

Note

This statement has been redacted to remove certain personal information and information that is not relevant to the land planning terms of reference.

QFCI

Date: 22/09/11 Jm

Exhibit Number: 594

Statement of Witness

Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry

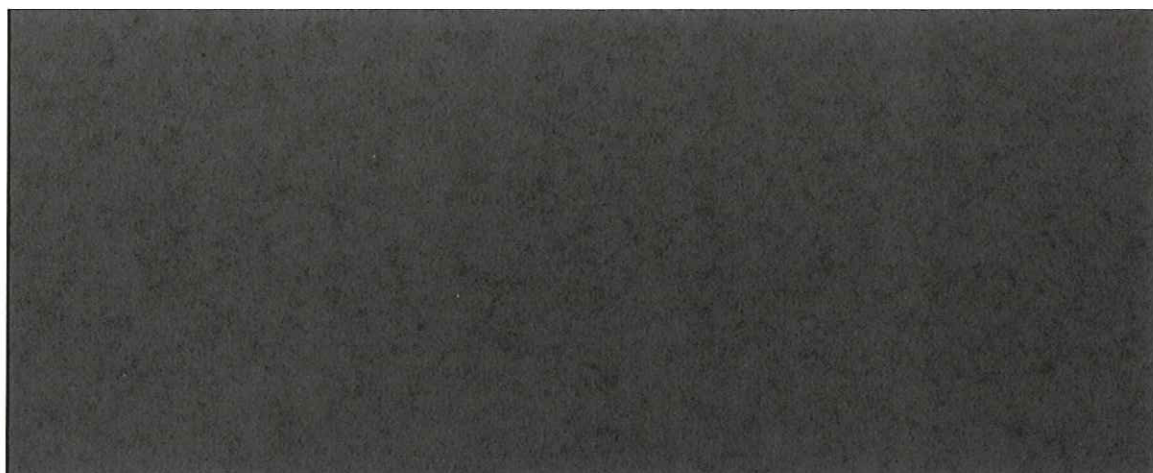
<i>Name of Witness</i>	William (Bill) John HENNINGHAM
<i>Date of Birth</i>	
<i>Address and contact details</i>	Rocklea
<i>Occupation</i>	Project Officer - Department of Transport and Main Roads
<i>Officer taking statement</i>	Detective Sergeant Paul Browne
<i>Date taken</i>	09/09/2011

I, William (Bill) John HENNINGHAM state;

1. I am [REDACTED] years of age and reside with my wife Genelle and children at [REDACTED] Rocklea. I have lived in the Rocklea area for most of my life and am currently employed by the Department of Transport and Main Roads as a Project Officer.
2. We purchased the property in March 2010 and had been in the house for about 8 months when our home and property were completely flooded in January 2011.

I am able to produce a series of photographs depicting the damage to our property (Attachment 1).

