



QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE

STATEMENT OF WITNESS



Occurrence #: _____

Statement no.: _____ Date: _____

Statement ofName of witness: PEFF, David WilliamDate of birth: _____ Age: _____ Occupation: Police Officer**Police officer taking statement**

Name: _____

Rank: Inspector Reg. no.: 5472Region/Command/Division: Central Region Station: Rockhampton District**Statement:**

David William Peff states:-

I am an Inspector of Police currently stationed at the Rockhampton Police District Office, Rockhampton Police District.

I was sworn in as a police officer in to the Queensland Police Service on 29 July 1983.

I have 27 years of years policing experience having served at Rockhampton as a Constable and Senior Constable from 1983 to the end of 1991. I transferred to Brisbane and performed duty in the Mounted Police Unit, Traffic Branch and Property Crime Squad up to 1995 whereupon I was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in Charge at the Mount Isa Traffic Branch. In 1998 I was promoted to Senior Sergeant, Officer in Charge, Cairns Traffic Branch. I relieved in various commissioned officer positions in Cairns between 1999 and 2006 including District Inspector, Staff Officer, Professional Practice Manager, and Regional Traffic Coordinator. In 2006 I was promoted to the rank of Inspector, Staff Officer Central Police Region, based in Rockhampton. In January 2008 I moved to my current role as a district inspector at the Rockhampton Police District. I have relieved as the

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District Officer in the Rockhampton, Mackay, and Gladstone Police Districts since that time.

On 27 December 2010 I commenced relieving as DDC for the Rockhampton District. The role and responsibilities of the DDC is to coordinate disaster operations in the disaster district for the District Disaster Management Group. In performing the role of DDC, I have undertaken Disaster Management training through Emergency Management Australia at Mount Macedon. I completed two courses in 2009, being 'Undertake Emergency Management Planning' and 'Business Continuity Planning'. Prior to this flood experience I had not participated in any desktop exercises or scenario based activities.

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.

I commenced relieving as the Acting District Officer, Rockhampton District on 27 December 2010 and by virtue of the delegation under the hand of the police commissioner, I was appointed as the District Disaster Coordinator for the Rockhampton Police District. Prior to this I was on recreational leave from the 29th of November 2010 up to the 26th of December 2010. For the period 20 September 2010 to 28 November 2010 I was relieving as the District Officer, Rockhampton District, and during this period I performed the role of District Disaster Coordinator.

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

In preparing and planning for the 2010/2011 floods, Emergency Management Queensland facilitated a cyclone and flood preparedness workshop in Rockhampton on the 14th of October 2010. This was attended by members of the Rockhampton

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District Disaster Management Group, and representatives of the Central Highlands and Rockhampton Local Disaster Management groups. The potential gravity of the season was clearly articulated to all attendees and this was reinforced in closing by me as the District Disaster Coordinator.

The Rockhampton District Disaster Management Group met in November 2010 and early December 2010 to discuss legislative changes to the Disaster Management Act and how that would impact on the group. The group also discussed its membership representation (including deputy representatives) and identified the need to ensure representatives were appropriately authorised to represent their respective agencies. The contact details for all members of the group were updated during this period. The group agreed there was a need to meet more regularly and that they should undertake themed exercises at meetings. The exercise would be topical for the time of the year to include cyclones and floods by way of example.

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

On 3 December 2010 heavy rain caused flashing flooding in the Gemfields and other areas of the Central Highlands. The localised flooding event was caused by the heavier than expected rainfall combined with very wet land conditions. The Nogoa River was 9.2m and rising. Sections of the Capricorn Highway west of Duaringa were closed along with the Bruce Highway at Marlborough.

By 6 December 2010 many of the main highways in the Central Highlands area were inaccessible due to flood water inundation. Rolleston was still isolated from rains during the last few days. At Rockhampton the Fitzroy River was 4.8m and falling and Fairbairn Dam was steady at 1.87m over the spillway.

On 10 December 2010 forecasted rainfall of up to 100mm was expected across Central Highlands and Capricornia. The Fitzroy River was 6.06m and rising slowly. The Rockhampton Local Disaster Coordination Centre (LDCC) activated Saturday 11/12/10 operating from 12noon to 5pm and Sunday 12/10/10 operating from 9am to 5pm to manage public enquiries.

The forecast rain event over the weekend left the Central Highlands area relatively unscathed and the Central Highlands Local Disaster Management Group (CHLDMG) continue recovery operations.

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By 13 December 2010 the Rockhampton City river gauge was at a height of 7.15m (minor flood level). Rockhampton Local Disaster Management Group (RLDMG) met at 8am and decided the LDCC would not be activated that stage. On 15 December 2010 the Central Highlands were continuing with recovery arrangements and the Rockhampton City river gauge was 7.55m and steady. BoM maintain predictions of a peak up to 7.8m (moderate flood level) at Rockhampton gauge was probable by Thursday 16/12/10 with levels remaining at above 7m until at least 21/12/10. The peak was reached on 16/12/10 at a level of 7.65m. Up to this point, the District Disaster Management Group (DDMG) had maintained a watching brief during this time and did not stand up as there was no actions expected or required of the group.

On 27 December 2010 the Central Highlands LDMG activated with the LDCC operating for 24 hours a day with Fairbairn Dam 1.92m over the spillway. A minor flood level of 3.3m at Fairbairn Dam and 14m in Emerald was expected during the next 72hrs. These levels did not include forecasted heavy rainfall over the next 24-48hrs. The Fitzroy River had already reached minor flood level and was currently at 7.2m. Flooding predictions for Fitzroy River continued to be monitored by the Rockhampton LDMG.

On 28 December 2010 the DDMG moved from 'Alert' status and stood up. Four requests for assistance were received from the CHLDMG. Predictions indicated the Nogoa River would reach 14.5m by late Wednesday which would cut the Vince Lester Bridge in Emerald. Floodwaters in Rolleston area appeared to be the highest on record. The Comet River would close the Capricorn Highway mid afternoon and maybe the railway line. The Nogoa River was still rising with a predicted flood height of 4.5m over the spillway at Fairbairn Dam. The Vince Lester Bridge was likely to close at around 6pm on 29/12/10. Fairbairn Dam was currently 2.32m over the spillway.

The Rockhampton LDMG activated at 8am. Significant rainfall in the Mt Morgan area had created flash flooding overnight. The Rockhampton City river gauge was 7.75m and rising. Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) predictions indicated the Fitzroy River would reach 8m at the Rockhampton Gauge later that week and would continue rising. Major flood levels (of 8.5m) were possible early the following week.

On the 29th of December 2010 it was apparent to me that this would be a significant event requiring my full time attention and accordingly I formally stepped down as Acting District Officer and performed the sole function of District Disaster Coordinator. A District Disaster Coordination Centre (DDCC) was set up at the premises located at the Department of Public Works.

The DDMG met at 1pm on 29 December 2010. The Premier, Minister, Deputy Commissioner Stewart and Honourable Robert Schwarten attended the DDMG meeting. The Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services signed the Disaster Declaration for the Rockhampton Disaster District including the Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council, Central Highlands Regional Council and Rockhampton Regional Council at 2:12pm. The Fairbairn Dam was projected to reach 5m over the spillway. The Nogoa River was due to peak at Emerald at midday on Friday. The Vince Lester Bridge was expected to be cut at 5pm. The rail bridge

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from one side of Emerald to the other would be cut by midday Friday. Emergency Alert messages were distributed. CHLDMG continued modelling and planning based on flood levels 300mm greater than the 2008 flood. Two evacuations centres had opened at the Agricultural College and Town Hall. BoM predicted major flood levels in excess of 8.5m and up to 9m were expected early the following week at Rockhampton. At 9m 150 homes were expected to be inundated and over 1000 houses impacted by yard water.

By 30 December 2010 three evacuation centres were established in Emerald. The CHLDMG were in the process of setting up 2 further evacuation centres at schools on western side of the river. Up to at least 2500 people were expected to be evacuated based on currently modelling. Current predictions indicated at least 80% of town would be impacted by water at varying levels. Emerald consists of approximately 13,000 to 14,000 people but it was unsure how many were actually in town over the holiday break. At that stage there were no concerns with utilities - power, sewerage and water. Rail across Nogoa River had closed at approximately 8am that morning. Road access was open north to Capella for 4WD and high vehicles. The airport was still open was not likely to be threatened. CHLDMG were expecting a peak of 16.2m.

In Rockhampton an evacuation centre at Central Queensland University was being established and would be advertised to the public from Friday. This facility could hold 600 people comfortably and up to 1200. Current predictions were indicating a 9.4+m height for the Fitzroy River. Road access to the airport would be restricted at 8.5m and the airport closes at 8.6m. Alternate sites for helicopter landings were identified for when the airport closed.

On 31 December 2010 the Nogoa River peaked in Emerald at 16.05m. Fairbairn Dam peaked at 5.65m over the spillway. All roads in and out of the Central Highlands region were closed. Approximately 80% of buildings in Emerald were inundated in some way. There was approximately 100mm of water through Woolworths Supermarket and the hospital was evacuated. The Rockhampton LDMG was planning for a 10+m flood and mapping for 10.5m. The group was planning for evacuations and a lengthy period of isolation. Weather was expected to deteriorate over weekend producing showers and some isolated thunderstorms which would not impact on river levels.

By 1 January 2011 the Nogoa River had dropped to 15.7m. The spillway at Fairbairn Dam had dropped 13cm from its peak. Water over Vince Lester Bridge has dropped 10cm from peak. The total number of people in evacuation centres was 508. Increases in evacuations were not expected at this stage. Approximately 1,000 houses suffered inundation inside at various levels. Approximately 3,000 houses had water in their yards 100% industrial had suffered partial or full water inundation. The Vince Lester Bridge was not expected to be out of the water until at least Tuesday. The Fitzroy River was 8.5m and was expected to be 9.4m by Wednesday. The Bruce Highway south closed at 7:40pm to all traffic. There were 16 persons in CQU evacuation centre and the airport ceased general and passenger movements as at 2:30pm. The airport remained available for emergency air operations. Floodwaters were moving quickly into flood plains surrounding Capricorn Highway.

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From 2 January 2011 CHLDMG began to assess the damage as floodwaters receded. A 250m washout was evident on the western approach to Rail Bridge which would require a substantial amount of restorative work before the railway bridge line would be serviceable again. QR National advised the line was predicted to be opened within 48 hours of waters receding. The Dawson River on Capricorn Highway is still 3.2m over bridge with the peak still expected. The Fitzroy River was currently at 8.7m with the Bruce and Capricorn Highways closed at Yeppen Roundabout with 500mm of water over road surface. Bruce Highway north was still open and had 900mm clearance. The airport is closed with the secondary runway ½ covered with water and the main runway having water at both ends. The airport was likely to be closed for up to 3 weeks.

By 5 January 2011 Central Highlands had moved well into clean up and recovery operations. The Central Highlands LDCC had now deactivated. There were still 224 persons in evacuation centres overnight and the CHLDMG were monitoring resupply in outlying areas. The Fairbairn Dam spillway had reduced to 1.92 metres. The river level at Emerald was 11.2m. A severe weather warning was issued at 11:10 am for heavy rainfall leading to localised flash flooding and potentially worsening the existing river flood situation for areas of Queensland. The Fitzroy River peaked at 9.2m and the Bruce Highway south remained closed but northern highway was still open. There were 97 persons in the evacuation centre at CQU.

On 7 January 2011 there were still 61 persons in Emerald evacuation centres. Rail access to Emerald would be delayed for some time due to significant damage to rail lines. Capricorn Highway Emerald to Dingo was open. Road from Emerald north to Capella and beyond were open. Resupply of rural properties in the Duaringa and Dingo localities was continuing under the direction of EMQ. In Rockhampton water levels remain high (9.15m) with levels likely to exceed the major flood level of 8.5m for up to seven days. The Bruce Highway north remains open and will remain so. There were 134 persons in the evacuation centre and Major General Michael Slater attended Rockhampton for a tour of the area with Mayor Carter.

Five days later on 12 January 2011 the Fairbairn Dam had dropped to 1.02m above the spillway. There were still 36 persons the remaining evacuation centre at the Agricultural College. Transport and Main Roads Department were undertaking repairs to the Dawson River Bridge on the Capricorn Highway east of Duaringa and expected the bridge to open by midday. The Fitzroy River had dropped to 8.9m. The Rockhampton Morning Bulletin page one 'Where will our food come from' story caused renewed bouts of panic buying of food and fuel in Rockhampton. Panic buying created some resupply issues for local stores in Rockhampton, Gracemere, Yeppoon and Mt Morgan, however resupply was never in doubt or at risk.

On 14 January 2011 the Central Highlands was in full recovery mode and the cleanup was continuing. The Fitzroy River had dropped to 8.5m at 1pm and the Bruce Highway south at Yeppen Crossing was opened to all traffic at 4pm. The airport was expected to open from 24 January for emergency services and hopefully fully operational by 28 January.

On morning of 16 January 2011 there were 29 persons in Agricultural College evacuation centre. The evacuation centre would cease operations from today. Rental

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accommodation and other facilities around Emerald had been sourced for all remaining evacuees. The Capricorn Highway at Gracemere remained closed until repairs could be completed to road surface.

Final response situation reports were completed on 17 January 2011 with 2 recovery situation reports completed on 18 and 19 January 2011. In Emerald a total of 1060 residences had floorboard inundation in Emerald was 1060. Outside Emerald township, 5 residences in Rolleston, 1 house in Springsure and Arcadia Valley School also had inundations. According to Council data bases the following land use classifications may have been affected to some extent by inundation as a result of this event:

- Aged Care/Nursing Homes - 16
- Agriculture - 63
- Business premises - 258
- Community spaces/clubs - 161
- Industry - 338
- Livestock production/use - 791
- Residences - 2858
- Vacant parcels - 826
- Schools - 3

Total property parcels - 5314

Clean up and recovery operations are continuing in each local government area.

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

My role as DDC was to receive requests for assistance from the LDMG's in circumstances where the local group were unable to provide the appropriate level of resourcing, be it human or physical. I made an assessment of each request in the first instance and the request was referred to the relevant DDMG member to ascertain if the request could be met at the District level. If the request could not be met at the district level the request was then forwarded to the State Disaster Coordination Centre for action. A total of 24 requests for assistance were received from the Central Highlands LDMG and fifteen requests for assistance were received from the Rockhampton LDMG.

The decision making in relation to all requests remained with me as the District Disaster Coordinator, however coordination, logging and tracking of the requests was facilitated through the District Disaster Coordination Centre which was managed by the Executive Officer to the DDC.

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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

The DDMG responded to requests for assistance from the LDMG and provided assistance when required. All requests for assistance were approved by me.

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

At the DDMG meeting chaired by me in November 2010, a media strategy was discussed by the membership. In my capacity as the DDC, I recommended to the group that in any future response to a disaster, I would be the spokesperson for the management group as a whole. I further recommended that any statements or comments that I made would be reflective of the groups decision making, however individual members would be able to make comments relative to their area of responsibility. An example of this was the Transport and Main Roads representative provided daily interviews to media outlets on road conditions, including road closures. The group agreed with this proposal and accordingly this is the strategy the DDMG took into the response to this flood.

As the DDC, I requested that a full time member of the Queensland Police Service travel to Rockhampton to manage all media commitments expected of me in my role as DDC. Christopher Loy subsequently was deployed to Rockhampton. The Rockhampton Regional Council employed a media manager who worked on behalf of the Mayor of Rockhampton and managed all media commitments for him. Chris Loy was tasked to work in conjunction with the council media manager to handle all media requests.

One strategy employed to provide information to the community involved a media conference at 1000 hours every day at council chambers. Prior to the media conference the Mayor and I would discuss what message needed to be put out to the community and what elements of the message would be provided by each of us. In

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addition to this structured media conference, a number of others media interviews were provided on request, however these were administered by Chris Loy.

