



QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

QP 0125  
01/14  
6/11

Occurrence #: \_\_\_\_\_

Statement no.: 1 Date: 08/03/2011

Statement of

Name of witness: RYAN, Patrick John

Date of birth: [REDACTED] Age: [REDACTED] Occupation: Police Superintendent

Police officer taking statement

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ Reg. no.: \_\_\_\_\_

Region/Command/Division: \_\_\_\_\_ Station: \_\_\_\_\_

Statement:

Patrick John Ryan states:-

I am Superintendent of Police, District Officer for the Redcliffe Police District and have been in the position for 8 years

I was sworn in the Queensland Police Service on 22nd April, 1971

I have 40 years of policing experience having served at the following locations

Constable Brisbane from 22/4/71 to 8/5/72

Constable Toowong from 8/5/72 to 11/11/74

Senior Constable Brisbane Mobile Patrols 11/11/74 to 25/7/77

Senior Constable Bollon from 25/7/77 26/12/79

Sergeant Officer in Charge Mungindi from 26/12/79 to 6/4/87

Sergeant Officer in Charge Goomeri from 6/4/87 to 16/12/91

Senior Sergeant Officer in Charge Murgon from 16/12/91 to 28/2/97

District Inspector Mount Isa from 28/2/97 to 19/2/01

Inspector District Officer Maryborough from 19/2/01 to 1/12/03

Superintendent District Officer Redcliffe from 1/12/03 to Present

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

(Signature of police officer  
preparing statement)

CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: RYAN, Patrick John

In December 2003 I was appointed as the District Officer and DDC for Redcliffe District. The role and responsibilities of the DDC/ Chairperson is

- Coordinate disaster operations in the disaster district for the group.
- To manage and coordinate the business of the group;
- To ensure, as far as practicable, that the group performs its functions;
- To report regularly to the State group about the performance by the district group

In performing the role of DDC, I received/have completed the following training

QLD Disaster Management Arrangements (SEM 2004 EMQ) 2009

QLD Introduction To Queensland Disaster management Arrangements (SEM2000EMQ) 2008.

District Officer DDC Workshop 2006

District Officer DDC Workshop 2005

District officer DDC Workshop 2004

Incident Command Course 2003

District Officer DDC Workshop 2001

SES Strategic Planning 2001

District Officer DDC workshop 1999

District Officer DDC Workshop 1998

Senior Disaster Management Course 1997

Disaster Coordination Centre Workshop 1997

Disaster Management Course 1996

Operations Management Evacuations 1995

Emergency management Planning 1994

Disaster District Coordinators Course 1992

*Provide details of when, how and why your role as DDC was activated including whether you took over the role during the flood events from another QPS member.*

Due to heavy rain causing flooding of local rivers and creeks throughout the low lying areas of the Moreton Bay Council regions the Redcliffe District Disaster Management Group and Moreton Bay Regional Local Disaster Group were activated on 11 January 2011.

No formal Disaster Declaration was made for the Redcliffe Disaster District.

With the Premier's Disaster Declaration of 11 January 2010 the Moreton Bay Regional Council was covered in that disaster declaration.

I was in the position of DDC prior to the flood event.

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(Signature of police officer  
preparing statement)

CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: **RYAN, Patrick John**

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*

The Redcliffe DDMG undertook the following training and exercises to prepare for the storm season.

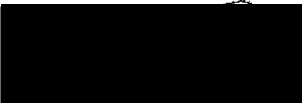
- Police Training Courses
- XO Sgt Clarke completed Disaster Management Arrangements, District Operations 27/10/2010 ( Course Code QC0986-01)
- Deputy/XO S/Sgt Howard completed Disaster Management Arrangements, District Operations 27/10/2010 ( Course Code QC0986-01)
- Deputy/XO Sgt Bicanic completed Disaster Management Arrangements, District Operations 27/10/2010 ( Course Code QC0986-01)
- Staff member training
- 8 AO's from Redcliffe, Caboolture and Pine Rivers District provided Training from EMQ into the Task tracker System for DDC
- Exercises
- August 2010 full operational Coordination centre exercise for all DDMG reps and Police staff at Burpengary Police Station

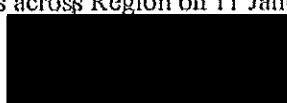
*The actions undertaken by the District Disaster Coordinator and the District Disaster Management group in respect of the 2010/2011 floods in relation to immediate management, response and recovery operations*


The DDMG was activated and jointly located with the Moreton Bay Regional LDMG at Caboolture Council Office's.