Exhibit number

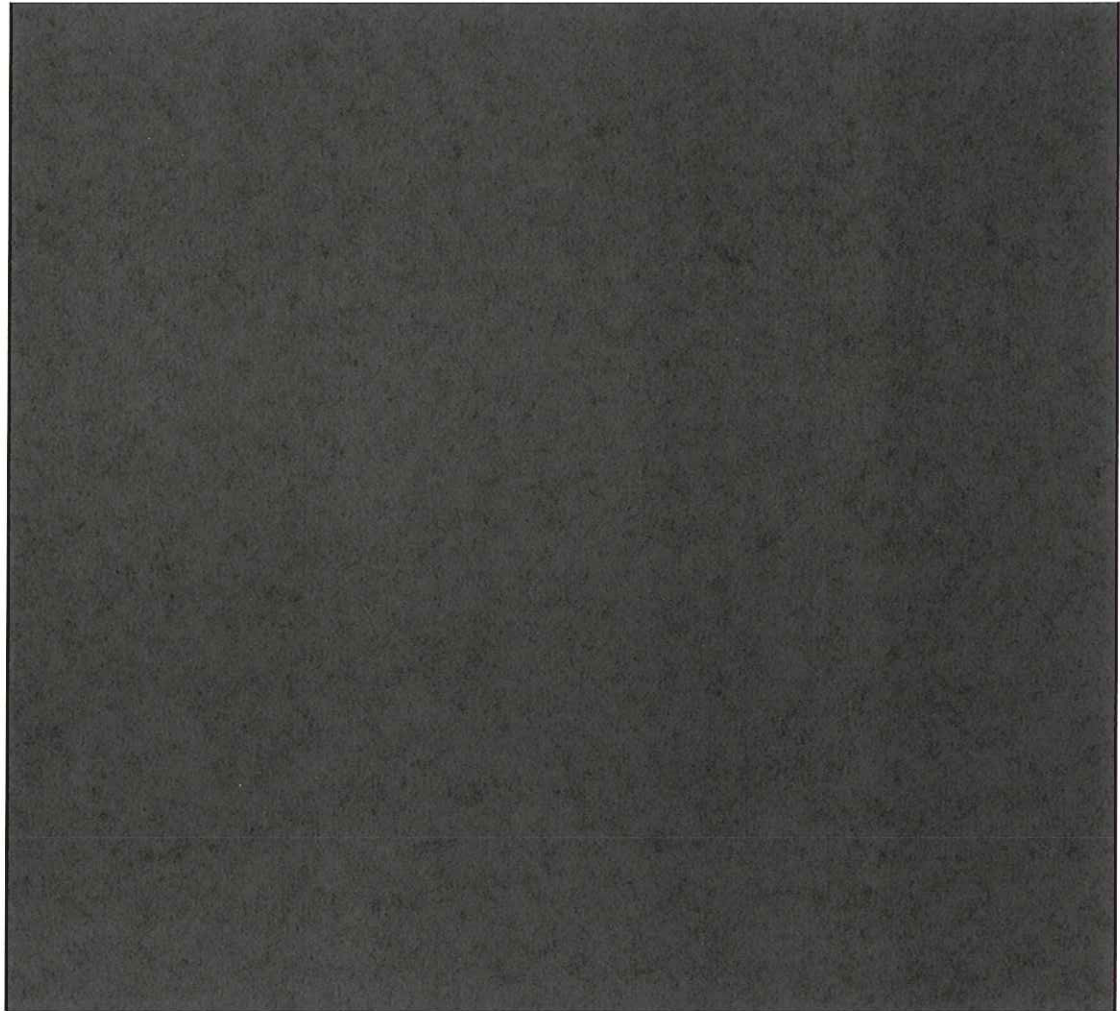


Witness Signature

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Signature of

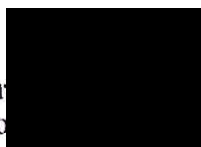
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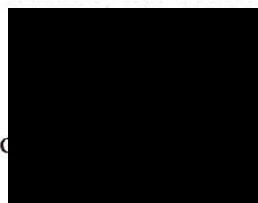
7. We moved back into the house in the first week of September, almost 9 months after the flood had destroyed it.