In addition to this I also did a number of pre-recorded messages that the Queensland Police Service used on its facebook web page. Each afternoon Chris Loy would summarise the days' activities or key messages that needed to get to the public and these were released through the police media unit as official QPS media releases.

A critical communication message that was identified was the need to inform affected householders about the facts surrounding the disconnection and reconnection of power to houses. At a Rockhampton LDMG meeting I recommended that the LDCC contact each resident individually to inform individuals about electricity supply issues. The LDMG reported back that all residents who could be contacted using all available means of intelligence holdings had been contacted and provided with advice.

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 primary method of communication with Central Highlands LDMG during the 2010/2011 flood event was by telephone. This was primarily due to the fact that the Central Highlands LDMG is based some 280 km west of Rockhampton where the DDMG is based, and access to Emerald during the floods was only by air. Daily teleconference sit rep briefings were provided by the Central Highlands LDMG to the Rockhampton DDMG at 1300 hours each day. This informed the DDMG of the actions on the LDMG and all members of the DDMG were afforded an opportunity to make inquiries with the LDMG on matters of interest or concern. All requests for assistance or information were made by the LDMG in writing. Communication between the LDMG and the DDCC was dependant upon the needs of each group.

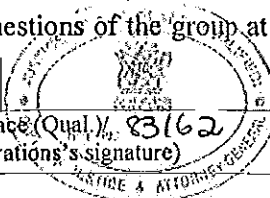
The Rockhampton LDMG met at 0800 hours each day for the entire period of the floods. As DDC I attended every meeting. I was able to obtain information from those meetings that gave me an understanding of the strategic and tactical decision making of the group. I asked questions of the group at each meeting, and provided

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direction to the group in terms of advice as opposed to instruction. I was able to pre-empt issues and cause inquiries to be made of the DDMG on possible requests for assistance that may be forthcoming. The Mayor of Rockhampton as chair of the Rockhampton LDMG attended the daily DDMG meetings and provided a briefing to the DDMG in the same way as the Central Highlands LDMG provided a briefing. The format was the same and the ability to ask questions was the same.

Informal and unplanned communications took place between myself and the two mayors on a needs basis. This was generally to clarify issues arising from formal briefings, or requesting information to be included in their daily briefings.

In addition to the verbal briefings provided by the LDMG's, a written SITREP was emailed to the DDCC each day by 1500 hours. The information contained in this SITREP was used to assist in the formulation of the District SITREP to the State.

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.

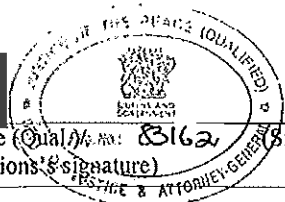
Communication with the state group was regular during the flood event. Teleconferences were conducted, sometimes twice daily, with both the SDMG and SDCC. In addition, as DDC I was regularly contacted by the SDCC by telephone. All requests for assistance were submitted in writing.

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.

As DDC in Rockhampton, the provision of information, advice and logistical support was provided upon my request. The model for disaster management is a bottom up approach and when this was followed, I found all aspects to be adequate and timely.

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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 or timeliness thereof.

The Rockhampton DDMG has an ADF Liaison Officer. This liaison officer was located in the Rockhampton DDCC and I had contact with the Liaison Officer on a daily basis including discussions regarding the provision ADF assets. I received excellent support from the ADF Liaison Officer and found the support to be adequate and timely. At the height of the response phase, the military assets based in Rockhampton (including Blackhawk helicopters) were able to be tasked directly by me without the need to forward a DACC request to the state group. This was of great assistance in the timely provision of services to the community.

Assessment of the adequacy of equipment and communications systems in the District during the 2010/2011 flood event.

All equipment including communication systems utilised during the flood event were adequate for the needs of the District, although it was only to a minimum standard. Issues such as the adequacy of the DDCC and DDMG meeting place have been subject of a debrief of the Rockhampton DDMG. It was agreed that there is potential for improvement in this area, and the group are exploring alternative locations for any future disaster. The use of video conferencing would significantly improve the functionality of the DDMG and LDMG's.

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

The community responded well to this event. The good will of the people in Emerald was evident throughout the event. The level of cooperation and compliance was high and no issues of negativity were brought to my attention.

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Similarly, the community of Rockhampton responded well in general terms. There were some issues of disquiet, however these were addressed by the LDMG. The greatest challenge for the LDMG and DDMG during the Rockhampton floods was the community making comparisons with the 1991 floods which were very similar in height. The challenge for authorities was to get a message to the community that each flood is different and it was erroneous to align expectations of this flood with a previous flood. The significant length of this flood impacted on the good will of the community.

Circumstances of any human fatality within the District, including the measures taken to prevent and/or response to any such fatality, during the 2010/2011 flood events.

There were no flood related fatalities within the Rockhampton Disaster District during the 2010/2011 flood event.

Measures taken within the District to protect private and public property and/or preserve vital infrastructure in connection with the 2010/2011 flood events.

Significant resources, both human and physical were brought to the Rockhampton and Emerald areas to assist in the policing of private and public property. A separate logistics cell was developed to ensure appropriate taskings were carried out at both areas. The logistics cell was responsible for the appropriate provisioning of all operational aspects of the police response. This included items such as vehicles, police vessels, replacement uniforms, meals, accommodation and air transport of staff in and out of Rockhampton and Emerald. As DDC I overviewed and directed taskings to specifically target looting type offences. At the conclusion of the flooding events analysis found that there were no property related offences committed in any flood affected area.

Vital infrastructure that was at risk was adequately protected through the actions of the LDMG's and did not require any further assistance from the district.

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

There are no regional or geographic differences for the Rockhampton Disaster District which would require special consideration.


Features of the disaster preparation and planning stages or the disaster response and recovery operation which, in the opinion of the District Disaster Coordinator presented particular difficulty or may require practical or legislative changes to improve future disaster management in the District.


The transition from response to recovery is covered in legislation, however in an operational or practical sense it is quite blurred and the role of the DDC is not totally clear.

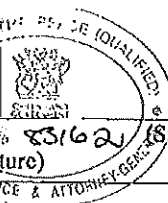
The information contained in this statement is provided on the basis of the knowledge, information and material currently available to me and my interpretation of the information sought by the requirement at this point in time.


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Inspector


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Queensland
Government

**Rockhampton District Disaster
Management Group**

Rockhampton District Disaster Management Group

Comprising of:

**Rockhampton Regional Council
Central Highland Regional Council
Woorabinda Aboriginal Council**

**Final Report concerning flooding events
in December 2010 and January 2011**

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1. Executive Summary

The State Disaster Management Plan 2010 outlines that 'effective management of any disaster relies on strong coordination arrangements; consultative decision making, collaboration and shared responsibility achieved through supporting relationships, trust and teamwork between individuals, agencies and the community.'

Some of the main objects of the *Disaster Management Act* are to help communities:

- Mitigate the potential adverse effects of an event;
- Prepare for managing the effects of an event; and
- Effectively respond to, and recover from, a disaster or an emergency situation.

The objects are achieved primarily by establishing disaster management groups for the State, disaster districts and local government areas; preparing disaster management plans and guidelines; ensuring communities receive appropriate information about preparing for, responding to and recovering from a disaster; and declaring a disaster situation when required.

During December 2010 and January 2011 the Rockhampton Disaster District experienced widespread flooding after heavy rainfall across the Rockhampton, Central Highlands and Woorabinda local government areas. The Central Highlands Local Disaster Management Group (CHLDMG) activated on 27 December 2011 and the Rockhampton District Disaster Management Group (DDMG) stood up and activated the Rockhampton Disaster Management Plan on 28 December 2011. The Rockhampton LDMG activated on 28 December 2011 with the Woorabinda LDMG not formally activating during the event.

On 29 December 2010 a declaration of a district level disaster situation was made by the Minister for Police, Corrective Service and Emergency Services for the Rockhampton District. A State level disaster declaration was subsequently made by the Premier on 11 January 2011. Disaster response operations to the flooding event continued until 19 January 2011 at which time both LDMGs were in the clean up and recovery phase.

During disaster operations a total of 24 RFAs were received from Central Highlands LDMG. Fifteen RFAs were received from Rockhampton LDMG and 4 RFAs were addressed in the Woorabinda LDMG area. A total of 33 DDMG situation reports (including 2 Recovery Situation Reports) were forwarded to the State Disaster Coordination Centre (SDCC) in relation to the flooding event.

Problems regarding the establishment and enforcement of road closures were identified by both LDMGs. This was an issue across both LDMGs and was also identified during the 1991 Rockhampton Flood Debrief. There is some contention whether the 'Road Closed' sign is an enforceable traffic sign. To date infringement notices issued during recent flood events have not been tested in court.

On 16 February 2011 the Rockhampton DDMG conducted a formal debrief of the disaster event. Due to time restraints issues regarding evacuation centres and recovery were not discussed during the debrief. It was agreed these items would be held over until the next DDMG meeting on 15 March 2011. The outcomes from this meeting will be added as an addendum to this report at a later date.

As a result of discussions during the debrief (see page 18) a number of recommendations were made.

Summary of Recommendations:

1. It is recommended the Rockhampton Disaster Management Plan be reviewed and learnings from recent event be incorporated into the plan.
2. It is recommended the Executive Officer and QFRS develop standard air operations protocols for incorporation into the Rockhampton Disaster Management Plan.
3. It is recommended the Executive Officer continue liaison with Executive Officers from Gladstone and Mackay Districts to ensure effective management of disaster events across multiple districts.
4. It is recommended the Queensland Police Service and Department of Transport and Main Roads examine the issue regarding enforcement of road closures and confirm legislative provisions exist for enforcement during future flood events.
5. It is recommended the Executive Officer review options for an alternative venue for the DDCC which meets information technology, business continuity and space requirements.
6. It is recommended the Executive Officer capture the sentiments of the DDMG in regard to Situation Reports and complete a SDMG briefing paper.

7. It is recommended the Executive Officer formalise governance arrangements for representatives from DET and DERM to be DDMG members.
8. It is recommended the Executive Officer review the DDCC Standard Operating Procedures to clarify information flows and the management of requests for assistance.
9. It is recommended EMQ provide LDMGs further training in the preparation of requests for assistance.
10. It is recommended a State-wide solution be developed in response to donated goods as it is applicable to multiple Disaster Districts. Further, it is recommended uniform guidelines be developed to address the receipt and disposal of donated goods after disaster events (see Appendix E).
11. It is recommended clarification be provided at a State level regarding 'ownership' of DDMG documents for the purpose of compliance with the *Right to Information Act 2009* and *Information Privacy Act 2009*.

2. Outline of the DDMG boundaries

Local Government reform resulted in the Rockhampton Disaster District having three Local Disaster Management Groups – Rockhampton, Central Highlands and Woorabinda.

The Rockhampton Disaster District covers an area of approximately 75 090 square kilometres, extending from a point just south of St Lawrence (in the north) to a point just south of Marmor, to the Drummond Range west of Anakie and to the east including off shore islands.

3. Structure of the Rockhampton DDMG

(including name of chairperson, deputy chairperson, executive officer, other members and name/s of Local Disaster Management Group and its chairperson.)

On 31 January 2011 Acting Superintendent Ron Van Saane commenced duty as the Rockhampton District Disaster Coordinator (DDC) and Chairperson to the DDMG by virtue of his appointment as District Officer, Rockhampton.

Acting Superintendent David Peff was the DDC and Chairperson to the Rockhampton DDMG commencing on 27 December 2011 and was the DDC for the duration of the disaster declarations up until 31 January 2011 when Acting Superintendent Van Saane took over. The Deputy Chairperson for this event was Inspector Peter Flanders from Mackay District for the period 30 December 2010 to 10 January 2011.

The Executive Officer to the DDMG was Senior Sergeant Rebecca Martin who was formally appointed on 8 November 2011.

The Chairpersons for the local disaster management groups are the Mayors for each respective local government area: –

Rockhampton Regional Council	-	Mayor Brad Carter
Central Highlands Regional Council	-	Mayor Peter Maguire
Woorabinda Aboriginal Council	-	Mayor Roderick Tobane

Other DDMG members (including recent additions are listed in the below table:

	Agency
Members	<i>District Officer, Queensland Police Service</i>
	<i>DDC / Chairperson</i>
	<i>Queensland Police Service - Deputy DDC</i>
	<i>Queensland Police Service</i>
	<i>Executive Officer</i>
	<i>Queensland Police Service, Operations Officer</i>

	<i>Queensland Ambulance Service (Area Director)</i>
	<i>Emergency Management Queensland (Regional Director)</i>
	<i>Rockhampton Regional Council</i>
	<i>Rockhampton Regional Council</i>
	<i>Transport and Main Roads</i>
	<i>Department of Public Works</i>
	<i>Queensland Fire & Rescue Service</i>
	<i>Department of Communities</i>
	<i>Queensland Health</i>
	<i>Central Highlands Regional Council</i>
	<i>Central Highlands Regional Council</i>
	<i>Queensland Public Health</i>
	<i>DEEDI</i>
	<i>DET</i>
	<i>DERM</i>
Advisors	<i>Queensland Building Services Authority</i>
	<i>Bureau of Meteorology</i>
	<i>Red Cross</i>
	<i>RMCN Chairperson</i>
	<i>QR National</i>
	<i>Telstra</i>
	<i>Ergon</i>
	<i>Australian Defence Force</i>
	<i>Other representatives of organisations / agencies as required</i>

Rockhampton District Disaster Management Plan

A copy of the Rockhampton District Disaster Management Plan is included in Appendix A.

On 8 November 2010 a Queensland Police Service (QPS) non commissioned officer (NCO) was appointed by the Commissioner of Police to the role of Executive Officer to the Rockhampton District Disaster Management Group (DDMG) in accordance with section 27 of the *Disaster Management Act 2003* (DMA). This appointment replaced the Emergency Management Queensland (EMQ) Rockhampton Area Director (appointed from 14/8/2008) as Executive Officer.

Section 55 of the DMA requires the DDMG to review the effectiveness of the District Disaster Management Plan at least once per year. It appears the current plan was updated in February 2009. The DDMG 2009-2010 Annual Report prepared by EMQ indicated the District Disaster Management Plan (DDMP) had been reviewed during the 2009-2010 reporting period. The Annual Report also indicated the DDMP had been exercised during the reporting period and disaster management effectiveness was rated as being 'capable'.

On 3 November 2010 the QPS appointed Executive Officer prepared a meeting briefing paper regarding the review of the existing disaster management plan. The DDMG supported the resolution regarding the review and the plan was distributed to all DDMG members for consideration and the provision of feedback. Follow up on the review of the plan was scheduled for January 2011, however, due to the flooding events in December 2010 and January 2011 this action was delayed and the existing plan was utilised during the disaster event.

The Executive Officer has since recommenced the review of the existing DDMP and is in the process of transferring information across into the new DDMP template. Feedback from flood event DDMG debrief has provided valuable information for inclusion in the plan.

4. Summary of Disaster Events

A disaster is defined in section 13 of the *Disaster Management Act 2003* as **'a serious disruption in a community, caused by the impact of an event, that requires a significant coordinated response by the State and other entities to help the community recover from the disruption.'** Serious disruption includes injury or loss of human life; widespread or severe property loss or damage; or widespread or severe damage to the environment.

On 3 December 2010 heavy rain caused flashing flooding in the Gemfields and other areas of the Central Highlands. The localised flooding event was caused by the heavier than expected rainfall combined with very wet land conditions. The Nogoa River was 9.2m and rising. Sections of the Capricorn Highway west of Daringa were closed along with the Bruce Highway at Marlborough.



By 6 December 2010 many of the main highways in the Central Highlands area were inaccessible due to flood water inundation. Rolleston was still isolated from rains during the last few days. At Rockhampton the Fitzroy River was 4.8m and falling and Fairbairn Dam was steady at 1.87m over the spillway.

