

Name of Witness	Deborah ^{Jane} Joan CUMMINGS
Date of Birth	[REDACTED]
Address and contact details	[REDACTED]
Occupation	Manager/Owner
Officer taking statement	Detective Senior Sergeant Mark Reid
Date taken	30 March 2011

Deborah ^{Jane} ~~Joan~~ CUMMINGS states:

1. I am the owner of the Condamine River Caravan Park. I purchased the caravan park on 12 October 2010. When I first purchased the caravan park, I was told that the water from the river would come into the park itself, but had not come near the house area.

2. During the Christmas period of December 2010 the rain had saturated the local area. About a day before we were evacuated on 30 December 2010 the water first started to come into the park grounds.

Warnings

3. We had been cut off from the outside roads on about the 26th of December 2010. On the 29th of December 2010 the SES took ladies from the town across the Condamine River to go shopping in Miles for food. We had not received any warning about the flood waters rising.

4. We had never received any evacuation plans for our town prior to the floods.

5. On 30 December 2010 the water had risen up to within 10 metres of the house in the centre of the caravan park. We still had not received any warnings about the flood at that time.

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 JM

Witness Signature [REDACTED]

Signature of officer

Response

- 6. The water continued to rise the whole day until a meeting was called at 2.30pm that afternoon. The Police Sergeant and the SES ordered everyone to a meeting at the Condamine Hotel. At the meeting we had been told that the river would rise and that they would require a voluntary evacuation because they didn't know how high the river was going to go. We later found out that the river was going to reach 15.5 metres. I had decided at that time I would evacuate voluntarily.
- 7. We had been listening to the ABC radio between 1pm and 2pm and a local councillor was interviewed saying '*we were going to conduct involuntary evacuations at Condamine*'. This interview aired before we attended the meeting at the hotel at 2.30pm.
- 8. About a half an hour after the first meeting at the hotel, we were told to attend another meeting at the SES sheds. This meeting directed us to be evacuated without discussion. We were told to go to the football field straight away. 30 minutes later we went to the football field. The time was about 3.30pm. We did not get a chance to put any furniture or things up to stop flood damage.
- 9. We didn't get out of the town on the helicopters till 6.00pm and we were flown to Dalby where we went to our other home at Dalby. I stayed at this other home for about 2 weeks.

Recovery

- 10. The SES and a number of volunteers came and helped us clean up the house and the caravan park. We had a number of New Zealand volunteers helping us in the cleanup.
- 11. I did not see the council at all in the early part. We had a group called Care Outreach who have helped us get back on our feet. A local councillor named

Witness Signature



Signature of officer

400 George Street Brisbane
 GPO Box 1738 Brisbane
 Queensland 4001 Australia
 Telephone 1300 309 634
 Facsimile +61 7 3405 9750
www.floodcommission.qld.gov.au
 ABN 65 959 415 158

Wayne was here a few times. The SES co-ordinated most of the clean up and response in Condamine.

- 12. Social Security were at the school in Condamine and were helpful. The recovery centre in Dalby has also been helpful and have just recently organised a counsellor to talk to me about the flood event.
- 13. Four caravans were supplied by Department of Housing for occupants who had lost their homes. The occupants have been upset as the caravans have to remain in the park and it costs the occupants to stay in our park. The occupants are not happy about this arrangement, but we have to continue to manage our business.

Issues

- 14. There are no early warning systems in the town to advise us of river heights. The whole town appeared to be in the dark in the lead up to the evacuation of Condamine. The SES and Police appeared uninformed prior to the evacuation, but were fantastic during the cleanup after the first flood.
- 15. The second evacuation of Condamine occurred about 10 days after the first evacuation on 13 January 2011 but as far as I know there were no issues before or after the flood. I was away in Dalby during the second evacuation.
- 16. As a result of the flood we had machinery worth around \$4000.00 and cabinets worth around \$10,000.00 destroyed with our overall bill of around \$50,000.00. A lot of machinery and furniture damage could have been prevented through having time to shift the equipment.

Witness Signature [Redacted]
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- 17. As a result of flood we are in the midst of a mice plague. In future it would be helpful for the council to assist us with traps and poison to help manage the problem.

[Redacted Signature]

20 04 11

D J CUMMINGS

OATHS ACT 1867-1981

I make this solemn declaration by virtue of the provisions of the Oaths Act 1867-1981 that:-

- (1) This typewritten statement by me dated 20/4/11 and contained in the foregoing pages numbered 1 to 4 is true to the best of my knowledge and belief; and
- (2) I make it knowing that, if it were admitted as evidence, I would be liable to prosecution if I stated in it anything that I knew to be false.

[Redacted Signature]

Signature

Taken and declared before me at Dalby

this 20th day of April 2011

Witness: [Redacted]

Justice of the Peace/Commissioner for Declarations for the State of Queensland.

Witness Signature [Redacted]
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Signature of officer