisted Goondiwindi LDMG by arranging 2 Emergency SMS Alerts at 1800hrs and 2044hrs on the 13th January 2011.

The nature and timings of all communications between the District Disaster Coordinator and/or the District Disaster Management Group and the Local Disaster Management Group and/or the Local Disaster Management Coordinator relative to the 2010/2011 flood event

In relation to the Southern Downs LDMG situation reports were requested and maintained from the 5.30pm on 10th January 2011 and the last report received on 2.50pm on 12th January 2011. Seven (7) situation reports were received during this time. These reports were followed by 2 Recovery situation reports first being 10.30am on 18th January 2011 and the final one on 3.00pm on 19th January 2011. In addition to these reports numerous telephone calls and emails were made to and from the LDMG. The DDC and XO also attended a number of the LDMG meetings that were regularly held.

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J.P. (C'DCC)
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The Goondiwindi LDMG also forwarded situation reports to the DDMG with the first one being completed at 12.30pm on 12th January 2011 and the final one at 2.25pm on 16th January 2011. There were 6 reports in total. 2 Recovery situation reports were also completed firstly at 10.30am on the 18th January and the last being 3.00pm on the 19th January 2011.

In relation to Goondiwindi LDMG and the real threat of the levee banks breaching further situation reports on a more regular basis were requested by the DDC during the predicted peak time. The first of the more regular reports were received at 9.00pm on the 13th and continued through to 8.00am on the 15th January 2011. There were 18 reports in total for this period. Regular telephone and email contact was also maintained throughout the event.

The nature and timings of all communications between the District Disaster Coordinator and/or the District Disaster Management Group and the State Disaster Management Group and/or the State Disaster Management Co ordination Committee and/or the State Disaster Co ordinator relative to the 2010/2011 flood event.

Between 3.00pm on 11th January and 3.00pm on the 16th January 2011 there were 7 situation reports submitted to the SDMG. A further 2 Recovery situation reports were also forwarded at 3.00pm on the 18th and 19th January 2011.

Due to the concerns surrounding the integrity of the Goondiwindi levee banks an additional 18 reports submitted by Goondiwindi LDMG were also forwarded electronically to the SDMG.

The DDC and XO also participated in daily SDMG teleconferences throughout the event. At about 5.15pm on the 13th January 2011 the DDC, members of the Goondiwindi LDMG and Deputy Commissioner STEWART held a separate teleconference where the issue of the Goondiwindi LDMG evacuation plan was discussed and a strategy developed and implemented.

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The availability and provision of services or logistical support within the disaster management hierarchy before and during the 2010/2011 flood event, including an assessment of the adequacy and timeliness thereof.

Both LDMG's were self sufficient in relation to their resourcing requirements except for the necessity of additional support in the evacuation of the Goondiwindi Hospital and Kaloma Age Care home.

During the evacuation of the Goondiwindi Hospital and Aged Care facility the DDC identified that there could be improvement in the lines of communication and preparedness for this to occur. However during the event the evacuation and repatriation was successful but did experience some delays.

Any involvement with Commonwealth agencies, including but not limited to Emergency Management Australia or the Australian Defence Force, in relation to the provision of emergency response measures, personnel, equipment or services, including an assessment of adequacy and timeliness thereof.

There was no requirements to use additional Commonwealth agencies or Defence Force personnel.

An assessment of the adequacy of equipment and communications systems in the District during the 2010/2011 flood events.

All equipment and communications available within the District coped adequately

An assessment of the adequacy of the community's response in the District during the 2010/2011 flood events.

A District Disaster Declaration was sought on the morning of the 11th January 2011 and approved and at 10.00am on that day a State Disaster Declaration was made.

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J.P. (C'DCC)
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This suspended the District declaration. All members of the community co operated with Police and other Emergency Services and none of the powers were required to be used throughout this event as a result of the declarations. The community responded well to the events and supported each other in the clean up and recovery phases.

The circumstances of any human fatality within the District, including the measures taken to prevent and/or respond to any such fatality, during the 2010/2011 flood events.

There were no fatalities as a result of this event in the Warwick District Disaster area.

The measures taken within the District to protect private and public property and/or preserve vital infrastructure in connection with the 2010/2011 flood events.

The DDMG did not have a role in this area and all matters were addressed by Southern Downs and Goondiwindi LDMG's. Normal police patrols and activities were maintained throughout the District during the event. There were no incidents of looting or public disorder reported.

Any special consideration that should be given to the District by reason of particular regional or geographic differences.

There are no special considerations to be given to this District

Any feature of the disaster preparation and planning stages or the disaster response and recovery operations which, in the opinion of the District Disaster Coordinator, presented particular difficulty or may require practical or legislative change to improve future disaster management in the District

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Due to the location of Warwick DDMG a number of its members are members of not only Warwick but also Toowoomba and Dalby DDMG's. In times where DDMGs are activated across the region the members are split amongst a number of DDMGs. To improve this situation locally identified members from various government agencies where there is cross membership should be given the authority to make the appropriate decisions and be supported by their agency.

[Redacted]
G A MORROW
Inspector

Oaths Act Declaration

OATHS ACT 1867 (DECLARATION)

I, Gregory Allen MORROW, do solemnly and sincerely declare that:

- (1) This written statement by me dated 7th March 2011 and contained in pages numbered 1 to 10 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 I know to be false.

1867 and I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and virtue of the provisions of the Oaths Act

[Redacted] Signature

Taken and declared before me at Warwick.

this 7th day of March 2011

Witness [Redacted] J.P. (C/DCC)
[Redacted] Justice of the Peace /
Commissioner of Declarations
Other (Please State)

(Witness's signature)

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

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