On 10 December 2010 forecasted rainfall of up to 100mm was expected across Central Highlands and Capricornia. The Fitzroy River was 6.06m

and rising slowly. The Rockhampton Local Disaster Coordination Centre (LDCC) activated Saturday 11/12/10 operating from 12noon to 5pm and Sunday 12/10/10 operating from 9am to 5pm to manage public enquiries.

The forecast rain event over the weekend left the Central Highlands area relatively unscathed and the Central Highlands Local Disaster Management Group (CHLDMG) continue recovery operations.

By 13 December 2010 the Rockhampton City river gauge was at a height of 7.15m (minor flood level). Rockhampton Local Disaster Management Group (RLDMG) met at 8am and decided the LDCC would not be activated that stage. On 15 December 2010 the Central Highlands were continuing with recovery arrangements and the Rockhampton City river gauge was 7.55m and steady. BoM maintain predictions of a peak up to 7.8m (moderate flood level) at Rockhampton gauge was probable by Thursday 16/12/10 with levels remaining at above 7m until at least 21/12/10. The peak was reached on 16/12/10 at a level of 7.65m. District Disaster Management Group (DDMG) situation reports to the State Disaster Coordination Centre (SDCC) regarding minor flooding in the Rockhampton Disaster District ceased.

On 27 December 2010 the Central Highlands LDMG activated with the LDCC operating for 24 hours a day with Fairbairn Dam 1.92m over the spillway. A minor flood level of 3.3m at Fairbairn Dam and 14m in Emerald was expected during the next 72hrs. These levels did not include forecasted heavy rainfall over the next 24-48hrs. The



Fitzroy River had already reached minor flood level and was currently at 7.2m. Flooding predictions for Fitzroy River continued to be monitored by the Rockhampton LDMG.

On 28 December 2010 the DDMG moved from 'Alert' status and stood up. Four requests for assistance were received from the CHLDMG. Predictions indicated the Nogoa River would reach 14.5m by late Wednesday which would cut the Vince Lester Bridge in Emerald. Floodwaters in Rolleston area appeared to be the highest on record. The Comet River would close the Capricorn Highway mid afternoon and maybe the railway line. The Nogoa River was still rising with a predicted flood height of 4.5m over the spillway at Fairbairn Dam. The Vince Lester Bridge was likely to close at

around 6pm on 29/12/10. Fairbairn Dam was currently 2.32m over the spillway.

The Rockhampton LDMG activated at 8am. Significant rainfall in the Mt Morgan area had created flash flooding overnight. The Rockhampton City river gauge was 7.75m and rising. Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) predictions indicated the Fitzroy River would reach 8m at the Rockhampton Gauge later that week and would continue rising. Major flood levels (of 8.5m) were possible early the following week.

The DDMG met at 1pm on 29 December 2010. The Premier, Minister, Deputy Commissioner Stewart and Honourable Robert Swarten attended the DDMG meeting. The Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services signed the Disaster Declaration for the Rockhampton Disaster District including the Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council, Central Highlands Regional Council and Rockhampton Regional Council at 2:12pm. The Fairbairn Dam was projected to reach 5m over the spillway. The Nogoa River was due to peak at Emerald at midday on Friday. The Vince Lester Bridge was expected to be cut at 5pm. The rail bridge from one side of Emerald to the other would be cut by midday Friday. Emergency Alert messages were distributed. CHLDMG continued modelling and planning based on flood levels 300mm greater than the 2008 flood. Two evacuations centres had opened at the Agricultural College and Town Hall. BoM predicted major flood levels in excess of 8.5m and up to 9m were expected early the following week at Rockhampton. At 9m 150 homes were expected to be inundated and over 1000 houses impacted by yard water.

By 30 December 2010 three evacuation centres were established in Emerald. The CHLDMG were in the process of setting up 2 further evacuation centres at schools on western side of the river. Up to at least 2500 people were expected to be evacuated based on currently modelling. Current predictions indicated at least 80% of town would be impacted by water at varying levels. Emerald consists of approximately 13,000 to 14,000 people but it was unsure how many were actually in town over the holiday break. At that stage there were no concerns with utilities - power, sewerage and water. Rail across Nogoa River had closed at approximately 8am that morning. Road access was



open north to Capella for 4WD and high vehicles. The airport was still open was not likely to be threatened. CHLDMG were expecting a peak of 16.2m.

In Rockhampton an evacuation centre at Central Queensland University was being established and would be advertised to the public from Friday. This facility could hold 600 people comfortably and up to 1200. Current predictions were indicating a 9.4+m height for the Fitzroy River. Road access to the airport would be restricted at 8.5m and the airport closes at 8.6m. Alternate sites for helicopter landings were identified for when the airport closed.

On 31 December 2010 the Nogoa River peaked in Emerald at 16.05m. Fairbairn Dam peaked at 5.65m over the spillway. All roads in and out of the Central Highlands region were closed. Approximately 80% of buildings in Emerald were inundated in some way. There was approximately 100mm of water through Woolworths Supermarket and the hospital was evacuated. The Rockhampton LDMG was planning for a 10+m flood and mapping for 10.5m. The group was planning for evacuations and a lengthy period of isolation. Weather was expected to deteriorate over weekend producing showers and some isolated thunderstorms which would not impact on river levels.

By 1 January 2011 the Nogoa River had dropped to 15.7m. The spillway at Fairbairn Dam had dropped 13cm from its peak. Water over Vince Lester Bridge has dropped 10cm from peak. The total number of people in evacuation centres was 508. Increases in evacuations were not expected at this stage. Approximately 1,000 houses suffered inundation inside at various levels. Approximately 3,000 houses had water in their yards 100% industrial had suffered partial or full water inundation. The Vince Lester Bridge was not expected to be out of the water until at least Tuesday. The Fitzroy River was 8.5m and was expected to be 9.4m by Wednesday. The Bruce Highway south closed at 7:40pm to all traffic. There were 16 persons in CQU evacuation centre and the airport ceased general and passenger movements as at 2:30pm. The airport remained available for emergency air operations. Floodwaters were moving quickly into flood plains surrounding Capricorn Highway.

From 2 January 2011 CHLDMG began to assess the damage as floodwaters receded. A 250m washout was evident on the western approach to Rail Bridge which



would require a substantial amount of restorative work before the railway bridge line would be serviceable again. QR National advised the line was predicted to be opened within 48 hours of waters receding. The Vince Lester Bridge may be able to be opened tomorrow with a weight limit and only a limited number of vehicles being able to cross at any one time. The Dawson River on Capricorn Highway is still 3.2m over bridge with the peak still expected. The Fitzroy River was currently at 8.7m with the Bruce and Capricorn Highways closed at Yeppen Roundabout with 500mm of water over road surface. Bruce Highway north was still open and currently having 900mm clearance. The airport is closed with the secondary runway ½ covered with water and the main runway having water at both ends. The airport was likely to be closed for up to 3 weeks.



By 5 January 2011 Central Highlands had moved well into clean up and recovery operations. The Central Highlands LDCC had now deactivated. There were still 224 persons in evacuation centres overnight and the CHLDMG were monitoring resupply in outlying areas. The Fairbairn Dam spillway had reduced to 1.92 metres. The river level at Emerald was 11.2m. A severe weather warning was issued at 11:10 am for heavy rainfall leading to localised flash flooding and potentially worsening the existing river flood situation for areas of Queensland. The Fitzroy River peaked at 9.2m and

the Bruce Highway south remained closed but northern highway was still open. There were 97 persons in the evacuation centre at CQU.

On 7 January 2011 there were still 61 persons in Emerald evacuation centres. Rail access to Emerald would be delayed for some time due to significant damage to rail lines. Capricorn Highway Emerald to Dingo was open. Road from Emerald north to Capella and beyond were open. Resupply of rural properties in the Duaringa and Dingo localities was continuing under the direction of EMQ. In Rockhampton water levels remain high (9.15m) with levels likely to exceed the major flood level of 8.5m for up to seven days. The Bruce Highway north remains open and will remain so. There were 134 persons in the evacuation centre and Major General Michael Slater attended Rockhampton for a tour of the area with Mayor Carter.

Five days later on 12 January 2011 the Fairbairn Dam had dropped to 1.02m above the spillway. There were still 36 persons the remaining evacuation centre at the Agricultural College. Transport and Main Roads Department were undertaking repairs to the Dawson River Bridge on the Capricorn Highway east of Duaringa and expected the bridge to open by midday. The Fitzroy River had dropped to 8.9m (finally below 9m!!!). The Rockhampton Morning Bulletin page one 'Where will our food come from' story caused renewed bouts of panic buying of food and fuel in Rockhampton. Panic buying created some resupply issues for local stores in Rockhampton, Gracemere, Yeppoon and Mt Morgan.

On 14 January 2011 the Central Highlands was in full recovery mode and the cleanup was continuing. The Fitzroy River had dropped to 8.5m at 1pm and the Bruce Highway south at Yeppen Crossing was opened to all traffic at 4pm. The airport was expected to open from 24 January for emergency services and hopefully fully operational by 28 January.



On morning of 16 January 2011 there were 29 persons in Agricultural College evacuation centre. The evacuation centre would cease operations from today. Rental accommodation and other facilities around Emerald had been sourced for all remaining evacuees. The Capricorn Highway at Gracemere remained closed until repairs could be completed to road surface.

Final response situation reports were completed on 17 January 2011 with 2 recovery situation reports completed on 18 and 19 January 2011. In Emerald a total of 1060 residences had floorboard inundation in Emerald was 1060. Outside Emerald Township (note assessments are still continuing in the rural areas) 5 residences in Rolleston, 1 house in Springsure and Arcadia Valley School also had inundations. According to Rockhampton Regional Council data bases the following land use classifications may have been affected to some extent by inundation as a result of this event:

- Aged Care/Nursing Homes - 16
- Agriculture - 63
- Business premises - 258
- Community spaces/clubs - 161
- Industry - 338
- Livestock production/use - 791
- Residences - 2858

- Vacant parcels - 826
- Schools – 3

Total property parcels - 5314

Clean up and recovery operations are continuing in each local government area.



5. Date of activation

The Rockhampton DDMG stood up and activated on 28 December 2010.

The Central Highlands LDMG activated on 27 December 2010 and the Rockhampton LDMG activated on 28 December 2010. The Woorabinda LDMG did not formally activate during this event.

6. Date / time of disaster declaration

A district level disaster situation for the Rockhampton Disaster District was declared by the Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Service at 2:12pm on 29 December 2010.

7. Date / time of ending of disaster situation

Due to the protracted nature of the event an application to extend the district level disaster situation under regulation was applied for on 4 January 2011 in accordance with section 67 of the DMA. The declaration extension which was to be endorsed by Executive Council on 11 January 2011 was subsequently not required due to a State level disaster situation declaration (including the Rockhampton disaster district) which was declared by the Premier at 10:12am on 11 January 2011. The State level declaration was made due to continued flooding and expected rainfall across a large area of the State.

The disaster situation subsequently ended on 25 January 2011 with the expiration of the 14 day period for the State level declaration (section 71 of DMA).

8. Brief overview of work conducted during disaster

The DDCC was activated on 28 December 2011. The primary functions of the DDCC included forward planning, resource management and information management. In particular the DDCC facilitated the implementation of operational decisions of the DDC, coordinated allocated local and State resources in support of the local government responses, and provided prompt and relevant information to both State (SDCC) and local disaster coordination centres (LDCC) concerning the flooding events occurring within the disaster district.

Once daily situation reports were forwarded to SDCC both during and prior to formal activation of the DDCC. A total of 33 DDMG situation reports were completed in relation to the flooding event.

The DDCC facilitated the receipt and processing of Requests for Assistance (RFAs) from LDMGs. A total of 24 RFAs were received from Central Highlands LDMG. Fifteen RFAs were received from Rockhampton LDMG and 4 RFAs were addressed in the Woorabinda LDMG area.

Other work included (but is not limited to):

- preparation of district level disaster declaration paperwork;
- briefing preparation and participation in SDMG daily teleconferences;
- coordination and chairing of DDMG meetings conducted throughout the event;
- preparation of dot point briefings as requested;
- liaison and provision of media interviews and briefings;
- monitoring DDC Rockhampton email accounts and provision of responses where required;
- status reports to DDMG members;
- liaison with EMQ regarding Resupply issues; and
- maintenance of situation boards, operations log and other DDCC administrative duties.

9. Key issues identified during –

9.1 Planning

A number of DDMG meetings were held in the later months of 2010. These meetings focussed on strengthening relationships and networks between agencies and ensuring the appropriate representatives with the required authority part of the DDMG. The

well established network ensured significant trust existed during the disaster ensuring information flow between agencies was at a level commensurate with the trust. Feedback from various members of the DDMG indicated the information flow was excellent and assisted members in performing their roles to a high standard.

The need for a formal review the existing DDMP was identified at the November 2010 DDMG meeting. The impact of the disaster event delayed this review, however, did not delay preplanning for a flood event based on Bureau of Meteorology advice. DDMG members agreed planning by LDMGs and DDMG meetings and information sessions prior to the event contributed to the success of the response. It was recognised groups planned well based on the advance notice of the flood event, however, the challenge remained to plan for the unexpected like what occurred in Toowoomba and the Lockyer Valley.

9.2 Response

The district response encompassed 3 local government areas which each had unique issues and were in response and recovery phases at different times. This was a challenge for DDCC operations but provided an opportunity to learn and improve responses in each area as the flood moved from one local government area to the next.

The DDCC was established at an external site. The Rockhampton Police Complex does not have the capacity to accommodate the DDCC as well as maintain core operational functions. The only information technology option available was via a wireless network which was inadequate to meet the demands of a busy DDCC. Alternative IT solutions will need to be explored for future disasters.

Demand for statistical information was a strain on LDMGs at times however, it is recognised this cannot be avoided. Changes to timings and formats of situation reports was also problematic due to reports already being established in the Guardian system and LDMGs and DDMGs having to change meeting schedules at short notice to suit State requirements. Whilst disaster events are very dynamic in nature consistency (as far as is possible) throughout events would assist DDMG and LDMG operations. The timings and format of situation reports between local, district and State disaster management groups was identified as an area in which significant improvements could be made. The Executive Officer has an action item to collate feedback from the LDMGs and DDMG members and forward advice to the State in the form of a SDMG briefing

paper. Generally information flow between LDMGs and DDMG was considered to have worked well. Improvements to information flows were identified during the course of operations and have already been implemented.

During the debrief issues were identified with the management of air operations. A DDMG action item has been set for the Executive Officer to liaise with QFRS and Department of Defence regarding the establishment of standard operating procedures to improve responses in this area for future events.

9.3 Recovery

Community goodwill after the flooding event has resulted in a significant amount of donated clothing, household effects and other items which are surplus to the needs of the local community. Local welfare agencies such as St Vincent De Paul and Salvation Army have restocked from donated goods and do not have capacity to take further stock. Community members are continuing to donate items and difficulties have been experienced in refusing donations. The importance of people feeling they are able to contribute in some way is integral to the community recovery process.

The current issues are:

- There is a lack of capacity to continue to store surplus donated goods.
- There are no clear guidelines for disposal of surplus goods.
- There are significant transport costs involved to relocate and/or dispose of surplus items (due to volumes).
- There is a potential for community/media backlash if donations are 'dumped'.
- There is a potential impact on the mental health recovery process if uniform principles are not developed to manage the receipt and subsequent disposal of donated items after disaster events.
- The current weather event will cause significant distraction across multiple Disaster Districts resulting in this issue continuing to develop.

It is recommended a State-wide solution be developed in response to this issue as it is applicable to multiple Disaster Districts. Further, it is recommended uniform guidelines be developed to address the receipt and disposal of donated goods after disaster events.

10. Rockhampton DDMG Debrief

Making mistakes at work, although sometimes painful, can be valuable as long as we learn from them. The same can be said for successes.