The Nature of the Flood event within the Redcliffe DDMG was as follows.

- Heavy rain causing flooding of local rivers and creeks throughout the low lying areas of the Moreton Bay Council regions especially areas of Caboolture, Burpengary, Morayfield, Narangba, Lawnton, Dayboro and Beachmere, within the District flood peaks dropped very quickly.
- 295 residences and 41 business's inundated across the Moreton Bay Council Region ( as of final Sitrep dated 25/01/2011)
- Residences include 105 in Burpengary, 40 in Caboolture, 38 in Dayboro and 19 in Morayfield
- Business include 23 in Dayboro and 18 in Morayfield
- Numerous causeways and secondary bridges washed out and de-lamination of road surfaces across Moreton Council area. Long term restoration of full road infrastructure. No isolations within MBRC
- Structural damage to Lacy's Creek Bridge Dayboro
- 124 evacuations across Region on 11 January 2011

  
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(Signature of police officer  
preparing statement)

CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: **RYAN, Patrick John**  
In response the DDMG provided

- Provide regular information and advice to public on state of disaster and actions recommended;
- Conduct regular meetings to coordinate responses;
- Utilise information from Bureau of Meteorology to gauge areas that will be affected by floods and houses that require evacuation;
- Evacuate affected houses;
- Shelter evacuated persons;
- Shelter stranded motorists;
- Close roads and bridges;
- Provide assistance to Kilcoy covered by Somerset LDMG which did not activate
- Maintain road blocks;
- Maintain communication networks;
- Respond to personal calls for assistance;
- Respond to LDMG requests for assistance;
- Provide regular Situational Reports to State Disaster Management Group & Coordination Centre;
- Transition to recovery;
- Clean up roads and buildings;
- Provide recovery assistance to public;
- DEEDI visited all affected business within the recovery phase
- Re-open roads and bridges;

*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*

The level of the response within the Redcliffe DDMG area was able to be conducted within normal business arrangements for both local Council and Government departments.

The only resource requested from outside the region was for a helicopter to assist with flood assessment which was approved by SDCC.

*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*

There were no extended major losses of essential services within the Redcliffe DDMG area during the recent event.



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*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*

- o Information was provided to the public via, media releases from the LDMG
- o Council and Dept of Communities personnel attended residents in affected areas.
- o Briefing provided to local radio by Council media officers, Council website updated but found to be inadequate
- o Emergency alert sent to residents in affected areas
- o DEEDI visited all affected business's in the Region

*The nature and timing 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 events.*

The Redcliffe DDMG and Moreton Bay LDMG were co located at Caboolture which allowed for close liaison between the two groups.

The LDMG provided the DDMG with a daily electronic Sitrep and management meetings were held on a daily basis. Further a DDMG liaison officer attended the daily LDMG briefing.

*The nature and timing 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 Coordination Committee and/or the State Disaster Coordinator relative to the 2010/2011 flood events, including an assessment of the adequacy and timeliness thereof.*

The Redcliffe DDMG provided daily electronic sitreps to the SDCC and took part in the daily Tele conference and briefing provided by SDCC.

The nature of the flood impact for Redcliffe DDMG was limited; the communication with the State group was more than adequate.

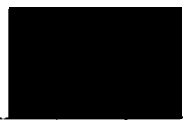
*The availability and provision of services or logistical support within the disaster management hierarchy before and during the 2010/2011 flood events, including an assessment of the adequacy and timeliness thereof.*

The Redcliffe DDMG is a highly motivated group which is fully supported by the Moreton Bay Regional Council Local Group.

The Local Council is fully resourced for logistical support and provided support in a timely manner throughout the recent flood event.



