

<i>Name of Witness</i>	Danielle Anne HOGARTH
<i>Date of Birth</i>	[REDACTED]
<i>Address and contact details</i>	C/O [REDACTED] Rockhampton Ph: [REDACTED]
<i>Occupation</i>	Regional Manager
<i>Officer taking statement</i>	Detective Sergeant Stephen Platz
<i>Date taken</i>	09/05/2011

**Danielle Anne HOGARTH states:**

1. I am the regional manager for Agforce Queensland which is a non for profit organisation representing the interests of primary producers in Queensland. My region covers central Queensland which goes out west to Jericho, North as far as Proserpine and south to Miriam vale and Theodore. As regional manager I am the point of contact with respect to aspects of legislation, government and all other matters that impact on their operation. Agforce is not involved with the Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) and is not designed as a relief or emergency organisation.
2. Due to my position as regional manager I became aware of flooding during the later months of 2010. The first significant flood was on the 6<sup>th</sup> of December 2010 which affected areas surrounding the Nogoia River which is south west of Emerald. I received information about the movement of this flooding via mustering pilots and other primary producers.

**QFCI**

Date: 24/05/11 JM

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Witness Signature...  
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[REDACTED]

Signature of officer

[REDACTED]

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3. As a result of receiving this information, I passed it on to our media department which subsequently alerted members and other media contacts of the impending flood. This flood was significant enough that the property of Mansion downs was evacuated. I learnt from this earlier flood that the mustering pilots could provide excellent warning and updates with regards to flood inundation.
4. I remember the 30<sup>th</sup> day of December 2010 I was at my family property 'Glenyarran' south west of Emerald. I was on leave at this time to spend Christmas with the family and also to do some cattle work. By this time my family's property had received significant flooding from the 6<sup>th</sup> December and we were preparing for further flooding due to excessive rainfall and warnings from other land holders in the area. Some time during the afternoon the flooding from the Nogoia river and Nine mile creek effectively cut all road access to the property. The farm infrastructure was not affected as we are located on higher ground. We did, however, suffer cattle and fencing losses on the property.
5. Despite being cut off I still had phone and internet access to the property and still acted in my role as Regional manager of Agforce. At about 2.00pm I received a phone call from Ken O'DOWD's office who is the federal member for Flynn (Central Queensland). I was asked if I was the contact for fodder drops in the region. I told the representative that it was not Agforce's place to perform a role of government but would help anyway possible. I then made some inquiries with the LDMG of Banana shire at Biloela. I spoke to the chief co-ordinating officer of the LDMG who indicated that it was not our role to conduct fodder drops and were too busy to deal with the issue. This issue was extremely important to our members as a high number of properties were cut off. The fodder drop offs were necessary to feed stranded cattle and other essential supplies. I then briefed our CEO and informed them of the issue.
6. I then received a call from a representative from the Department of Environment and Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI). This representative contacted me with regards to the fodder drops and stated that until the need had been identified he had no plans or procedure to supply landholders with the

supplies. I didn't mind that there was no plan in place, I just wanted some action. After a number of calls back and forth with DEEDI they appointed Ken MURPHY as the chief point of contact for fodder drops. Due to my role, I was jointly responsible as I had all the relevant contacts to deal with the issue.

7. We then created a spread sheet of all the landholders requiring fodder drops, producers providing fodder and a list of pilots and their helicopters that could get the supplies to the properties.
8. Over the next two weeks Ken and I co-ordinated fodder drops to all outlying flood affected properties in central Queensland. The main areas were Theodore, Moura, Baralaba, Duaringa, Dingo, Springsure, Springsure and Middlemount. I received a significant amount of phone calls during this time and worked probably from 6.00am to 9.00pm each day.
9. As a result of my involvement in this activity I identified a number of pertinent issues with regards to the floods in central Queensland.
10. Firstly, I do not think that there was enough emphasis or planning by local governments concerning the issue of fodder or supply drops. As a result of my conversation with the Banana shire LDMG it appeared that the town people were their main concern. The helicopter drops to these outlying properties are sometimes the only means of communication and supply. I am aware of one helicopter drop by the army to Daringa which related to the provision of food supplies to a property owner. The co-ordination of the majority of food drops was conducted by myself and Ken MURPHY and also by direct requests from property owners. The spreadsheet that Ken and I formulated should be kept on hand on a local council data base so that in times of disaster this can be readily acted upon.
11. During my role as co-ordinator of the supply drops I spoke to many helicopter pilots. As a result of these conversations they expressed their anger in that they informed the Emerald shire council, on many occasions, of impending flood waters heading towards Emerald. The pilots are in an excellent position to report

waters heading towards Emerald. The pilots are in an excellent position to report the movement of flood waters as they are in the air on a regular basis in the affected areas. The pilots indicated to me that their warnings were not heeded by the council and little preparation was made concerning the rising flood waters. The council also did not pass on this information to other people and was only received by word of mouth on some occasions.

12. I also observed that there was little co-ordination of aircraft in Emerald at the time of the floods. I received this information from the pilots and town people. I know of one instance where an accident occurred at the Emerald showgrounds of a helicopter due to the intensity of helicopters landing and taking off at the time.
13. The other main issue was the provision of fuel for the helicopters. As there was no prior planning on the provision of supply drops, helicopters were having issues with refuelling. Because a lot of the helicopters that were used did not have a long range it made it difficult to co-ordinate supply runs. It became necessary to have primary producers supply fuel from their own stocks on farms whilst on route to the affected properties.
14. The response from DEEDI was very good. Initially they did not have any plan with regards to the supply drops however once the issue was identified they provided good support and services to the primary producers.

**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 09/05/2011 and contained in the pages numbered 1 to 3 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 *Rockhampton* this.....9th..day of.....May.....2011

Witness Signature  
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Signature of officer