- The Vancouver Sun November 24, 2007

A formal debrief of the Rockhampton DDMG was conducted on Wednesday, 16 February 2011. The debrief was attended by Assistant Commissioner Andy Henderson, Chief Superintendent Michael Hannigan, the substantive DDC, Superintendent Ron Van Saane, relieving DDC during the flood event, Inspector David Peff, DDMG Executive Officer, staff who worked in the DDCC and members of the Rockhampton DDMG.

The purpose of the debrief was '**to evaluate the effectiveness of the DDMG response to the disaster event impacting the Rockhampton Disaster District in December 2010 and January 2011**'. The objectives of the debrief included:

- To evaluate the operations success/problems and the group's effectiveness responding to the disaster event.
- To improve knowledge management and organisational learning.
- To ensure learnings flow into strategy and capability enabling the group to implement changes that could increase the effectiveness of future responses to disaster events.
- To identify ways to overcome problems encountered.
- To provide a mechanism for individual members to benefit psychologically from expressing what they experienced and learned during the operation.
- To reflect on the command process, the equipment used, the tasks undertaken and the team environment—including interoperability with coalition partners.
- To capture personal insights from operations (in a non-threatening environment) in order to identify lessons.

The following ground rules were established to prior to the debrief commencing:

- Open communication is encouraged to highlight key successes of the response to the event, as well as identifying problems and points of concern to individual group members.
- All concerns will be briefly identified, recorded and displayed on a large board for all members to see. Each point will then be discussed to analyse the problem, identify causes and recommend solutions to prevent the problem recurring in future operations.
- The focus will be on team discussion to resolve problems and prohibit personal criticism of individuals, 'witch-hunts', or apportioning blame.
- A debrief report will be compiled after the debriefing. This will contain recommendations on the implementation of solutions to problems identified during the debriefing as well as acknowledging successes.
- The debrief is not a platform for people to expound their own virtues. The primary aim of the debriefing is to evaluate and discover the balance between successful and unsuccessful areas of the operation.

During the debrief the DDMG considered each of the following key areas:

- Activation
- Response/Planning
- DDMG Meetings during event:
- Situation Reports
- DDMG composition
- Information flow
- Requests for Assistance
- Media management
- Recovery
- Evacuation Centres
- Other issues

The below questions were considered when discussing issues within each key area:

- What went well?
- What did not go well?
- Could we have done better?
- Lessons learnt?
- How can we improve?

Activation

There was agreement the DDMG stood up in a timely manner. Members were receiving email briefings in the lead up to the event and there was agreement email communication and the follow up phone calls worked well. The group agreed meeting in November and early December 2010 assisted preplanning activities and allowed agencies to ensure appropriate representation on both LDMGs and the DDMG.

Members concurred that both LDMGs and the DDMG planned well for the expected flooding event. The challenge for the group would be to ensure plans were in place for an unplanned event similar in magnitude to the one which occurred in Toowoomba and the Lockyer Valley. Consistency and flow of information between the LDMGs and DDMG was considered a strength during the event and the once daily DDMG meeting was considered sufficient.

Agencies identified internal weaknesses concerning the availability of staff over the Christmas period. Agencies confirmed internal debriefs had identified a number of learnings regarding leave planning and on call arrangements to ensure this was not an issue for future events. The group agreed the strength of the existing DDMG relationships was a large factor in the success of operations. Networking and pre-event meetings and briefings ensured the right people with the right skill base were represented on the DDMG. Established relationships ensured communications during the high stress environment remained effective.

Response

Agency representation in the DDCC during the response was identified as an area where improvement could be made. Again, due to the Christmas break some members found themselves being both the head of their agency and the functional lead. The DDC indicated some decisions and taskings could have been actioned in a more timely manner had liaison officers been readily available in the centre instead of by phone or email. Fortunately during this event there were no communications failures to impact on operations. It was recognised each disaster needs to be managed differently and liaison officers situated permanently in the DDCC would be critical where there was a communications failure or during a more dynamic event. The group identified flexibility was the key and options such as liaison officers being in the centre for 2 hours in the morning and then 2 hours in the afternoon were also considered.

Air Operations

CHLDMG identified air operations in Emerald were problematic during the coordination of localised evacuations across the Nogoa River. The group agreed that priority tasking needed to be completed at a district level,

however, due to geography some assets could be allocated to the LDMG for tasking at a local level. Due to the complexities involved an action item was set for the Executive to liaise with QFRS to establish standard protocols for incorporation into the Rockhampton Disaster Management Plan for future events.

Cross Disaster District Consultation

Liaison with the Gladstone DDMG was identified as an issue for members. A number of Rockhampton DDMG members are also on the Gladstone DDMG and agencies were responding to disaster events in 2 disaster districts. The group identified efficiencies in resource management could have been coordinated between the Theodore/Banana incident and the events occurring in the Rockhampton District. The DDC indicated he liaised with the Gladstone DDC on a daily basis and the Executive Officer has commenced consultation with neighbouring Executive Officers for meeting planning and joint exercises.

Emerald Evacuation Centres

It was identified further planning was required regarding the location and trigger points for Emerald evacuation centres. CHLDMG indicated planning had already commenced based on higher than 16.05m flood level. Further briefings regarding this issue would be available during the March 2011 DDMG meeting.

Road Closures

Problems regarding the establishment and enforcement of road closures were identified by both LDMGs. This was an issue across both LDMGs and was also identified during the 1991 Rockhampton Flood Debrief. The 'ROAD CLOSED' sign is used at temporary road closures where the road is non-trafficable due to (in this case) flood waters. Roads are only closed due to safety concerns and drivers must not proceed beyond a road closed sign.

Police within the Rockhampton District issued between 50 and 100 traffic infringement notices (*Code 1913 – Disobey Road Access Sign - \$120 and 3 points*) for disobeying road closure signs during the flood event. This received mixed reactions from the community but was viewed as a road safety priority due to the recent fatalities caused by motorists attempting to cross flooded roadways.

There is some contention whether the 'Road Closed' sign is an enforceable traffic sign. To date infringement notices issued during recent flood events have not been tested in court. A summons has been issued for an infringement notice issued in the Rockhampton District, however at this stage it is unknown what the offender will be contesting.

The importance of being able to enforce road closed signs is critical to saving lives by deterring motorists from crossing flooded roadways. It is recommended the Queensland Police Service and Department of Transport and Main Roads examine this issue and confirm legislative provisions exist for enforcement during future flood events.

DDMG meetings

The frequency of DDMG meetings during the event was considered appropriate. Due to a number of other LDMG, teleconference and agency briefings members agreed any more than one DDMG meeting would reduce the capacity of agencies to respond due to continually being in a meeting. The issue of mobile phone use during meetings was raised and it was recommended members hand their phones over to staff or take calls outside so as not to interrupt meeting proceedings. Again, flexibility based on what was occurring at the time was identified as a key consideration.

Suitability of the DDCC venue was discussed with a number of issues identified. Improved teleconference capability was raised by CHLDMG who often had difficulty in hearing speakers during DDMG meetings. The building was also identified as being too small to cater for meetings and operations. An action item was set for the Executive Officer to liaison with DDMG agencies to identify alternative venue options which would meet the needs of the group during disaster operations.

Situation Reports

Timeliness of situation reports from LDMGs was identified as an issue, however, the efforts to at least provide email or verbal briefings was appreciated. The group discussed the need to get smarter with collating one situation report incorporating information from all agencies. It was agreed the current situation report format needed reviewing and required consistency across the State. The group agreed a standard IT solution across the State (similar to the Guardian System) would be an ideal solution. This would allow information to be extracted at any level (Local, District or State) at any point in time. This would assist in reducing the additional calls and requests for email dot point briefings which impacted response capabilities during the event. The demand for statistical information was recognised as being unavoidable but may be alleviated by an effective IT solution to situation reporting.

DDMG Composition

The group considered the sufficiency of DDMG agency representation during the flooding event. The absence of the Department of Education

and Training (DET) and a representative from Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) were identified as deficiencies. The Executive Officer confirmed suitable representatives have since be determined and is in the process of formalising governance arrangements for these agencies to be DDMG members. In the meantime representatives from DET and DERM have been included on DDMG contact lists.

Requests for Assistance / Information Flow

Initial problems were identified with management of information flows and requests for assistance between the LDMGs and DDMG due to the high volume of information being received. It was clear feedback to LDMGs regarding requests for assistance was deficient in the initial stages of the disaster. This was corrected during the event with taskings and reminder emails cc'd to LDMGs so they remained in the information loop.

The quality of information contained in requests for assistance was also identified as needing improvement. The importance of 'effect' based requests and appropriate contact information were identified as key issues. It was evident CHLDMG did not have the capability to complete RFAs during the peak response period. Key needs were identified during teleconferences with CHLDMG and assistance in drafting RFAs was provided from the DDMG level.

Agencies also identified the 'forced' assistance which was not specifically requested by LDMGs but provided from State or departmental level. An example included the provision of certain equipment and hand sanitiser. Whilst members were appreciative of assistance the group acknowledged the importance of ensuring the local economy was not detrimentally affected through equipment and products being supplied from outside the disaster area.

Media Management

The group concurred that generally media was managed effectively during the course of the disaster. Only 2 incidents of misreporting were identified and these were quickly corrected by local media. Concern was raised regarding reporting of 'panic buying' and continual images of bare supermarket shelves. These reports did not accurately reflect the true situation and images mostly related to one particular supermarket.

The DDC commended agencies for their media releases and confirmed they only reported information specific to their area of control which supported the overall operational picture reported by Mayors and the DDC.

Finally, the group recognised the importance of continually engaging the media during disaster events to ensure accurate reporting in the future.

Evacuation Centres / Recovery

Due to time restraints issues regarding evacuation centres and recovery were not discussed during the debrief on 16 February 2011. It was agreed these items would be held over until the next DDMG meeting on 15 March 2011. CHLDMG indicated this would better suit their needs as they would have more detailed information to provide at the later date. The District Recovery Committee continues to meet on a regular basis to overview recovery operations.

Recommendations:

1. It is recommended the Rockhampton Disaster Management Plan be reviewed and learnings from recent event be incorporated into the plan.
2. It is recommended the Executive Officer and QFRS develop standard air operations protocols for incorporation into the Rockhampton Disaster Management Plan.
3. It is recommended the Executive Officer continue liaison with Executive Officers from Gladstone and Mackay Districts to ensure effective management of disaster events across multiple districts.
4. It is recommended the Queensland Police Service and Department of Transport and Main Roads examine the issue regarding enforcement of road closures and confirm legislative provisions exist for enforcement during future flood events.
5. It is recommended the Executive Officer review options for an alternative venue for the DDCC which meets information technology, business continuity and space requirements.
6. It is recommended the Executive Officer capture the sentiments of the DDMG in regard to Situation Reports and complete a SDMG briefing paper.
7. It is recommended the Executive Officer formalise governance arrangements for representatives from DET and DERM to be DDMG members.

8. It is recommended the Executive Officer review the DDCC Standard Operating Procedures to clarify information flows and the management of requests for assistance.
9. It is recommended EMQ provide LDMGs further training in the preparation of requests for assistance.
10. It is recommended a State-wide solution be developed in response to donated goods as it is applicable to multiple Disaster Districts. Further, it is recommended uniform guidelines be developed to address the receipt and disposal of donated goods after disaster events (see Appendix E).
11. It is recommended clarification be provided at a State level regarding 'ownership' of DDMG documents for the purpose of compliance with the *Right to Information Act 2009* and *Information Privacy Act 2009*.

'Living things have been doing just that for a long, long time. Through every kind of disaster and setback and catastrophe. We are survivors.'
- Robert Fulghum

APPENDICES:

- | | | |
|------------|---|--|
| Appendix A | - | Rockhampton Disaster District Plan |
| Appendix B | - | Declaration of disaster situation – district level |
| Appendix C | - | Declaration of disaster situation – State level |
| Appendix D | - | Timeline |
| Appendix E | - | SDMG Briefing Paper regarding donated goods |

Distribution:

1. District Disaster Coordinator
2. District Disaster Management Group members
3. Assistant Commissioner, Central Region
4. Assistant Commissioner, QPS Flood Crisis Review Group
5. State Disaster Management Group
6. Disaster Management, Operations Support Command

Approved:

R VAN SAANE
District Disaster Coordinator

Rockhampton District

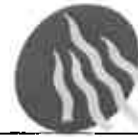
Date:

ROCKHAMPTON
District Disaster Management Group
meeting held 3 November 2010

Attendance Sheet

Quorum = 8 appointed members

	Agency	Name	Agency Abbreviation
Members	<i>District Officer, Queensland Police Service DDC / Chairperson</i>	A/Superintendent David Peff	QPS
	<i>Senior Sergeant, Queensland Police Service Executive Officer</i>	Senior Sergeant Rebecca Martin	QPS
	<i>Queensland Police Service</i>	Robyn Hanley	QPS
	<i>Queensland Police Service</i>	Sergeant Jon Cookson	QPS
	<i>Area Director, Queensland Ambulance Service</i>	Steven Coombs	QAS
	<i>Emergency Management Queensland</i>	Glenn Bell	EMQ
	<i>Emergency Management Queensland</i>	Robbie Medlin	EMQ
	<i>Emergency Management Queensland</i>	Patrick Downing	EMQ
	<i>Rockhampton Regional Council</i>	Brad Carter	RCC
	<i>Rockhampton Regional Council</i>	Andrew Bicknell	RRC
	<i>Transport and Main Roads</i>	Bill Moran	TMR
	<i>Queensland Health</i>	Paul Florian	QH
	<i>QBUILD</i>	Ross Laycock	QBUILD
	<i>QBUILD</i>	Leigh Tiegs	QBUILD
	<i>Queensland Fire & Rescue Service</i>	Colin May	QFRS
	<i>Department of Communities</i>	Ken Crane	DOC
	<i>Department of Communities</i>	Delilah MacGillivray	DOC
	<i>Central Highlands Regional Council</i>	Bill Wilkinson	CHRC
	<i>Queensland Health</i>	Meredith Arcus	QH
Member Apologies	<i>Regional Executive Director, Department of Communities</i>	Michael Shearer	DOC
	<i>Mayor, Central Highlands Regional Council</i>	Peter Maquire	CHRC
	<i>CEO, Central Highlands Regional Council</i>	Bryan Ottone	CHRC



Advisors	<i>Queensland Building Services Authority</i>	Edward Goodsall	QBSA
	<i>Australian Defence Force</i>	Bob Chandler	JOSS-NQ
	<i>Bureau of Meteorology</i>	Mike Marrinan	BOM
	<i>Red Cross</i>	Jenny Smith	
	<i>QR National</i>	Gavin Alexander	QR

ROCKHAMPTON DDMG

**Ordinary Meeting Minutes
3 November 2010**

Conducted at QBuild Deport, North Street commencing at 10:10am

Presiding Chair: Acting Superintendent David Peff

	<u>Responsible Agency</u>
Welcome and Apologies	
The Chair opened the meeting at 10:10am, noting the apologies	
1. Minutes, Resolution Statement and business arising from previous meeting	
<p>Nil issues arising</p> <p>Resolution: Previous minutes formally accepted – moved by Leigh Tiegs and seconded by Paul Florian.</p>	
2. Presentation / Training: Dept. of Defence - JOSS	
<p><i>Bob Chandler</i> presented to Members an overview / training session on DACC & Plan Ironbark.</p> <p>Resolution: <i>Copy of presentation offered to all members and forwarded to those who requested a copy.</i></p>	QPS – SSGT R Martin.
3. Presentation / Training: Bureau of Meterology	
<p><i>Mike Marrinan</i> presented briefing on 2010/11 storm season.</p> <p>Chair required members to be focussed / aware over the next six months due to the issues raised during the presentation.</p> <p>Resolution: <i>Copy of presentation offered to all members and forwarded to those who requested a copy.</i></p>	QPS – SSGT R Martin.
4. District Disaster Management Plan (Meeting Briefing 1)	
<p>The Plan was last reviewed in February 2009 and requires updating and a consistent approach.</p> <p>The Chair advised of the requirement to comply with legislation as soon as possible.</p> <p>The Chair discussed implications regarding media interviews and including who should give media information and appropriate management of releases.</p>	



