

Justice Catherine Holmes  
Queensland flood Inquiry Commission

Thurs 17<sup>th</sup> February 2011.

From the outset let me advise you that this is not something I have attempted before and my form may not be that to which you are accustomed, but I write from the heart and with an intent to bring an improvement to the recent disaster that saw the tragic loss of so many lives.

Just days before the Toowoomba/ Grantham flood I met a man who when asked what he did advised me that he had a Telemetry business, not being familiar with that I asked him what that meant. His answer was that from his office at Varsity Lakes (Gold Coast) he could monitor the moisture content of the grounds at Indooroopilly Golf course, the 'Gabba, and several Bowling Greens around Brisbane, he could check the strength of the sun, the wind speed, etc and control irrigation to keep those grounds at the optimum condition for their intended use.( I can't remember that fellows name nor do I have any commercial interest in his, or any similar business.)

A few days later came the TV coverage of those terrible floods. I was with my family in Sydney at that time and was greatly saddened by the loss of life ,and thought, what a sad indictment of the "Smart State" that we, as a community, can pour so much effort into our sports fields yet, when it rains disastrously at the top of the hill nobody thought to ring a bell for those at the bottom of the hill, to warn them.

I ask the Commission to research the viability of installing stand alone Telemetry units (perhaps solar powered) to sit at headwaters, or other key points to monitor water level, how quickly they rise etc, and transmit warning information to CFS, SES, QPS, QF&RS or other interested parties. Perhaps their role could be extended to encompass fire warnings, or Seismic monitoring as well?

Warning seems to be what was missing for those communities so badly affected by these events, perhaps with just a little warning so many lives may not have been lost?

I fully support the Commissions efforts to bring about a better, safer, Queensland, but why stop at our borders, I'm sure the rest of rural Australia could find a use for a devise that could monitor and report, rising waters, or fire strength, speed, and direction.

Again I am not an expert in this field, but I'd be happy to speak with the Commission to expand these concept and implementation of these "Quasimodo" boxes, if required.

Yours sincerely \*\*\*\*\* Please do Not Publish my Name and address\*\*\*\*\*

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