

**IN THE MATTER OF
THE QUEENSLAND FLOODS COMMISSION OF INQUIRY 2011**

**A COMMISSION OF INQUIRY UNDER THE
COMMISSIONS OF INQUIRY ACT 1950**


**AND PURSUANT TO THE
COMMISSIONS OF INQUIRY ORDER (No. 1) 2011**

STATEMENT OF NEVILLE GEORGE ABLITT

On the 30th day of January 2012, I, **Neville George Ablitt**, of C/- 240 Margaret Street, Brisbane, state on oath:

1. I am currently employed by Queensland Bulk Water Supply Authority ("Seqwater") as a Principal Tenure Advisor and a Flood Officer.
2. This statement is provided to the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry pursuant to a "Requirement to Provide Statement" issued by the Commission dated 25 January 2012 (the *Requirement*). The statements I make below are my best recollections of the matters referred to in the Requirement which I have been able to prepare in the short time since I received the Requirement.

Qualifications and Experience

3. I hold an Advanced Certificate in Civil Engineering from Queensland Institute of Technology obtained in 1968.
 4. My relevant employment history may be summarised as follows:
 - (a) Since 8 September 2008 I have been employed by Seqwater as a Principal Tenure Advisor and from July 2009 as a Flood Officer.
 - (b) As a Flood Officer, when the Flood Operations Centre is mobilised, I support the duty engineer during a flood event. I keep a log of the phone calls and faxes to and from the Flood Operations Centre and assist in organising the roster. My main operational role is to monitor the current status of alert gauges.
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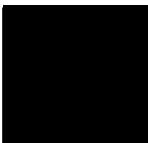

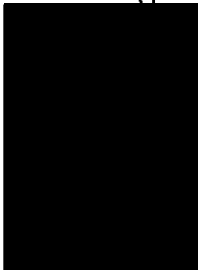
Dates present during the period from 6 January 2011 to 19 January 2011

5. During the period 6 January 2011 to 19 January 2011 I was present at the Flood Operations Centre at the following times:
- (a) from around 7pm on Thursday 6 January to around 7am on Friday 7 January 2011;
 - (b) from around 7am to around 7pm on Sunday 9 January 2011;
 - (c) from around 7am to around 7pm on Wednesday 12 January 2011;
 - (d) from around 7am to around 7pm on Friday 14 January 2011; and
 - (e) from around 7pm on Tuesday 18 January to around 7am on Wednesday 19 January 2011.

Flood Engineers and Officers present at the Flood Operations Centre

6. During the times that I was at the Flood Operations Centre I can remember the four Flood Engineers, being Terry Malone, John Tibaldi, John Ruffini and Rob Ayre, being present at various times. I can also remember Peter Baddiley from the Bureau of Meteorology visiting the Flood Operations Centre when I was there. Mr Baddiley may have had one or two other people with him. Rob Drury of Seqwater and Peter Allen (Dam Regulator – DERM) were also present at some time when I was there.
7. I remember being at the Flood Operations Centre with all of the other Flood Officers at various times. The Flood Officers would hand over to each other at the end of each shift.

Entries in the Flood Event Log

8. During the period between 7 January and 12 January 2011 I made a number of entries in the Flood Event Log that is Exhibit 23 before the Commission. I have reviewed the entries and make the following comments:
- (a) During the Flood Event the Flood Officers recorded various matters in spreadsheets on the computers in the Flood Operations Centre. There were two or three digital documents current at any one time during the Flood Event. The entries were then compiled into the Flood Event Log. I do not know who compiles the Flood Event Log.
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- (b) The three entries at 12.00am, 1.00am and 4.30am on Sunday 9 January 2011 were not made by me as I did not start my shift until 7am that day. My initials appear in the initials column in the Flood Event Log in error. I do not know who made those entries.
- (c) The entry at 3.30pm on Sunday 9 January 2011 most likely would not have been made by me, as I would not have used the terminology that is contained in the entry and I do not remember making such a detailed entry. As this entry is categorised as a *Situation Report*, it is my understanding that it was most likely that some other person, and I do not know who, at the Flood Operation Centre would have inserted that entry at a later time, either later that day or some time afterwards.

Information or details to add to the Flood Event Log.

9. I cannot now remember any additional information or details to be included in the Flood Event Log between 12am 7 January and 12am 12 January 2011.

Further information

10. At 4.27pm on Sunday 9 January 2011 I overheard a Flood Engineer take a telephone call from the Brisbane City Council. To the best of my recollection the Flood Engineer was Terry Malone. The conversation was reported to me afterwards in order for it to be recorded in the Flood Event Log. My understanding of the thrust of the conversation was that the Brisbane City Council was making strong representations to the Flood Engineer to try to maintain a flow to keep the flood-vulnerable bridges open as long as possible.
11. In relation to the entry at 5.58pm on Sunday 9 January 2011 I remember overhearing a discussion taking place after Terry Malone spoke to the Bureau of Meteorology. The Flood Engineers were preparing to ring Peter Borrows. My shift ended soon after this discussion between the Flood Engineers, so I do not know if or when a telephone call was placed to Mr Borrows.

SWORN by **Neville George Ablitt** on 30 January 2012 at Brisbane in the presence of:

Deponent

Solicitor