<p>Resolution: <i>DDMP to be sent to all members for input. Feedback to be forwarded to S/Sgt Martin. S/Sgt Martin will make direct contact to groups if required. Timeframe: end of January for agreement.</i></p> <p>Resolution: <i>Local media protocols to be incorporated into plan</i></p>	<p>All DDMG members.</p> <p>QPS – SSGT R Martin.</p>
<p>5. DDMG Governance Arrangements (Meeting Briefing 2)</p>	
<p>S/Sgt Martin queried if anyone else should be added to the membership of the group. Suggestion for ABC Radio for media link for emergencies – as Advisor only as opposed to a core group member.</p> <p>Deputies to attend meetings with core members to obtain familiarisation with how group operates. Not necessary for deputies to attend every meeting, however, each members should consider planned leave and the need to familiarise deputies with current issues prior to departing.</p> <p>Resolution: <i>Review required of current membership list. RMCN membership requires confirmation Follow up re ABC Radio representative – advisory member only All DDMG members are to identify and nominate suitable deputies and complete prescribed form for approval by Chair.</i></p> <p>Resolution: <i>Firm views on DDMG membership to be considered for the next meeting. S/Sgt Martin to send out the list of members for discussion at next meeting.</i></p> <p>Resolution: <i>S/Sgt Martin to complete a draft Induction Package</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>specific issues</i> - <i>Terms of Reference / Functions / Expectation</i> - <i>Protection from liability.</i> <p>Resolution: <i>Orientation Package – all core group members and deputies to complete at a meeting to bring all members up to speed – after which is it the agency's responsibility to bring their member up to speed (XO available to assist where requested)..</i></p>	<p>All DDMG Members</p> <p>QPS – SSGT R Martin.</p> <p>QPS – SSGT R Martin.</p> <p>QPS – SSGT R Martin.</p>
<p>6. Exercise / Meeting Calendar (Meeting Briefing 3)</p>	
<p>Discussed implications of upcoming cyclone / storm season. Identified need for a themed desktop exercise eg. evacuation.</p> <p>Discussed the need to ensure community was adequately prepared for storm season. EMQ briefed group regarding the availability of resources on the Internet. Discussed need to review what resources were available to ensure consistency in messages promoted.</p>	



<p>Resolution: <i>S/Sgt Martin to prepare DDMG calendar incorporating meeting dates for the next 12 months. Ensure Longreach dates are also included. Meetings proposed for December, February and April (for Annual Report) then review and agree on quarterly meetings.</i></p>	<p>QPS – SSGT R Martin.</p>
<p>Resolution: <i>Status of Evacuation Guidelines - are only draft at present, to be followed up and distributed by EMQ.</i></p>	<p>EMQ</p>
<p>Resolution: <i>S/Sgt Martin to prepare a theme for the next meeting:</i> <i>- focus on floods/cyclones</i> <i>- narrow down to evacuation</i> <i>- issues type meeting</i></p>	<p>QPS – SSGT R Martin.</p>
<p>Resolution: <i>Preparedness resources to be reviewed and links distributed to members to promote within their own agencies.</i></p>	<p>EMQ / QPS – SSGT R Martin.</p>
<p>7. Agency Reports (Meeting Briefing 4)</p>	
<p>Discussed importance of status reports and how frequency they were required. Group considered need for reports twice per year – one due before annual report and the other around November before cyclone/storm season. The Chair implored each agency to ensure Status Reports are submitted.</p> <p>Desktop exercises / Status Reports Each agency is to provide a briefing regarding their readiness for the upcoming season in their Status Reports.</p> <p>An issue was raised concerning feedback not being provided from State Group after direction has been sought. With the changes to the legislation XO will ensure that if a matter is reported to a higher level then responses will be followed up.</p> <p>S/Sgt Martin informed group the XO position now is a 'stand alone' role and members' feedback is important. Will follow-up directions and give this feedback to the group. The Chair advised a dedicated position will take on the governance role and ensure consistency for group as a whole..</p>	
<p>Resolution: <i>Status Reports to be submitted:</i> 1. <i>prior to / lead up to the cyclone season</i> 2. <i>post - before April for the Annual Report</i></p> <p><i>All Status Reports that have not been already submitted are to be submitted before the next meeting.</i></p>	<p>All DDMG Members</p>
<p>Resolution: <i>The DDC to report back to the group regarding the Annual Report (included in Inwards Correspondence). An electronic copy of the Annual Report to be forwarded to all members.</i></p>	<p>QPS – SSGT R Martin.</p>



8. Inwards/Outwards Correspondence	
<u>Inwards</u>	
21 June 2010 - Bruce Grady – Executive Officer, SDMG Request for the 2009/10 Annual Report	
4 October 2010 - Karla Melton – Information Resource Officer – Stanwell Power Station Stanwell Water Supply Dam Emergency Action Plan	
<u>Outwards</u>	
2 August 2010 - State Disaster Manager Group Provision of the 2009/10 Annual Report	
9. Other Business	
Nil	
10. Next Meeting	
<i>Tuesday, 7 December 2010</i>	All Members

Meeting Closed: 12:23pm

Attendance Sheet Attached (See Appendix A, for Attendance Sheet template)

**Rockhampton District Disaster Management
Meeting Friday, 31 December 2010**

Present: - Prime Minister Julia GILLARD;
Premier Anna BLIGH;
Deputy Commissioner Ian STEWART;
Assistant Commissioner Alan DAVEY;
A/Superintendent Dave PEFF;
Mayor Brad CARTER;
Regional Director EMQ CQ Robbie MEDLIN;
Superintendent QFRS Col MAY;
Major Phil DUNCAN, ADF;
Various other Officers from Agencies involved in the District Disaster
Management Group
Judy Munro (Minutes)

Meeting Commenced 1pm

A/Superintendent PEFF welcomed Prime Minister GILLARD and Premier BLIGH to this meeting of the Rockhampton District Disaster Management Group, and provided an update on the situation at Emerald.

- The river at Emerald has peaked and is just on the turn.
- 1,260 people were registered for evacuation, with 480 people being evacuated. It is considered all preparations were appropriate.
- 500 homes have been evacuated. While the river has peaked water is still rising in some parts of the north-west part of Emerald.
- The Early Warning System has been a tremendous help.
- There are no concerns with water, power and sewerage.
- Road and rail transport infrastructure has been affected.
- The Vince Lester Bridge will be visible late Tuesday and will be subject to inspection prior to reopening.
- The rail bridge will be inspected tomorrow and when functioning will be available for rail transport.
- There is a major concern for the next 24 to 48 hours with resupply for isolated communities.
- Consideration can be given to the Rapid Assessment Team to be commenced.

- Resupply is occurring at Springsure and Blackwater.
- Emerald Woolworths has water over the floor area, while Coles has approximately 1m water through it.
- 14 people were evacuated from the hospital. These evacuations have been questioned, however we are comfortable with the decision to do so.

Mayor CARTER thanked the Prime Minister and Premier for their time taken to visit the Rockhampton area.

- Flood waters in the Fitzroy are expected to reach 9m by Sunday and 9.4m by Tuesday. It is expected to peak at 9.4m and remain at 8.5m until mid January.
- Roads to the south and west will be closed and the airport will be closed by Saturday. There are already some isolated communities in the areas of Alton Downs, Ridglands, Stanage Bay and Stockyard Point.
- An Evacuation Centre has been established and became functional this morning at CQU. Emergency accommodation will be available for 1200 people if needed.
- The support and assistance of all agencies was acknowledged.
- There is an issue with Shopping Centres supplies with road closures and the provision of essential supplies. Consideration has been given to this issue and planning is in place for the use of barges, sea transport and road transport to the north.
- Decision made to implement declaration for compulsory evacuation with the cooperation of the Police Service.
- Council Officers door knocked 1000 homes and identified sick, elderly and persons requiring medical treatment.
- The amount of voluntary evacuation throughout the week has been encouraging.
- Additional assistance has been provided by way of military aircraft.
- The Ambulance Service has made arrangements to provide an ambulance service to the residential community of Gracemere; a fire service will also be available.

Rockhampton Regional CEO advised the water supply and sewerage systems are still functioning without issues. There is no concern with water supply unless the river rises a further 2 metres and the sewerage will be an issue with a rise of approximately a further 1 metre.

Prime Minister GILLARD thanked everyone for their tireless efforts.

Premier BLIGH reiterated the comments of the Prime Minister in thanking everyone for their efforts. She has been kept well informed of the situation with regular briefings.

Meeting closed approximately 1pm.

Rockhampton District Disaster Management Group Minutes

Date: 2 January 2011
Venue: District Disaster Co-ordination Centre, QBuild Depot, North Street
Opened: 1400hrs

Attendees: A/Superintendent Dave PEFF (DDC, DDMG) QPS
Senior Sergeant Rebecca MARTIN (Exec Officer, DDMG) QPS
Mayor Brad CARTER, Rockhampton Regional Council
Tony CULLEN, Media Rep, RRC
Wayne PREEDY, EMQ
Superintendent Col MAY, QFRS
Major Phil DUNCAN, ADF
Michael CRAWFORD, TMR
Rod BODDICE, Q HEALTH
Paul FLORIAN, Q ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
Steven COOMBS, QAS
Lionel BLUMEL, QBUILD
Ross LAYCOCK, QBUILD
Mike MARRINAN, BOM
Mick SHEARER, DOCS
Phil HENRY, DEEDI
Edward GOODSALL, QBSA
Gordon LEECH, QR National
Mayor Peter MAGUIRE, CH Regional Council (Teleconference)
Jenny SMITH, Red Cross
Graham IVES, BAS
Bert BORLA ND, Ergon Energy
Dave CUSKELLY, QPS
Dave NEVIN, QPS
Mark LAING, QPS
Shane HANCOCK, QPS
Kerry HODGSON, QPS
Shane WILLIAMS, QPS
Judy Munro, QPS (Minutes)

1. Introduction and Welcome:

A/Superintendent PEFF, DDC opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Inspector Peter FLANDERS was introduced to the group. It was advised that he was A/Superintendent PEFF'S deputy and in his absence any decisions that will need to be made will be made by Inspector FLANDERS.

2. Update from BOM

Mr MARRINAN advised Hydrologists have checked the Riversleigh gauge and water mark was slightly above the reading. However it is still expected the Fitzroy height will reach 9.3ms/9.4ms. There are also expected to be a few storms over the catchment area.

3. Update from Central Highlands LDMG

Mayor MAGUIRE advised the Premier has been in Emerald today visiting local areas.

Road access: -

- There is still no access west to east or east to west.
- Vince Lester Bridge is still closed. Will be inspected in the morning (3/1/2011) and it is hoped to get one lane opened to traffic.
- Gregory Highway is expected to be open 3/1/2011.
- Main Roads will have traffic control.
- There is a 10 tonne limit on the road to the north.

Recovery Phase: -

- CHLDMG is now moving in the recovery phase.
- A shed on the airport side of Emerald is being utilised to store cleaning products and distribution will be from this area.
- The Recovery Centre will be situated at the Art Gallery.
- DOCS staff will be going into the PCYC or the Ag College.
- There are already people going back into their residences and throwing out rubbish and there is a concern that waste disposal will be a problem.
- Also concerns in respect to industrial estate waste. A request for assistance will be made from the Brisbane group.
- The Hospital is back in operation, although the clinic at the Ag College will remain open until the road is open.
- Woolworths have cleared the water from their premises and are open today from 3pm to 5pm.
- Ergon and Energex crews are already working to get power reconnected.
- The flexible habitat is being erected.
- There are a number of evacuations remain constant.

A/Superintendent PEFF inquired if there was an issue with people going back into their houses who should not be.

Mayor MAGUIRE responded that a notice has been prepared and sent out providing information in respect to power connection and other relevant issues. At this time people are not staying in the houses but have commenced stripping their houses of ruined equipment.

Waste disposal will be coordinated and at this stage it is possible will be taken to the Capella dump. No assistance is required in respect to the supply of additional trucks for the transport of waste.

Re-supply issues:

A/Superintendent PEFF inquired regarding the situation in outlying areas of Springsure, Anakie, Dingo.

Mayor MAGUIRE responded that food drops are continuing.

A/Superintendent PEFF sought confirmation of the local Ag Force contact.

Mr HENRY responded that the local Ag Force contact is Christine ROLF and this then goes through to Ken MURPHY.

A/Superintendent PEFF questioned if fuel was a resupply issue. Multi national companies can do their own supply.

Mayor MAGUIRE advised there was currently no issue with fuel however he will follow up in this respect.

The Vince Lester Bridge is expected to be open before the rail bridge.

Mr LAYCOCK advised that six (6) electricians are on their way to assist with power supply issues in Emerald. He questioned if it was possible for a register to be created of people in need.

Mayor MAGUIRE advised that Ergon are already assisting with getting services back on.

4. Update from Rockhampton LDMG

Roads/Airport Closure:

- Mayor CARTER advised no key decisions have been made since yesterday. Dave's call to close the Capricorn Highway and the Bruce Highway was correct as there was half a metre of water across the Bruce Highway at Yeppen this morning. Also the decision to close the airport yesterday was a prudent decision as there is quite a lot of water covering the airport.

Fly Over:

- Mayor CARTER, Mr SCHWARTEN and the CEO of Rockhampton Regional Council had a fly over of areas including Alton Downs, Port Curtis, Ridgeland and Gracemere.
- There is no flooding in the new residential area at Gracemere.
- There are a number of rural homes to the north that are isolated.
- There are also some isolated pockets of cattle that may be at risk and this has been reported to the LDMG.
- Water is extremely widespread.
- There is not yet a lot of houses with water across the floor boards, there may be possibly 20 or so.
- Hastings Deering has a small amount of area before water reaches offices.
- There appears to be not a lot of real extensive damage anywhere.
- There is a fuel depot at Depot Hill where it appears fuel drums are floating.
- In respect to the Bruce Highway north it is difficult at this stage to say if there is risk of closure.

A/Superintendent PEFF commented in respect to the Bruce Highway north and advised 100mls under at this point.

- The Bruce Highway going south (approximately ½km south) there is water flowing at a quick pace across the highway.
- The secondary runway at the airport water is running across at a bit of a pace. There is concern with the airport with water getting under the bitumen.
- There is a possibility the airport may be out for 3 weeks.

Re-supply issues:

A/Superintendent PEFF inquired if consideration has been given to looking at re-supply for shops in Rockhampton.

Mayor CARTER responded that Gavin was looking at this.

Mr CULLEN added that an answer to this should be received by 4.30pm this afternoon.

Mr FLORIAN questioned if any consideration has been given to re-supply in respect to pharmaceuticals for pharmacies.

Mr CULLEN responded this is also being looked at.

A/Superintendent PEFF advised there may be a possible need to ration fuel. Caltex Stations have a 24hr car service, which allows for use by not only Government Caltex Cards but anyone with a credit card. It might be necessary to identify one Caltex Station for use by emergency services only.

Q Health:

Mayor CARTER advised that a health facility has been established at Gracemere.

Mr BODDICE advised assistance has been given and joined with the Gracemere Family Service from 11am this morning. A health clinic will be operating from 8am to 6pm.

Mr CULLEN advised that this information did not make the 10am media session but this has been sent out to all media and will be advised at the media session tomorrow morning.

Fodder drops:

Mayor CARTER advised he is not aware of any requests from the local group.

However, Matthew McCAMLEY has advised on behalf of Brett COOMBES who has lost 400 head of stock and has a lot of stock that cannot get food. The issue is this property is not in the Rockhampton area.