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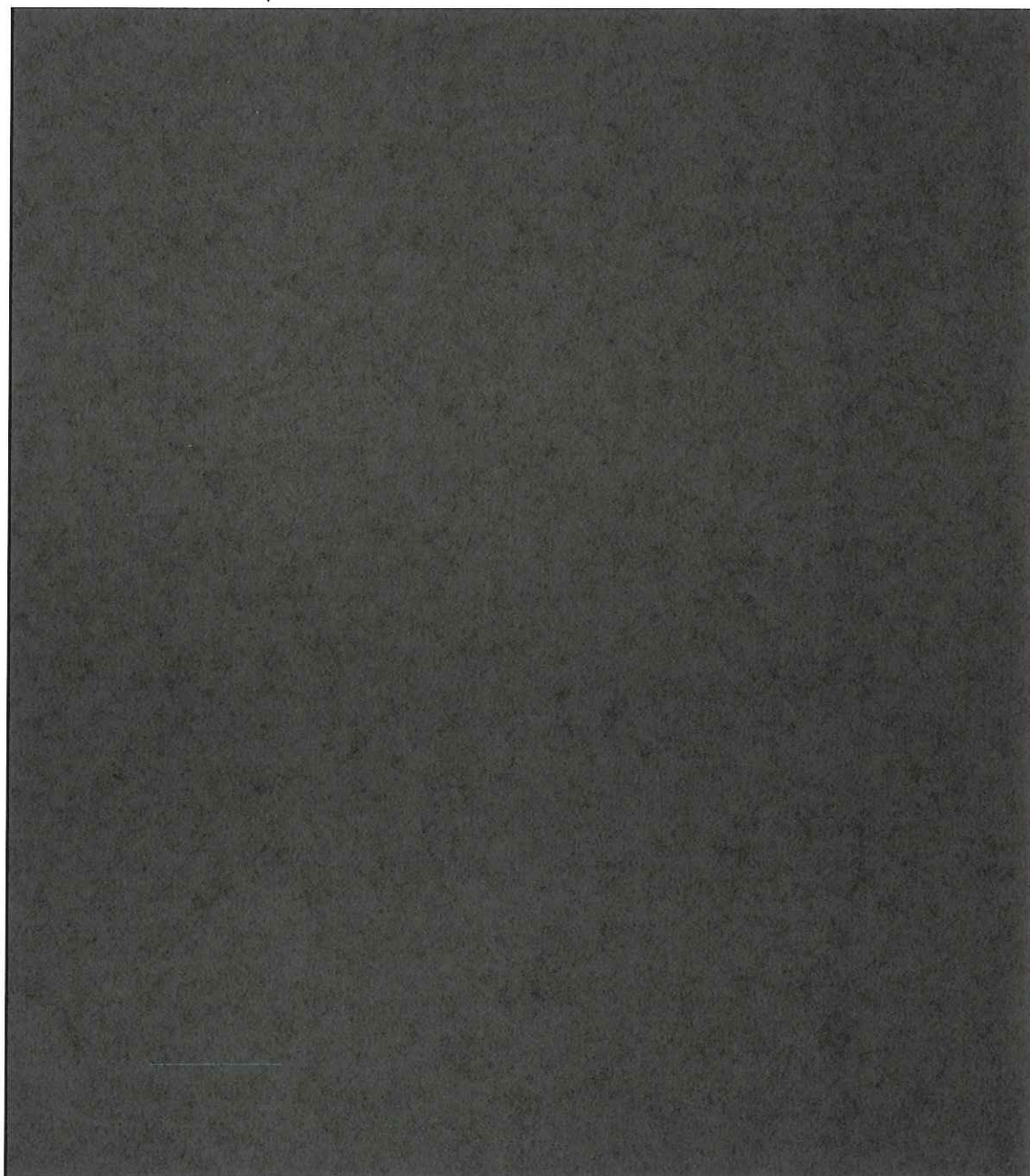
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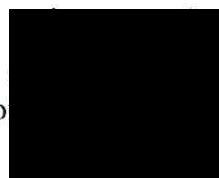
Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry



