

# Statement of Witness

Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry

<i>Name of Witness</i>	Michael Shane WALLIS
<i>Date of Birth</i>	[REDACTED]
<i>Address and contact details</i>	[REDACTED]
<i>Occupation</i>	Sales Executive
<i>Officer taking statement</i>	Det/Sgt A VLISMAS
<i>Date taken</i>	9 April 2011

Michael Shane WALLIS states,

1. I am a married man [REDACTED] years of age and I reside at [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
2. I am currently employed as a Sales Executive with Clive PEETERS Morayfield.
3. I am the Secretary of the Woodford Memorial Community Centre Inc. which manages the Woodford Hall on behalf OF Moreton Bay Regional Council (MBRC) situated at 109 Archer Street Woodford Qld 4514.
4. Woodford Hall is available for use/hire by the people of Woodford and District. The Hall can be used for meetings, dances, bingo, entertainment, shows, exhibitions, catering events, ANZAC Day, ceremonies, celebrations, awards nights, public meetings and as an emergency evacuation centre.
5. Up until the end of January 2011 the Hall was not equipped for use as an emergency evacuation centre, The Hall had no telephone connection, no internet connection, no TV or aerial, no washing or drying facilities and very limited ablution facilities. The Hall has a commercial kitchen equipped to handle 200+ meals, including commercial refrigeration, cooking facilities and dishwashing equipment. I was not aware of any Disaster Management Plan.
6. I am aware of the Woodford Queensland Fire & Rescue Service (QFRS), the Woodford Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS), the Woodford Queensland Police

Witness Signature [REDACTED]

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Signature of officer .....

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Service (QPS), the Kilcoy SES, Villeneuve Rural Fire, Stanmore Rural Fire, Delaney’s Creek Rural Fire, Mt Mee Rural Fire and Stoney Creek Rural Fire.

- 7. I was contacted by OIC Woodford QPS Sgt Jason Renwick at approx.. 8am Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2011, to open the Hall for use as an evacuation centre. Upon arrival Sgt. Renwick advised me that I was to be the ‘go to man’ at the Hall and what did I need to facilitate this. I explained to Sgt. Renwick that the Hall was not equipped to deal with such a situation. He then asked me to organise it so the Hall was suitable.
- 8. I did this as quickly and efficiently as I could. With assistance from Sgt. Renwick, I recruited some local people whom I knew to be capable of assisting in this sort of situation. These people have catering, management, administration and logistics knowledge.
- 9. I also contacted a local Registered Nurse, whom I knew was on leave, to be on hand for 2 people who had medical conditions. A psychologist and chaplain volunteered their time and help. The Chemist advised he would stay onsite for any prescription medication that may be needed.
- 10. An account at Luke’s IGA was set up, but was un-tenable as each purchase had to be authorised by Sgt. Renwick. Woolworths Woodford was contacted and any supplies needed were supplied free of charge and delivered.
- 11. The Hall had no communication, so I contacted Telstra who within an hour of my inquiry connected the Hall to a land line and provided an internet connection and portable WiFi equipment for internet use in the Hall.
- 12. The Hall had no means of connecting with the outside world via media, so I organised Picture Perfect from Caboolture to install an aerial and tune in a TV, which was loaned to the Hall by Blacks Retravision. I also contacted the Woodford Online Newspaper and the proprietor and her family manned the internet and social media

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sites such as Facebook and Twitter to interact with people in the outlying areas such as Neurum, Villeneuve, Moore and Grantham.

13. I organised bedding from the Woodford Correctional Centre and with Cr. Adrian Raedel’s assistance arranged a MBRC dump truck to collect mattresses and pillows, as the Correctional Centre was cut off from the town.

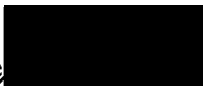
14. Although the Hall was not a designated evacuation centre it a safe and secure building in the event of an emergency, ie. Flooding bushfire.

15. After contacting the SES controller and SES Command Post in Caboolture and being told “NO”, to the question of bedding, I contacted Cr. Raedel and with his support and input managed to obtain mattresses and pillows from the Woodford Correctional Centre. The MBRC supplied a dump truck to collect the items as the Correctional Centre was cut off from the town.

16. In this sort of situation the MBRC needs to have a dedicated contact for outlying areas, this person needs to have local knowledge and be able to make on the spot decisions. Communication needs to be by internet, telephone, UHF radio and be received and acted on by the dedicated contact. MBRC needs to understand that Woodford and District is unique geographically, when water of that magnitude is encountered; Woodford is cut off from Kilcoy, Beerwah, Mt Mee and Caboolture. Woodford needs to be self-sufficient with resources stored here for deployment.

17. An SES unit in Woodford with a flood boat (flat bottomed) attached to local SES or QPS in Woodford. An SES depot with suitable equipment located adjacent to Woodford Police Station. MBRC is aware of the land being available from QPS. The original SES depot was located adjacent to the MBRC depot, which in an emergency becomes in-practicable because the area gets inundated with flood water, thus not allowing access to vital lifesaving equipment.

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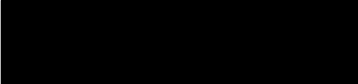
18. A dedicated contact person from MBRC with the ability to make decisions autonomously of management in a crisis situation.


19. I also completed a Queensland Flood Inquiry questionnaire and a copy is attached

**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 9th APRIL 2011 and contained in the pages numbered 1 to 4 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  this 10th day of APRIL 2011

Witness Signature:  Signature of officer .....

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