Mr HENRY advised he will get all the details from Mayor CARTER and will follow up with this matter.

QFRS:

Mr FISHER advised that fuel supply will not be an issue in the Rockhampton area. The fuel depot is still open and private helicopter owners are all ok.

Ag Force:

Mr HENRY advised that all Ag Force requests are being coordinated by Ken Murphy.

Mr CULLEN commented that a lot of media requests are being made as to where fodder drops are being made.

Evacuation Centre:

Mayor CARTER advised there were about 40 people in the evacuation centre.

Recovery Phase Emerald and Supply of Support Workers:

A/Superintendent PEFF commented in respect to the recovery phase commencing in Emerald and advice was sought from agencies in respect to how many people would be sent to Emerald, whether it is tomorrow or three to four days time.

- **DOCS:**

Mr Shearer advised that either 33 or 34 people are in Emerald now as an advance party. The number is likely to increase on advice from the LDMG up to 50, with rotation through on a 5 day deployment.

The habitat will not be used. A couple of the local motels will be contacted for accommodation to put some money back into the community.

Our group of people will commence tomorrow providing assistance initially with financial hardship payments and the next phase will be advice in respect to insurance matters, etc. The priority is people who are not insured.

The smaller communities will also be worked with through the LDMG.

Assistance will be provided in conjunction with Lifeline, Centrelink and other counselling services. The purpose is to provide as much information and financial support as possible.

Consideration is being given to the group setting up in the PCYC.

- **QBUILD:**

Mr LAYCOCK advised people will be on the ground mid afternoon tomorrow and will be ready to go. Query was made if assistance can be given in respect to the provision of a register to assist with addresses for the 900 houses that need to be inspected.

Accommodation will be provided at Capella. There will be no impact on Emerald itself in respect to supply issues.

Assistance will be provided trying to get communications up and running. Assistance will be provided in the first instance to our own people.

Mr SHEARER responded that as people come in for our assessment process a check can be made whether support is needed and this information can be fed back to QBUILD.

- **QFRS:**

Mr MAY advised that the Rapid Assessment Team is being organised.

Ten new start people are setting up the flexible habitat; once this is set up there will be seven people as part of the rapid assessment team as from this afternoon.

- **Q ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH:**

Mr FLORIAN advised that one person is going out tomorrow to help with environmental health issues. The QFRS staff doing rapid assessment work will cut work relating to environment health matters in half.

- **BSA:**

Mr IVES advised he would liaise with QBUILD and get relevant information out for distribution.

Mr SHEARER advised he is happy to distribute whatever information/brochures agencies have available. All information can be displayed at the centre.

- **DEEDI:**

Mr HENRY advised that their office at Hospital Road will need to be checked out electrically and our support will be provided initially to staff in our office.

Initial phase is to have government assets checked.

Mr LAYCOCK confirmed that this was already in hand.

QRail people will be travelling in from Longreach to look at Emerald and a couple of extra small business specialist people from Mackay, these people will try to be self sufficient.

- **Flexible habitat:**

Mr SHEARER inquired regarding the use of the habitat. Is there a possibility the habitat could be used for non government people who may not have the capability of provided staff support.

Ms SMITH advised she would find out if any of the non government agencies required assistance with accommodation.

Mr MAY advised that the habitat is only partially erected and can be added to as required.

A/Superintendent PEFF advised in respect to issues with transport of supplies, access could be via inland from Brisbane out west to Longreach and through to Emerald.

A reminder was also given in respect to previous advice from QHealth that staff who do not have current tetanus injections should not be sent to these areas.

Mr LEECH sought confirmation in respect to water levels at Rockhampton.

Mayor CARTER commented in respect to the correlation between river heights and rising water at Depot Hill and Yeppen, it appears at times the river height is not directly related. The expected river height is still 9.4m.

Mr LEECH inquired if it would be possible to put a request through the LDMG next week for assistance in the transport of staff to go from Rockhampton to Gracemere for track machine repair.

Mayor CARTER advised there was the availability of private helicopter.

Mr FISHER confirmed there were about 8 helicopters available for use in ferrying people.

A/Superintendent PEFF advised in the first instance QR should be looking at hiring a helicopter themselves for transport of staff.

Mr MAY inquired as to whether there was any truth in the SMS message that is going around.

Mr CULLEN responded that the SMS is a hoax. It is confirmed that everyone is referred back to the official site which links to all agencies involved in the DDMG.

Mayor CARTER also added that there has been talk that bank ATM's are running out of money.

Mr CULLEN responded he has been advised that this may be happening at ATM's but the banks are ok.

Mr FISHER advised there is the capacity to do live video back to SDCC.

Mr CULLEN advised there have been lots of media requests for preparation and planning type footage. It has been agreed to have one cameraman take footage for everyone.

A/Superintendent PEFF advised that information be provided through the DDC email and approval will be referred back to council.

Meeting closed 1512hrs.

Rockhampton District Disaster Management Group Minutes

Date: 3 January 2011
Venue: District Disaster Co-ordination Centre, QBuild Depot, North Street
Opened: 1405hrs

Attendees: A/Superintendent Dave PEFF (DDC, DDMG) QPS
Senior Sergeant Kerry HODGSON (Exec Officer, DDMG) QPS
Tony CULLEN, Media Rep, RRC
Wayne PREEDY, EMQ
Superintendent Col MAY, QFRS
Major Phil DUNCAN, ADF
L/C Martin BOURQUIN, ADF
Lee MARSHALL, ADF
Michael CRAWFORD, TMR
Rod BODDICE, Q HEALTH
Paul FLORIAN, Environmental Health Services, Q HEALTH
Steven COOMBS, QAS
Lionel BLUMEL, QBUILD
Ross LAYCOCK, QBUILD
Ken CRANE, DOCS
Bernadette HANEY, DOCS
Phil HENRY, DEEDI
Edward GOODSALL, QBSA
Gordon LEECH, QR National
Mayor Peter MAGUIRE, CH Regional Council (Teleconference)
Brian OTTONE, CHLDMG
Jenny SMITH, Red Cross
Bert BORLAND, Ergon Energy
Insp Peter FLANDERS, QPS
Dave CUSKELLY, QPS
Shane WILLIAMS, QPS
Judy Munro, QPS (Minutes)

1. Introduction and Welcome:

A/Superintendent PEFF, DDC opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Mayor MAGUIRE provided an overview of the current situation in Emerald.

2. Update from Central Highlands LDMG

Road access: -

- All roads in the town of Emerald are accessible.
- The Vince Lester Bridge is open to 2-way traffic.
- Currently waiting on advice on the rail bridge.
- The Comet River is clear at the highway.
- There was between 270-300 people in the evacuation centre last night.
- As advised yesterday the hospital is in operation.
- The rapid assessment team has commenced working around town.
- Crews from the mines are helping clean up along with SES people.
- Access has been given to commission housing, forms have been signed to allow entry.

- The recovery centre is operating from the Art Gallery.
- Information about insurance is available on the web site and hard copy.
- People are placing ruined equipment outside of residences.
- Looking at disposing waste at Tieri.
- The assessment centre has been set up at the PCYC but this may be moved.
- Home owners
- The units at the Riverview Motel have doors that cannot be closed and it may be necessary to arrange security.
- There are a number of isolated rural properties.
- Legal advice has been sought from the council lawyers regarding local road operations.
- S.184 local government - risk assessment first, photographs of before and after, provide details of work and equipment used, names and addresses of people who have carried out work.

A/Superintendent PEFF spoke in relation to liability owing to the Disaster Declaration there is global liability.

Mayor MAGUIRE advised he is only referring to local council roads not the state roads.

A/Superintendent PEFF inquired as to whether there is anything that is needed or any problems that required assistance.

Mayor MAGUIRE responded that the clean-up will be enormous and that the response from all agencies has been excellent.

Mr LAYCOCK commented that mention had been made that access had been given to housing commission.

Mayor MAGUIRE confirmed advice that they were not to go in; however, the council decided they could go in.

QBuild:

Mr LAYCOCK advised the following: -

- People certainly need to be advised that houses need to be electrically assessed before the housing can be accessed.
- It needs to be made clear that they have gone in of their own accord.
- Action is being taken to determine if Rio Tinto staff are suitably qualified to conduct housing assessments.
- Housing assessments are high on the list of priorities; the electricians should be on the ground between 3 and 4pm this afternoon.
- It should be recommended to people that they stay in the evacuation centre until their houses can be checked out.
- People who have no other resources to get their houses electrically assessed can register with Communities and we will do it.
- Initially in town to attend to government assets, which includes government housing. Under instruction of the DDC we are in a position to be able to assess private residences with no other means of electrical assessment, but they must be registered through the Department of Communities.

A/Superintendent PEFF advised he would forward an email advising of this information.

Ms HANEY of DOCS confirmed that staff will be arriving in Emerald tomorrow morning and will be linking up with QBuild.

QHealth

Mr BODDICE advised that with the opening of the Vince Lester Bridge the emergency centre at the Ag College has been closed as the Hospital in operation.

He has been informed that a recovery team has been convened in Mackay; a team of six will be based in Clermont.

Mr CRANE advised Mr MAGUIRE that he has spoken to Bill about using the Soccer Club as the recovery centre.

Mr MAGUIRE responded that Lyle HARMAN is going with DOCS person to the Soccer Club to assess the suitability of the Soccer Club for use as the recovery centre.

3. Update from Rockhampton LDMG

A/Superintendent PEFF advised that Mayor CARTER was unavailable to attend the meeting today.

A/Superintendent PEFF provided the following update in respect to Rockhampton:

- We are still in the response phase for Rockhampton.
- Nothing really has changed from yesterday and the river is still expected to reach 9.4m, but may be as low as 9.2m.
- Ergon are still cutting power off.

Mr BORLAND from Ergon confirmed that power was still being cut in areas.

- Resupply seems to have sorted itself. Woolworths and Coles are doing their own restocking.
- After discussion with the LDMG earlier today in respect to restocking, there will be no resupply for Rockhampton per se but will be required for outlying areas of Ridglands, Alton Downs and other smaller isolated communities. There will also be a need for fodder drop requests.
- Stock are currently starting to move into small parcels of land.
- The local government recovery group has been activated today, they are already planning recovery.

Mr CULLEN advised that he has received information from the Chair of the Local Tourism Bureau that if agencies have people coming into Rockhampton requiring accommodation he is happy for Tony to provide his mobile number and he will arrange accommodation.

- The evacuation centre is working well with the Salvation Army continuing to provide meals.
- There were 57 people in the evacuation centre. No apparent issues at the centre.

- 500 homes have been evacuated, with 400 or more with water inundation, and around 4000 with water in yards.
- Around 100 small businesses are expected to be affected in some small way.
- The biggest challenge is managing media. All agencies are requested to be mindful and cognisant of individual agency responses to the media. There has been some erroneous reporting.

A/Superintendent PEFF requested that if agencies are sending out media releases that these be fed back through him in order that all responses can be made in the same terms. It would also be appreciated if copy of media releases be sent to Mr CULLEN.

It has been arranged with Jenny SMITH of the Red Cross for anyone wishing to visit the evacuation centre this occur at 11am.

A/Superintendent PEFF requested relevant agencies to provide an update of their services: -

Qld Environmental Health:

Mr FLORIAN advised there was to be a recovery meeting at Rockhampton Council this afternoon at 4pm. He inquired as to whether any consideration has been given to inviting a member from DERM to attend the meetings particularly in respect to the impact of mine discharge, i.e. salt content from the mine water and the effect on drinking water supply.

Mr HENRY from DEEDI responded that he would follow up with the issue of DERM.

DOCS:

Mr CRANE advised they are establishing call centres and coordination centre and starting to get intel through.

BSA:

Mr GOODSALL advised that brochures "Home Owners Guide to Rebuilding after a Flood" have been prepared for home owners and copies have been sent to all agencies.

FUEL SUPPLY:

A/Superintendent PEFF noted that the issue of fuel has been considered and that there is either 168,000 or 186,000 fuel and almost the same in diesel and it is confident there is sufficient fuel at the present. If fuel becomes an issue and there is a need for rationing the depot at Dooley Street will be looked at.

QBuild:

Mr LAYCOCK is conscious of the need to have ancillary centres and government offices up and running in Theodore. The Emerald QAS is being cleaned out today. Our people are being sourced from Brisbane to go to Emerald and Theodore. Our local people are being kept for work in town here. Contact will be commenced with contractors and identify contractors available to assist.

A/Superintendent PEFF advised that as of yesterday there had been 396 disconnections plus any extra today.

Mr LAYCOCK advised there are 5 QBuild staff with approximately 25 contractors.

A/Superintendent PEFF inquired as to whether Mr CULLEN could start getting the message out that they can not go straight back into their houses and also advise of the brochures available for the information of home owners.

It was suggested that these brochures be taken to the evacuation centre for distribution.

Mr BORLAND advised that Ergon was considering talking to people at the evacuation centre on requirements for electrical assessment.

Mr CULLEN advised that he would contact local radio stations and inquire in respect to 15 and 30 second commercials where the Mayor and other agencies can provide relevant information.

Mr BLUMEL suggested it might be beneficial if the Mayor was holding a copy BSA's brochure and make reference to same during his media conferences.

Mr LAYCOCK advised that requests can now be sent through to QBuild for recovery assistance.

ADF:

Major DUNCAN advised that the Black Hawks have been relocated from Emerald to Rockhampton and are ready for tasking. The Chinook is on standby in Townsville. The Hercules has been doing food drops in Mackay.

QFRS:

Mr MAY advised that preplanning is occurring for wash out crews for Emerald, the first group will come out of Mackay and then other requests throughout the State.

QR National:

Mr LEECH advised that recovery work as commenced on the Moura system, which was delayed due to the storm. Further damage occurred overnight in Bluff when the storm went through. Preparation phase has commenced for when the water drops. A helicopter flight on Wednesday arranged to assist with continuing the preparation phase.

It is hoped when the Moura system is operational coal can go through Callide Mine to Gladstone by 9 January.

The emergency contact is to look at direct contact with emergency services.

DEEDI:

Mr HENRY advised that the Premier has announced Category "C" assistance for primary producers up to \$25000.

More people are coming in from Longreach to Emerald including a Longreach based QR person, with at least one person, possible two going from Mackay to Emerald tomorrow.

Mr HENRY advised that the process as been simplified between Ag Force and DEEDI, with Ken MURPHY being the contact person.

A/Superintendent PEFF advised he had been requested to have Ag Force added to the DDMG, however he does not think there is a need for this.

Mr HENRY responded he agreed that Ag Force need not be a member of DDMG.

Mr MAY suggested that Ag Force should certainly be kept engaged.

A/Superintendent PEFF requested Mr HENRY to provide a SITREP from DEEDI each day to include a level of consultation with Ag Force.

EMQ:

Mr MEDLIN advised that 44 SES people are organised for Emerald with 30 here in Rockhampton, crews are on standby waiting to cleanup. He has spoken to Emerald in relation to the recovery stage and what is required.

TMR:

Mr CRAWFORD advised that technical people will be going to Emerald tomorrow.

Q Health:

Mr BODDICE raised with the group that should the road to the north get cut, assistance may be needed with transport of staff from Mackay to Rockhampton.

General Issues:

A/Superintendent PEFF requested that if agencies identify something that LDMG is not feeding through please bring back to the DDMG.

The question was raised in respect to the weather.

A/Superintendent PEFF advised the predicted weather will not affect the Rockhampton situation.

A/Superintendent PEFF introduced L/C Martin BOURQUIN from ADF to the group.

L/C BOURQUIN advised that Major DUNCAN is the key point of contact of Defence, As part of Brisbane 637 to support Qld Floods a coordination group has been formed the manager is Corporal Luke FROST in Brisbane.