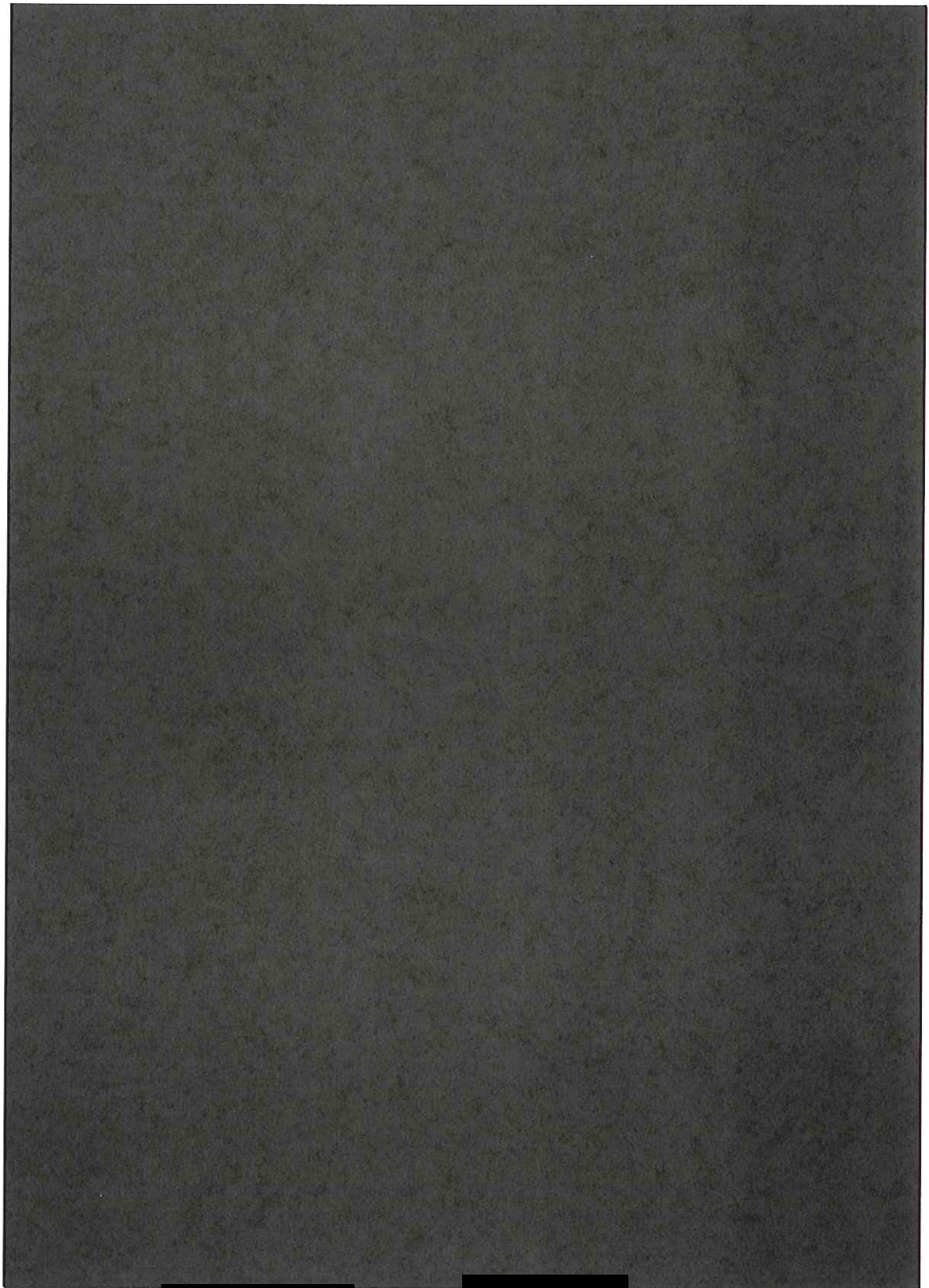
Witness Signature
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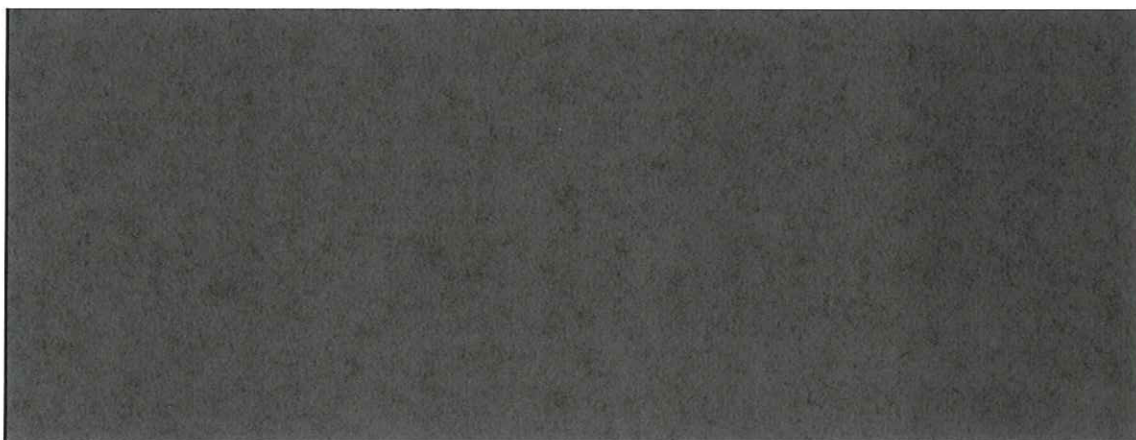


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Witness Signature [redacted] Signature of [redacted]
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**LAND PLANNING:**

21. Our house is situated at [REDACTED] Rocklea. The residence is low-set timber construction on stumps and is approximately 1 metre off the ground on a 600 sq/m block. We believe it was originally built around 1951 and prior to the flood we had not carried out any major renovation.

