

<i>Name of Witness</i>	David Vincent BAKER
<i>Date of Birth</i>	[REDACTED]
<i>Address and contact details</i>	[REDACTED]
<i>Occupation</i>	Minister of Religion
<i>Officer taking statement</i>	Detective Sergeant Glen Catchpole
<i>Date taken</i>	18/04/2011

I, David Vincent BAKER state;

1. I am a man, [REDACTED] years of age and reside at [REDACTED] Karana Downs. I have lived at this address for approximately 3 years.

2. I was the Minister at the Karana Downs Uniting Church for approximately 12 years. I am now the Presbytery Minister for the western suburbs of Brisbane and West Moreton area. I have never before played a role in disaster management within my community. I have never been the subject of any previous evacuation from my community. I have not been instructed by my local council or any government agency on evacuation plans for our local area in the case of a natural disaster.

3. I'm not sure who the local disaster co-ordinator is. I liaised with Sergeant Kevin HARRIGAN at the Karana Downs Police Station and with some SES people, also a group including John WARD, a Steena and Barry BARTLEET and a David and Mary KEARNEY.

Witness Signature..... [REDACTED] Signature of officer [REDACTED]
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4. I was involved in the major flood event of January 2011; I assisted in the establishment and running of a Response Centre at the Mt.Crosby State School. To my knowledge Steena and Barry BARTLEET organised the Response Centre as Steena works at the school and had access. I got involved as a result of receiving a telephone call from a friend who was working at the Moggill Response Centre, I was asked to give a helping hand and to assist to get the Centre established and running. I was not aware of any official evacuation plans or centres in operation for our area. The Centre was running from about the Tuesday through to the Saturday. I'm pretty sure that this venue was chosen because of the services available, ie. kitchen, fridge space and general space and also that Steena had access. There were about 6 volunteers at the Centre. They became involved through being asked by friends. The Centre had power; we operated on 2 donated generators sourced from the local community. The Centre had no landlines From around Wednesday morning to Friday afternoon; we all used our private mobiles. We also had donated to us a set of 2-way's. The Centre was in contact with the Police, SES and the State Disaster Centre, somehow they had my mobile number and they would call me. The types of services that we provided were accommodation, food, and being the information contact point. We directed others to assistance. We would collect information of what resources we had and we would direct other people requiring those types of resources to them. We got our supplies from locals and by Bruce FLEGG organising the big food drop. I would estimate that about 100 people used the Centre's services.

5. I did receive a warning prior to the flood in January 2011 it was from Campbell NEWMAN, on T.V and by text message/media. I did receive the warning in time and I think it was on the Sunday and Monday. I also understood the warning. As a result of the warning I went to the shops on Monday to stock up. I consider the information provided in the warning to be accurate. The information was useful to me. I consider that in the event of a future incident the most appropriate manner to warn people of an impending natural disaster is by public media. I also consider that the forecasts provided by the Weather Bureau were adequate.

6. My understanding of our preparation in our area for the flood was that Sergeant HARRIGAN made sure he was on duty and in place before Karana Downs was cut off, I'm not sure about the SES, but people helped each other to shift household goods to higher levels. I personally prepared for the floods by buying groceries and batteries.

7. I was not assisted in the preparation for the flood by any Federal/State/Local Government Agency. I would consider that the Emergency Services did not really provide any assistance to the local community at the preparation stage. I don't consider that the local community was adequately prepared for the flood event in January 2011.

8. I would describe the Emergency Services response to our local area as being highly compromised by the location of the SES Centre at Mt.Crosby Weir. They got disconnected from the area of most need at Bellbowrie, I sensed that they were busy communicating and organising themselves around this difficulty.

9. I appreciated Bruce FLEGG'S assistance during the crisis to get food to Karana Downs / Mt.Crosby. I think the Federal Government's Grant in relation to "out of power for more than 48 hours" was a generous concession.

10.I felt that the SES response here was compromised by the fact they were split by the flood, management unit was at Mt.Crosby and the area of greatest need was at Bellbowrie, with no ability to have physical contact. There were no resources made available to me personally. The resources that were made available to the community we gathered from other community members and on the Thursday the Government sent 17 pallets of food and consumables in via Chinook.

11.I am aware that the Police and SES did get out and see what was going on to protect life and property in our area. I am not sure who co-ordinated the response, I think Sergeant HARRIGAN and the Fireies played a role in the response.



Witness Signature..... Signature of officer



12. I think we would have benefited with a more co-ordinated response, with some clarity about who was in charge that would have helped co-ordination. Besides a food drop, which was very helpful, I think communication equipment and management systems were found wanting. We had the resources in the community to respond to needs.

13. In my view the community response was adequate; we did get away with it. A more co-ordinated response would have been helpful. If the demands were greater, as in more houses were inundated, power and access cut off for longer, then we would have been in trouble.

14. We lost power, landlines and effective mobile communication for four days. This meant the Response Centre's capability to communicate was limited. During the flood we lost landline and effective mobile from the Wednesday to Friday, we also lost internet from Wednesday to Monday. We were able to contact Emergency Services once the flood commenced. I think Bruce FLEGG'S work was critical in organising the food delivery.

15. The recovery process in our area was very much appreciated as to how hard Essential Services worked to get power, etc going again. I consider the recovery process by the Federal/State/Local Government was sufficient in our area. After the flood I was contacted by the Department of Communities who were looking to know if I had information on people who were in need in this area.

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16. I did not personally suffer any loss of property or possessions during the flood. I would like to point out that there is no flood proof Brisbane River crossing between the Centenary Bridge at Jindalee and Fernvale. I think that needs serious consideration.

[Redacted]

D V BAKER

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 8/4/11 and contained in the pages numbered 1 to 6 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.

[Redacted]Signature

Signed at TOWNSG. this TWENTY day of APRIL2011....

[Redacted]