L/C BOURQUIN advised he has been appointed to run the support command base, looking after local taskings for helicopters and any other assets that may be required. Contact details will be provided for ADF requests.

MEETING closed 1500hrs.

**Rockhampton District Disaster Management Group
Minutes**

Date: 4 January 2011
Venue: District Disaster Co-ordination Centre, QBuild Depot, North Street
Opened: 1405hrs

Attendees: A/Superintendent Dave PEFF (DDC, DDMG) QPS
Insp Peter FLANDERS, QPS
Senior Sergeant Kerry HODGSON (Exec Officer, DDMG) QPS
Tony CULLEN, Media Rep, RRC
Robbie MEDLIN, Regional Director, EMQ CQ
Wayne PREEDY, EMQ
Superintendent Col MAY, QFRS
John FISHER, QFRS
Major Phil DUNCAN, ADF
Major Keith WYLIE, ADF
L/C Martin BOURQUIN, ADF
Lee MARSHALL, ADF
Michael CRAWFORD, TMR
Rod BODDICE, Q HEALTH
Peter STEER, Q HEALTH
Paul FLORIAN, Environmental Health Services, Q HEALTH
Steven COOMBS, QAS
Michelle BAXTER, QAS
Lionel BLUMEL, QBUILD
Ross LAYCOCK, QBUILD
Mick SHEARER, DOCS
Phil HENRY, DEEDI
Edward GOODSALL, QBSA
Gordon LEECH, QR National
Kerry MARLER, DERM
Brian OTTONE, CHLDMG
Jenny SMITH, Red Cross
Dave CUSKELLY, QPS
Judy Munro, QPS (Minutes)

1. Introduction and Welcome:

Inspector FLANDERS, Acting DDC opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

2. Update from Central Highlands LDMG

Mr OTTONE advised that Mayor MAGUIRE was visiting areas of Emerald with the Federal Minister and State Minister.

Current Status

- The evacuation centre has commenced scaling down.
- A new venue is being found for DOCS, in order that the PCYC can be available to the community for use.
- Also looking at moving the Red Cross to another facility.

- The recovery centre is being moved, large shed which is on the other side of the river with office space at the front. The shed area will be used for the distribution of cleaning equipment and the offices will be used for the recovery team for the ongoing recovery.
- No contact has yet been made with the Community Reference Group regarding scaling down of the support from the Salvation Army.
- The evacuation centre has gone from 4 to 2.
- Decision will be made today regarding use of the habitat.
- No number is available of power reconnections still to be made, but it is known that Coles Supermarket has been reconnected to day. There will be a number of premises that will not be reconnected until electrical assessment confirmation is received as the water has gone into or above the power boxes.
- There is a problem in Duaringa with water supply; restrictions have been placed on people to use water for essential purposes only. There is a substantial leak in the main line. Bluff has three days supply of water.
- It is considered there is the capacity to repair the leak, but if necessary would request assistance.
- In respect to the sandbags, a message has been sent out to the people advising they can use the sand to top dress their yards and the council will collect the bags at a later time.
- 500 x 5ltr containers and 25 x 20ltr containers of disinfectant will be received for distribution.

Inspector FLANDERS raised the issue of the request for the purchase of high pressure sprayers for the CHLDMG.

Mr CREEDY advised this has been dealt with and Elliot DUNNE from EMQ in Emerald is the contact person.

S/Sergeant HODGSON inquired of Mr OTTONE in respect to whether a decision had been made as to whether the LDMG will be continuing and also advised that an email has been received advising that the Salvation Army will be flying out 9 staff and bringing 10 in.

Mr OTTONE advised the LDMG will meet again tomorrow morning, he believes the executive of the LDMG will continue to operate, while the operation of the coordination centre will be discussed at the meeting. As advised earlier he has not been briefed on the Community Reference Groups meeting held this morning but is of the opinion the Salvation Army will be scaling back.

Mr FLORIAN inquired regarding the water leak and requested a water sample be taken and provided to allow for results to be provided as soon as possible.

Mr HENRY inquired of Mr OTTONE as to whether there is a rough estimate of businesses that have been affected.

Mr OTTONE responded he cannot provide a definite answer. A number of businesses were closed for Christmas/New Year. There are lots of businesses that have water through them.

Major DUNCAN advised Mr OTTONE that it assistance is required with repairing the water leak; the ADF has the capability to assist, (capability of 7,000ltrs per hour). His contact number is 0407 758 071.

Mr OTTONE advised that Phil CONNOLLY will be the Acting CEO for the next couple of days.

3. Update from Rockhampton LDMG

Mayor CARTER provided the following update in respect to Rockhampton LDMG: -

- Recent development since LDMG this morning confirmation has been received that the height of the river at Yaamba had risen slightly to 16.55ms; 16.5m was the flood height at Yaamba in 1991.
- BOM have confirmed it is more likely the height of the 1991 flood will be reached.
- Gavin STEELE, CEO is following up in respect to river heights.
- The airport has a bit more of a significant flow. The water is severely encroaching on the terminal.
- In respect to supply issues, further advice received since the LDMG there is a lot of lobbying from National Retailers Association. The decision by the group to fly in supplies was done without any dialogue; the actual decision had not been discussed or ratified with the LDMG. Major DUNCAN was also not aware of that happening.
- The issue in relation to supplies and the process by which the decision was made needs to be reviewed.
- There was some confusion about the decision to commence the disaster recovery team.

Regarding the commencement of the recovery team, Mr SHEARER advised that DOCS opened the recovery centre at 2pm at the Showgrounds, with a couple of people operating the centre and will be completely operational from tomorrow. ABC has already inquired regarding taking photographs. Red Cross have already commenced sending people to the centre.

Mayor CARTER advised he has received telephone calls from the Prime Minister and also Simon CREEN regarding supplies, he advised there is currently no issue of running out of supplies; also advised that no dialogue had occurred regarding flying supplies into Mackay; also advised the relationship with Major DUNCAN and the ADF and Centrelink has been very good. The issue in respect to water quality and sewerage getting into the water was discussed. Confirmation was provided to the Prime Minister and Simon CREEN that there is no issue with the sewerage plant it is still continuing to process; water is lapping but the tops of tanks are above flood water level and still operating

There is some concern with facebook type material (petros.k) with a lot of incorrect information.

Mr CULLEN advised that he had an interview one hour ago for radio and TV to run this afternoon advising people to take notice of information on the council website.

Mayor CARTER commented in respect to the incorrect information being reported this morning regarding Rockhampton being cut to the north, correct information has been provided to the media.

QBuild:

Mr LAYCOCK yesterday afternoon request received from the DDC regarding beds at evacuation centre. There are 120 beds at Theodore, 280 inflatable mattresses, plus an additional 1000 from Gold Coast Council.

Ms SMITH advised there are 88 people at the evacuation centre and there is plenty of bedding available to share around.

Advice was provided that the Singapore Army have indicated they can assist if necessary.

Mr LAYCOCK will put arrangements regarding bedding in place.

Qld Health:

No issues to report, the recovery team is being convened in Mackay to go to Emerald.

There are significant issues at Theodore.

ADF:

Major DUNCAN advised the Black Hawks are in Rockhampton with an emphasis on night tasking. As advised previously the Chinook is available if needed. If there is a need to have a look at the floods this can be arranged, contact number is 0417 651 877.

QFRS:

Mr MAY advised that Fire and Rescue crews are having a crew change; the incident management team have changed over. There are no issues in Emerald or Rockhampton.

DDC:

A/Superintendent PEFF advised the meeting that a visit from the DDMG is planned to Emerald tomorrow by Black Hawk. It is considered the DDMG should be seen to be providing support. There is a limit to the numbers who can be taken Sergeant Jon COOKSON will be available to discuss this at the end of the meeting.

RRC Media:

Mr CULLEN advised there is a need to clarify issues in respect to the sewerage as there is talk going around that there is raw sewerage floating though Rockhampton. Also appropriate to start getting the message out to the people about not going home until relevant checks have been made.

DOCS:

Mr SHEARER advised the recovery centre at Emerald is moving to the Allan McIndoe Park, near where the shed is. The relocated recovery centre will be open on Thursday.

The Rockhampton recovery centre is located in the James Lawrence Pavilion at the Showgrounds and it is hoped to make the centre a one stop shop for information, e.g. business support, council support, and general support. Hardship payments and

other assistance will be provided from there. The centre will also be linked with economic recovery and people recovery. When providing assistance it will be made clear assistance is for flood victims only.

In respect to Woorabinda, disaster activation centre has been activated but under the clause does not include assistance for personal hardship, infrastructure, water etc.

Inspector FLANDERS advised Mr SHEARER that if any issues of fraud issues are identified that contact is made with the local police to follow up.

DEEDI:

Mr HENRY advised the fodder update is under control. Ken MURPHY has been in contact, no contact has been able to be made with Emerald contact however it is confident everything has settled down as the number of requests coming in has settled down and there have been lots of offers of support.

QR National:

Mr LEECH advised that the Emerald Rail Bridge is probably 1½ days away with repairs starting yesterday. Comet is in a bad condition, with this continuing until the Dawson River goes down.

Qld Environment Health:

Mr FLORIAN commented in respect to the re-supply of pharmacies and advised this was to occur through the usual process.

In respect to the water supply issue at Woorabinda the line between Baralaba and Woorabinda is broken somewhere. Water is being trucked from bores and the Mimosa Creek. The reservoir is currently running at 60% and has held at 60% for the last couple of days. There may be some difficulty in the future with trucking water from Mimosa Creek as the road is deteriorating badly.

DERM Water Services:

Mr MARLER provided an update in respect to mining discharges.

As this point there have been no catastrophic failures, e.g. engine failure. There are a number of discharges but none are causing environmental harm. There are 12 TEP (temporary environment programs) that are allowed to discharge, discharge is to take place as per agreed arrangements. There has been investigation and negotiation for 7 TEP that will need to be discharged. Independent monitoring of systems and also spot measurements will be maintained to confirm information from mines is correct.

Inspector FLANDERS inquired whether DERM have media strategy in the event of a leak.

Mr MARLER responded there are plans to manage and keep all information and are comfortable where things are at the moment.

Mr FLORIAN commented in relation to Oregon with regard to TEP discharge and inquired about structural integrity of dams.

Advice was this would not occur, and that Arrow has done discharges.

MEETING closed 1455hrs.

Rockhampton District Disaster Management Group Minutes

Date: 5 January 2011
Venue: District Disaster Co-ordination Centre, QBuild Depot, North Street
Opened: 1405hrs

Attendees: A/Superintendent Dave PEFF, Qld Police Service
Inspector Peter FLANDERS, Qld Police Service
David CUSKELLY, Qld Police Service
Senior Sergeant Rebecca MARTIN
Senior Sergeant Jon PURCELL, Qld Police Service
Senior Sergeant Peter GRACE, Qld Police Service
Senior Sergeant Andrew SMITH, Qld Police Service
Rod BODDICE, Qld Health
Lionel BLUMEL, QBuild
Michael CRAWFORD, TMR
Kerry MARLER, Dept Environment & Resource Management
Steven COOMBS, Qld Ambulance Service
Michelle BAXTER, Qld Ambulance Service
Colin MAY, Qld Fire & Rescue Service
Wayne PREEDY, EMQ
Bert BORLAND, Ergon Energy
Jenny SMITH, Red Cross
Matt VAN DER WERFF, Ergon Energy
Gordon LEECH, QR National
Edward GOODSALL, Qld Building Services Authority
Mayor Peter MCQUIRE, Central Highlands Regional Council
Renee HOGAN, Qld Police Service (Minutes)

1. Introduction and Welcome:

Inspector FLANDERS, Acting DDC opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

2. Update from Central Highlands LDMG

CHRC advised they were now in the recovery phase of the disaster management. Two evacuation centres had now been closed, St Patrick's and Harvest Life Church. Residents were being moved to the two remaining evacuation centres at the Town Hall and Agricultural College.

CHRC advised they had begun door knocks of residences with building inspectors, plumbers etc to assess damage of flood water.

CHRC advised due to large amounts of general waster accumulated by residents CHRC would allow residents to utilise their recycling bins as general waster bins and CHRC would organise a general waste collection for both bins.

Road access had opened again with Woolworths arranging a resupply for Blackwater, Duaringa, Dingo Bauhinia Downs, Woorabinda etc.

CHRC advised they had been informed by Police that Police have been happy with the behaviour of residents.

CHRC were arranging for chemicals to be deposited into flood waters to remove effluent matter from the water.

CHRC raised an issue with Coles Supermarket and their failure to dispose of frozen goods prior to flood waters inundating access to Emerald. Rotting meat and food had caused an extremely bad stench to be emitting from the supermarket. CHRC advised a similar situation occurred with the same Coles Supermarket in 2008 and CHRC advised they would be raising the issue with Coles in relation to ensuring they have better strategies in place with respect to ensuring they removed frozen goods when flood water is imminent.

CHRC advised they had no current issues however there concerns did lie with predictions of storms and further rain, with the exception of enough rain to flush out flood waters.

Mr FLANDERS advised DDMG had decided as of tomorrow on there would no longer be a need for a 1400hrs DDMG meeting to occur everyday. CHRC advised it suited them well as the Governor General was visiting the region tomorrow.

Qld Health also advised a Senior Mental Health Kevin FREELE would also be flying into Emerald tomorrow.

CHRC then terminated their connection with the DDMG meeting.

3. Update from Rockhampton LDMG

Mr FLANDERS forwarded an apology from Mayor CARTER as he was not able to be in attendance but provided RRCLDMG update for Mr FLANDERS to provide to DDMG.

Currently water levels were stable at 9.15m.

Qld Police Service

Mr FLANDERS advised there had been concerns with local residents charging people \$50-\$100 to go on boat tours down to Depot Hill and around flood waters. QPS were not satisfied that this was safe or legal and were looking at possible avenues for prosecution. Jenny SMITH of Red Cross advised of possible licensing issues regarding carrying passengers. Wayne PREEDY of EMQ advised that may be correct as a similar situation has happened elsewhere and advised the QPS to speak with Fisheries in relation to it and advised that the fine was quite substantial.

4. Round Table Updates from DDMG Members

Qld Health

Wanted confirmation on flying their doctors in and out is their own responsibility. QFRS and QPS advised that it was.

DERM

Levels were being monitored in relation to mining discharge but their focus was getting the mines up and running. Mines are being encouraged to dispose of water trapped now as it is extremely diluted but once levels going down levels would become more concentrated and more likely to cause contamination.

QR National

QR National are looking at running a service from Cairns to Mackay with coaches running from Mackay to Rockhampton to assist with efforts to get crews back north and requested any interest be put to him. QFRS expressed interest.

QR National advised Coal networks may not open until 21 January 2011.

TRM

No comment.

Dept Public Works

No change. A QFleet vehicle from Mackay is available for use by departments if required.

QBuild

Assessments in Theodore had begin, though not relevant for DDMG but as an FYI:-

- Police Station had not been effected
- Hospital had not been effected
- Water was still inundation streets

QFRS advised Rapid Damage Assessment teams had now been deployed to Theodore. Qld Health advised 120 people were returning to Theodore and would reside in accommodation at the local hotel and a doctor wanted to go back as well however Qld Health have refused his request. QFRS agreed and advised there is no water, power or sewerage in Theodore currently.

Ergon Energy

Mr FLANDERS advised Ergon Energy that he had inadvertently let SDCC know that there were issues with Depot Hill and Meter Readers situated on chipboard that will require significant work and SDCC have requested figures. Ergon advised they could give a rough number and most were rebuilt in 1991. Ergon also advised he Electrical Trades Union was pushing members to volunteer their time.

Red Cross

Red Cross advised they had been approached by pharmacies wanting to help. Nothing further to add.

Dept of Communities

DOCS have been organising fodder drops and were now operating out of the recovery centre.