22. From my local knowledge I knew that the area had flooded in 1974 and at the time of purchasing the property we were aware of the Brisbane City Council (BCC) Floodwise report. Despite that we thought Wivenhoe Dam would hold back any flood and when purchasing the property decided this was a risk we were willing to take.

23. At the rear of our property is a large street long industrial building which is a part of the Brisbane Markets. Between our house and that building is a drainage channel and because of the height of the land storm water from properties on our side of the street and also the Market building drains into that channel.

24. Although we were not living in the house at the time the Markets were developed, I believe this drain was developed at the same time. I was told by an elderly neighbour (who has since passed away) that there was a stormwater drain which existed prior to that development however it was re-diverted. It was explained to me that the original

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.... Signature of [REDACTED]

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drain almost always had water in it and that it operated more as a stream and had fish living in it. In the time we have lived in the property the existing drain has almost always been dry, except in times of rainfall.

25. In October 2010 we experienced a lot of rain but the drainage seemed to work OK and despite that large amount of water our yard remained relatively dry. Then in December and January and prior to our house flooding we had been receiving a lot more rain and the wetlands in the Rocklea and Sherwood areas on Sherwood Road near our property were slowly starting to fill-up. This was unusual and we had not seen the water rise in those areas, as it was at that time and we noticed the water started to take longer to drain away and that the river level was also higher.
26. Then when more rain came prior to the flood the drain at the back began to fill-up, the storm water going into the drain could not get away and water also started coming back towards the drain from Oxley Creek. Eventually the stormwater from the drain could not go anywhere and continued to rise until it flooded our house. When evacuating our place on Tuesday 11th January 2011 it was raining heavily. The drain at the back of the house could not contain any more of the rainwater.
27. I know there have been a number of recent developments in and around the Rocklea and Sherwood areas but I do not believe these have had any real impact on the extent of the flooding. I do not believe that the Brisbane Markets or anything that the Council had done contributed to the flooding.
28. As part of the rebuilding process we considered raising our property. Preliminary inquiries made with the local Councillor suggested that this would be supported by Council, however because of the soil type and height we would need to raise the house that proved to be too expensive and we could not afford to continue.

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29. Our other concern is the storage of chemicals in and around the Rocklea and Oxley area which may have gotten into the water course as a result of the flood. Although we did not witness anything this is more of a general concern.

LAND PLANNING RECOMMENDATIONS:

30. Areas that are repeatedly flooded are unsuitable for continued housing and as example, in 2011 the same Rocklea streets and houses were totally or partly inundated as were affected in 1974. In the future I believe the area of Rocklea needs to move towards either Industry or Markets. Consideration should be given to the re-zoning of seriously affected areas for either commercial or industrial use (with provision that no dangerous chemicals be stored below the flood line), or alternatively the land used for high-rise development with the lowest residential floor being above the flood line.
31. I also believe that some consideration should be given to the idea going around that a levee bank be created to protect the Brisbane Markets. I am supportive of that, however concerned this may divert water and make the flooding worse in another area. I believe any proposed levee should not be exclusive to the Markets and must be extended to ensure it also protects any existing Residential and Industrial areas.
32. Whilst I am not an Engineer I believe the idea of installing covers or flaps over existing storm water outlets (to stop water from travelling back up through the drains in the opposite direction) is also something that should be looked into and considered further. This would not have assisted our house but it would have assisted other houses I helped evacuate on Wednesday 12th January.

33. I ask that the Commission of Inquiry consider some of the suggestions I have made when making any future recommendations.

[Redacted]

William (Bill) John HENNINGHAM,

15th September 2011.

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 15th September 2011 and contained in the pages numbered 1 to 8 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 atBrisbane.....this.....15th.....day of.....September.....2011....

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[Redacted]

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