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preparing statement)

*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 measure, personnel, equipment or services, including an assessment of the adequacy and timeliness thereof.*

The Redcliffe DDMG had no involvement with Commonwealth Agencies during the 2010/2011 flood events

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

Redcliffe DDMG held full debrief on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2011 during which a full assessment was completed on DDMG activities.

Points raised included a purpose built DDC coordination Centre, the lack of local information on the Moreton Bay Council website and the wording and accuracy of the public flood alerts.

With regard to the establishment of a DDC centre the following issues were raised

- All agencies stated that the co location of the LDMG/DDMG at Caboolture was workable but the DDMG requires conference and planning space completely separate to the LDMG
- Separate workplaces are required for each agency
- A purpose built coordination centre with permanent IT/communications set up, with the Caboolture location the first 2hrs was hectic trying to connect phone lines and computers
- Consideration of two DDCs if flood has severed roads, the DDC at Caboolture was isolated form both Redcliffe and Strathpine

In Response the following actions are to take place MBRC has purchased land at Northlakes. Northlake's is central to most of the Region, serviced by major arterial roads, high ground not flood affected. MBRC are building a new library, this building will be designed to have a LDMG/DDMG DDC built in.

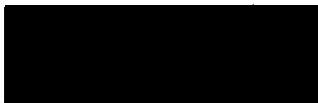
With regard the lack of local Council information the following points were raised


- Lack of information on the MBRC website
- Local information is passed to ABC local radio, it was raised that whilst older generations rely on this form of media younger generations seek face book, twitter etc which can be accessed from mobile phones and laptop computers

In response MBRC to form a face book page simular to QPS to contain all updated information with regard the region, including safe travel routes and evacuation information

With regard the emergency alert the following points were raised

- The wording of the alert was generic and ordered immediate evacuation of certain post codes, the alert lacked information on current impact and safe evacuation routes etc.

  
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CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: **RYAN, Patrick John**

- o The alert due to its generic nature caused overload of telecommunications, public could not contact MBRC for specific information due to volume of calls (approx 5000 calls straight after the alert causing system failure).
- o Current alert limited to 160 characters needs the capacity for enlargement
- o The alert caused large amounts of persons to leave workplaces in Brisbane etc trying to get home to the Caboolture area, with the trains stopped at Burpengary there was a large influx of persons stranded at the rail station, and without the information of road closures traffic was hindered.
- o Once the alert had gone out the media immediately got involved and over reacted in its reporting thus causing more confusion and panic with the public

In response the Redcliffe DDMG have implanted the following actions

- o Alerts to be checked for accurate information prior to release
- o Alerts to contain important travel information
- o MBRC to look at message templates to be used for certain actions
- o Alerts to be forwarded to all agencies within the group so they are aware information going to the public
- o MBRC to ensure media is fully briefed with accurate information regarding local situations

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

Due to the limited nature of the event throughout the Moreton Bay Region the communities response was varied, it was noted that smaller isolated communities such as Woodford and Dayboro were self reliant with both local government agencies and communities working together to react to specific threats to their community.

***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.***

The Redcliffe DDMG had no human fatalities during the 2010/2011 flood events

***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 event within the Redcliffe Region only affected certain areas and was not widespread as such early warnings were given to residents in low laying areas and affected roads and bridges were closed to prevent vehicles entering flood waters.

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

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(Signature of police officer preparing statement)

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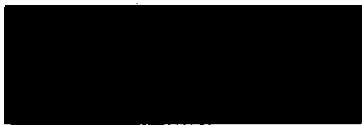
The Redcliffe DDMG covers the Moreton Bay Council Region including the police districts of Redcliffe, Pine Rivers, part of Brisbane West District and Caboolture District.

However the Kilcoy Police Division (Caboolture District) falls within the Somerset Regional Council area which is controlled by Ipswich DDMG.

During the recent event Somerset LDMG did not activate however incidents were occurring in Kilcoy where local police were reporting to the Redcliffe DDMG, after liaison with Ipswich DDMG. Redcliffe took over the response to Kilcoy successfully.

*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.*

Due to the low key nature of the flood event within the Redcliffe DDMG region no matters were identified which require legislative change. All matters assessed within the debrief will be corrected at local level.



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(Signature of police officer  
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