QFRS

Portable habitats were now being arranged for transport to Roma. 300 miners had assisted with clean up in Emerald and QFRS were not required to do much. QFRS were using Bundaberg as an estimate for resources needed for clean up in Rockhampton.

EMQ

No comment.

DAF

Were implementing an exit strategy as there is not much demand for crews and they would be heading back to Townsville to be on standby.

QAS

No comment.

QPS

Advised DDMG members to be cautious on terminology used when speaking to media.

QBSA

QBSA advised they were now operating out of the Recovery Centre in Rockhampton.

QPS

S/Sgt MARTIN advised the clean up in Emerald was very good. Morale levels in Emerald were high.

QFRS

QFRS advised whilst they did not have a comment to make a suggestion was made in relation to a web based updating system QFRS had used to stop intra-department interference and suggested it may possibly useful for QPS and other departments with respect to updating hierarchy.

Dept Public Works

DPW advised Miners in Emerald had done a good job in relation to assisting with clean up and they have received no private requests for electrical reconnection.

5. Update Woorabinda Shire Council

An update of Woorabinda advised of the following:-

- Water line from Baralaba's pumps in water were not working despite electronic system saying they are, there is a possible break in the line.
- Bore water has been used but it is quite smelly due to sulphur content
- Water has begun to be trucked in

- Currently water supply is being maintained and attempts were being made to try to get the community to adhere to water restrictions as average usage per person in Woorabinda is 1000L/day as opposed to Rockhampton which is 140L/day

6. Closing Comment from DDC PEFF

Mr PEFF expressed his comments after visiting Emerald reminding DDMG members to be mindful Rockhampton will differ from Emerald as there will be no miners to assist with clean up. Additionally, Fitzroy River unlike Nogoa will not fall quickly, water levels are expected to remain high for several days, community may begin to get frustrated.

Mr PEFF also passed on the Deputy Commissioners thanks to all members of the DDMG for their tireless efforts throughout this crisis.

MEETING closed 1455hrs.

Rockhampton District Disaster Management Group Minutes

Date: 11 January 2011
Venue: District Disaster Co-ordination Centre, QBuild Depot, North Street
Opened: 1300hrs

Attendees: A/Superintendent Dave PEFF, Qld Police Service
Senior Sergeant Rebecca MARTIN
Senior Sergeant Ben CAROLL, Qld Police Service
Sergeant John COOKSON, Qld Police Service
Major Bob CHANDLER, Defence JOSS-NQ
Robbie MEDLIN, EMQ
Mick SHEARER, Dept of Communities
Rod BODDICE, Qld Health
Paul FLORIAN, Qld Health
Tony CULLEN, Rockhampton Regional Council
Mayor Brad Carter, Rockhampton Regional Council
Ross LAYCOCK, QBuild
Lionel BLUMEL, QBuild
Phil HENRY, DEEDI
Philip McKENZIE, TMR
Terry HILL, TMR
Bill MORAN, TMR
Steven COOMBS, Qld Ambulance Service
Colin MAY, Qld Fire & Rescue Service
John FISHER, Qld Fire & Rescue Service
Jenny SMITH, Red Cross
Edward GOODSALL, Qld Building Services Authority
Gordon LEECH, QR National
Mayor Peter MCQUIRE, Central Highlands Regional Council
Renee HOGAN, Qld Police Service (Minutes)

1. Introduction and Welcome:

Inspector PEFF opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

2. Update from Central Highlands LDMG

Recovery

Mr PEFF requested an update on the recovery efforts. CHRC advised initial clean ups had allowed access to and from Emerald. Dept of Communities had received 2,500 applications for assistance. CHRC had met with several DDMG members in addition to insurance companies in relation to damage and recovery process.

Evacuation Centre

Only one evacuation centre remained now, the Agricultural College and it will be closed by Sunday. Current numbers in the evacuation centre are 39 people including 6 children.

Flood Recovery Centre

CHRC advised that the Flood Recovery Centre was now also up and running with the first meeting of the flood recovery group to be held at approximately 1400hrs on Friday. The focus of the meeting will be medium and long term support in addition to assess interim and long term damage to infrastructure and small business.

Resupply

CHRC advised of current resupply issues in relation to the fact that alternative routes are being used to get supplies north to northern Queensland which bypass the Emerald area. Mr PEFF advised CHRC to exhaust their efforts locally and if they are still unable to resupply then it needs to be put as a request to DDCC. Mr PEFF advised Mackay, Townsville or Cairns might be possible avenues if not look interstate. Mr PEFF advised CHRC they need to liaise with Woolworths first. CHRC advised they already had liaised with Woolworths and this was the information that Woolworths had supplied them. Mr PEFF advised CHRC to ascertain the resupply required for Blackwater and to submit a request.

Long term displacements

Mr PEFF requested confirmation on long term displacements that would occur in Emerald. CHRC advised they were working with the 39 people in the evacuation centre to make sure they have somewhere to go. CHRC advised that several of their own employees were in the evacuation centre so they were committed to ensuring accommodation is found and were working in conjunction with Dept of Communities. Mick SHEARER of DOCS advised they were case managing each of the 39 evacuees to arranging CHRC were also experiencing issues with those residents yet to return from holiday.

Rail lines for CHRC

Gordon LEECH of QR National advised there will be no Comet line until 30 January 2011 at the earliest. He also advised the CHRC of massive damage to the Rolleston line, with a repair timeline not known.

3. Round Table Updates from DDMG Members

Mr PEFF then requested DDMG members to provide the DDMG with their updates and any assistance they may require.

TMR

Terry HILL of Main Roads gave an update on roads in the region:-

- The Dawson River was receding and the Capricorn Highway was now out of the water with repair work commencing today or tomorrow with an expected opening timeline to be lunchtime tomorrow leaving roads open from Emerald to Gracemere
- Roads near Westwood were quite soft
- TMR will ascertain to fix problems as they arise.
- Yeppen Round about was now about 600mm under water however assessments could be made at about 250-300mm which they expected to be about Thursday

S/Sgt MARTIN requested confirmation that any road closures had been declared for police to enforce. Mr HILL advised yes. S/Sgt Ben CAROLL requested confirmation whether load limits would apply. Mr HILL advised there would be no load limits and they would be attempting to open the roads with as little restrictions as possible.

Mr PEFF then addressed the DDMG to ensure that individual agencies have enough human resources. Mr PEFF advised that due to the natural disasters occurring in the South East a lot of Police Officers had been pulled out of the region in order to assist with the efforts.

TRM advised they were looking at requesting Rockhampton Regional Council be responsible for traffic management from Caroline Street to Jellicoe Street and TMR will arrange traffic management from Jellicoe Street onwards.

QR National

Gordon LEECH of QR National gave the DDMG an update of rail network closures:-

- Mackay to Rockhampton line should be open by 15 January 2011
- Rockhampton railway south should be open by 17 January 2011 pending weather situation in Brisbane
- Coal is able to get to Stanwell from Moura
- Tilt train services recommencing, pending on weather conditions in Brisbane, by 18 January 2011
- Coal systems to Blackwater to remained closed until 31 January 2011
- Rolleston Line is extremely damaged will not be operational until February at the earliest
- Project teams are now in place in Rolleston, Gregory Branch and the main trunk

Mr PEFF asked QR National whether those project teams would be sent to Brisbane. Mr LEECH was not of the opinion that they would as only the project managers were from Brisbane.

DEEDI

Information was requested by S/Sgt MARTIN as to whether mines had become operation yet. DEEDI advised that mines were not advising departments when they will be operational or if they are operational. DEEDI were only aware that 7 lines were operational, 28 were partially operation and 6 were not operational.

TMR

TMR further advised access to Capricorn Highway at the Dawson River had opened for emergency services and trucks. Col MAY of QFRS advised the main issue would be for emergency access at Yeppen Round about. TMR advised they were working in conjunction with Road Tech to have the road opened. Mr PEFF advised if Main Roads and Road Tech are satisfied the road is safe QPS will co-ordinate moving vehicles across.

QBuild

Ross LAYCOCK of QBuild advised DDMG QBuild/Dept of Public Works had been working in conjunction with Ergon and will provided DDMG with a list of the contractors that will be used. QBuild raised concerns about a briefing on contractors

requiring identification to verify that they work with the government or Ergon. Mr PEFF advised that was a request that came from the A/C who wanted to establish a way to highlight the genuine people from the not so genuine people do to cases of looting in Emerald but advised it may not be practical and uniforms of government workers or Ergon workers should be enough to identify. Mr LAYCOCK advised that all contractors will have a QBuild document in their possession so if residents are concerned can request to see the document. Mr PEFF requested QBuild to supply a list of houses they were going to reconnect in order to increase patrols in those areas in case other residents became violent towards neighbours due to a neighbouring property being reconnected instead of theirs.

Mr LAYCOCK advised he had received no requests for reconnection in Emerald which is concerning as an adequate licence is required to reconnect power and if residents have utilised a contractor who does not have an adequate licence they will need to have the electricity repairs done and be reconnected again by a licensed contractor.

Mr PEFF requested advice on damage to government assets.

In relation to Emerald QBuild advised as follows:

- Ambulance Station had received approximately \$300,000 worth of damage due to moisture however temporary accommodation had been established
- Water damage had also been experienced in some schools with Education Qld putting pressure on QBuild to restore before school resumed.

Mr LAYCOCK raised the issue of ensuring those mattresses that were not utilised in the recovery centres were returned to Big W otherwise LDMG would be charged for them. He suggested there should be about 500 to be returned from Emerald.

In relation to Rockhampton QBuild advised government assets were holding up well. QBuild had been monitoring the Rockhampton Watchhouse however no issues arose. Only minor water damage was experienced in the Government Complex. They only school they estimated to be affected by flood damage would be Port Curtis with 8 'at risk' community housing properties likely to be effected with 6 people to assess community housing properties.

QFRS advised their Rapid Assessment Teams were still in the area. Mr PEFF requested whether any chance they would be deployed back to Brisbane. Col MAY advised the only issue with Rapid Assessment Teams were the data tablets they use and having enough of them on the ground. Col MAY advised NSWFRS could be used if needed as RAT Teams are used all over Australia.

Qld Building Services Authority

QBSA advised they have now set up operations at the recovery centre. QBSA advised things were moving along quickly in Emerald as properties were now almost completely dry. Mr PEFF advised reports he had heard indicated there were up to 80 properties in Theodore that were now uninhabitable.

QBSA advised they would like to work in conjunction with Rapid Assessment Teams and Rockhampton Regional Council in order to get some figures and mapping in relation to flood damage for future flood proofing of houses and measures to take now for future recovery processes. Mr PEFF advised he would send a request to those departments to ensure QBSA are provided with the information. QBSA advised

they would be willing to share their reports. Mr PEFF suggested it might provide a good model practise.

DOCS advised they were working with their clients regarding structural grants as most were uninsured and weren't confident with talking to contractors.

QBSA expressed concerns that housing that is affected is generally old houses and work done to those properties could be costly due to fact that although they may now not meet building certifications if repaired would need to be up to grade.

Dept of Communities

Mick SHEARER of Dept of Communities advised DOCS had now processed 1000 personal hardship applications but they expected it to slow down over the next week. DOCS commended the efforts of all departments. DOCS advised they would be refreshing staff by using North Queensland and Far North Queensland employees they are expecting 30-40 staff to rotate locally and they are attempting to train local staff in outreach programs.

DOCS advised they were currently focusing on short, mid and long term housing options. Problems were occurring in Emerald with a lack of vacancy and rentals in addition to flood relief workers needing accommodation as well. Rockhampton would not experience this problem due to high rental vacancies. DOCS advised most mining communities would struggle with respect to this.

DOCS advised Commonwealth Government income assistance was being extended. Did not come with an asset test so was accessible to most people.

Mr PEFF requested a figure on number of people who have been displaced. Mr SHEARER advised he does not have those figures and would need to consult with RLDMG. Numbers cannot be confirmed due to people who still may not have returned from holiday.

DOCS advised that the biggest issue that would face the community would be the human services side of it especially through the agricultural sector with 80% of crops lost. Mr SHEARER advised of the massive mental health issues associated with this. Mr PEFF advised he had heard reports that wives had been calling on behalf of their husbands who are farmers and confirmed it would be one of the biggest issues to come out of the flood.

DEEDI

DEEDI advised they were monitoring the Mount Morgan mine very carefully and a controlled discharge may be needed and therefore DEEDI would require a temporary emergency permit.

Meat works were still closed, reports they can't get any cattle moved in. DOCS advised that for the first time 457 visa holders which are usually seasonal workers and meat workers now had access to Centrelink payments.

DEEDI expressed concerns at the lack of small business owners attending the recovery centre. DEEDI requested flood mapping to identify those businesses that were affected so DEEDI could approach them.

Mr PEFF requested DDMG include Dept Environment and Resource Management to attend the next DDMG meeting in order to ensure checks can be done to ensure that the Fitzroy River does not get used as a dumping ground for mining companies. Mr PEFF requested confirmation of agency that monitors water levels. Qld Health advised it is the agency that pumps the water who on an honesty basis, measure the contaminant levels in water. Qld Health advised that these agencies are meant to report to DERM if the water contaminant levels increase above the guidelines. Mr PEFF expressed his discomfort in this and advised DDMG this was a major environmental issue and it has the potential to impact the environment greatly. Mr PEFF was pleased that Qld Health also review water contaminant levels and advise on safe TEP levels. Mr PEFF expressed his desire for DDC to have more of an involvement in ensure water contaminant levels remain safe. RRC advised they accept the fact that DERM correctly control safe water levels and do not interfere with that respect.

Qld Health

Qld Health advised they were sending medical specialists to Emerald from Carins and were utilising Mental Health workers from Mackay. Red Cross advised there were mental health workers at the recovery centre. DOCS advised they had been utilising a Qld Health brochure on grief and loss. Qld Health advised with respect to mental health issues they were taking an early action approach.

QBuild raised concerns whether it was possible to include Parks & Wildlife in assessments as significant number of snakes in properties that need to be inspected. RRC advised they had been utilising parks and wildlife and would look at incorporating them into clean up crews.

DDC

Mr PEFF advised his request for extension for disaster declaration was null and void as the Premier had now declared the disaster herself incorporating Rockhampton.

QR National

QR National advised on a for your information basis they had sourced their own meteorologist to review weather situation to see whether it was worth spending hundreds of thousands of dollars for another flood to cause even further damage. His findings were that caution should be taken as it was anticipated to flood again. He advised DDMG to keep an open mind on the weather, be mindful. Mr PEFF reminded DDMG wet season was expected to last until April EMQ advised Qld could expect 4-6 cyclones this season.

EMQ

EMQ advised their and SES resources were extremely stretched and drained as a result of recent events in South East. and South West. EMQ have only planned to be in central region until 31 January 2011. He advised they would extend if needed but will possibly required NSW crews to assist and look at best measures to utilise SES crews. EMQ advised they may not continue Gracemere service a level they are as it is draining SES crews, may have to fall back to essential services only. NSW crews will be utilised for clean ups.

QFRS

QFRS advised their resources are drained as well and might have to also source help from NSW.

DAF

Major CHANDLER advised Townsville Defence crews will only be utilised in this region Brisbane has its own capabilities.

4. Recovery

DOCS advised DDMG to utilise volunteers now before recovery period to allow staff to have a break. RRC advised they now may not be able to access cleaning products ordered from Brisbane. Several agencies advised Bunnings had been unable to assist with excessive orders that would be required to supply a government organisation with materials. Mayor CARTER advised RRC were looking into returning the \$1million donated by BCC in light of recent extreme weather events. Mayor CARTER also advised he had been invited to attend an Economic Recovery Meeting however did not feel it was responsible for him to attend or any of his hierarchy at RRC due to the fact he needs to be in Rockhampton ensuring things continue to run smoothly. Several agencies expressed frustrations at dealing with political interference. Mr PEFF advised DDMG to stick to recovery plan.

MEETING closed 1450hrs.