

SUBMISSION FOR QUEENSLAND FLOOD COMMISSION

The following information is supplied to the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry as per your letter dated 19 August 2011

The following information regarding the Murweh Shire SES unit has been supplied by the Local Controller, Mr. [REDACTED].

1. The Murweh Shire Council SES unit consists of 2 groups at this time, those being Charleville and Morven. As at 20 August 2011 the Charleville SES has a total of 31 Active members and 21 Reserve members. In the 09/10 financial year we had 24 active members with the same number of reserves (21). Active members are those who are available to attend training on a regular basis and are also available for callout. Reserve members are those who have joined the SES have completed minimal training but may be available for activation in a major event. Morven has one active member and 16 reserve members. These numbers are the same for both the 09/10 and 10/11 financial years. Augathella has no active members and 34 reserve members. These numbers are the same for both the 09/10 and 10/11 financial years. Morven and Augathella are both supported by Council staff in the event of an activation until suitably qualified SES members can be deployed from the Charleville group. In major events this support may be from the neighbouring shires of Blackall/Tambo or Maranoa Regional.
2. The Murweh Shire supplies the following assets to the Murweh Shire SES Unit.
 - a. Charleville (this is a joint centre for SES and Rural fires)
 - Accommodation, two sheds located at 139 Alfred St, Charleville to house operations/training centre and vehicles/flood boats/Rural fire tender
 - One Toyota Landcruiser troop carrier. Vehicle owned/maintained by Murweh Shire and is a dedicated SES vehicle.
 - One Mazda T3500 truck. Vehicle owned/maintained by Murweh Shire and is a dedicated SES vehicle.
 - Two additional trailers, one for traffic control equipment and one BBQ trailer.
 - Council plant and equipment including operators are available on an as needed basis.
 - b. Morven (this facility is a joint centre for QFRS and SES)
 - Accommodation building is owned by QFRS. SES have been allocated a designated area within this facility for their operations.
 - Council plant and equipment including operators are available on an as needed basis.
 - c. Augathella (this group is currently inactive due to lack of active members)
 - Accommodation for operations and equipment.
 - Council plant and equipment including operators are available on an as needed basis.

All of the above equipment was available for the 09/10 and 10/11 financial years.

3. One Council employee is employed as the Local Controller. This is a role that is taken over and above his normal Council duties as the Council's Technical Officer Roads and Drainage. If activated during normal work hours [REDACTED] is released from his normal duties to carry out his appointed role as the Local Controller. [REDACTED] has held this role for the past eight years is paid an honorarium of \$6,000 (\$5,000 in the 09/10 Financial year) per year to carry out these duties. A copy of the duty statement for the position of Local Controller is attached. The role description is provided from the SES Operations Doctrine BMH 14.0 Executive Appointments v3 Appendix D
4. The SES within the Murweh Shire has the following approved functions:
 - Agency Support including communications, welfare, emergency lighting, food handling, air observation, re-supply and evacuation.
 - Floodboat operations
 - Incident Management. Emergency Operation Centre/Emergency Coordination Centre trained only
 - Road Crash Rescue (secondary response only)
 - Land Search
 - Storm damage operations including Working at heights, temporary roof repairs, chainsaw operations, debris cleanup and sandbagging.
 - Traffic management including incident site, traffic control and road closure/diversion
5. The Murweh Shire Council provides an annual operating budget of \$50,000. This amount has been provided as an annual operating budget for the past 5 years. This amount does not include the honorarium. [REDACTED] has a delegated authority for expenditure to the value of \$20,000. In addition to this Council also replaces the unit vehicles as per Council's 10 year plant replacement program. Council also provides additional funds for capital works (\$14,000 last year for Kitchen upgrade at SES shed) on an as required basis.