

<i>Name of Witness</i>	Robert REID
<i>Date of Birth</i>	[REDACTED]
<i>Address and contact details</i>	[REDACTED] Fig Tree Pocket m. [REDACTED] Email - [REDACTED]
<i>Occupation</i>	Environmental Scientist
<i>Officer taking statement</i>	Detective Senior Sergeant Mark Reid
<i>Date taken</i>	7 April 2011



Robert REID states:

1. I am a married man, [REDACTED] years of age and I reside at [REDACTED] Fig Tree Pocket. My property is situated within approximately 900 m of the Brisbane River (straight line) and within 200 m of Cubberla Creek, a tributary of the Brisbane River. As a result of the flooding on 11-12 January 2011 and forecasts of further flooding for early on the morning of 13 January 2011, I took a number of precautions to minimise the potential for destruction of our furniture and possessions.
2. As a result of my observations during the flooding on 11 to 13 January 2011, I have prepared a submission for the Queensland Flood Commission of Inquiry dated 11 March 2011 relating to my actions and preparations for the potential flooding event. The submission highlights the issue of preparation by residents and a personal responsibility for reducing damage to personal property.
3. The second issue that I think is important relates to the positive encouragement of residents by the Brisbane City Council and the Queensland Government to be proactive in minimizing personal property damage.

QFCI

Date: 13/05/11 JM

Exhibit Number: 374

Witness Signature: [REDACTED] Signature of officer

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GPO Box 1738 Brisbane
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Telephone 1300 309 634
Facsimile +61 7 3405 9750
www.floodcommission.qld.gov.au
ABN 65 959 415 158

*I am now able to produce a copy of the submission dated 11 March 2011
consisting of one page.*

TENDERED AND MARKED EXHIBIT NO.....



Robert E REID

Witness Signature
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Signature of officer

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**SUBMISSION
TO
QUEENSLAND FLOODS COMMISSION OF INQUIRY**

BY RE REID

Adequacy of community's response – Brisbane flood peaking early 13 January 2011

I submit that individuals and the community should be strongly encouraged to take much more responsibility for protection of their own property when floods threaten.

My opinion is that the efforts of many people to secure their property, particularly movable property including vehicles, were inadequate.

When it became obvious late on 11 January and early on 12 January that there would be flooding along the Brisbane River and its tributaries downstream of Ipswich, and predictions were for higher levels than 1974, our household:

- Checked predicted flood levels on our block on the Brisbane City Council web site and found that the predicted 1 in 100 ARI flood was approximately 1.3 m below the lowest point on our land.
- Revised our understanding of 1974 flood levels on the property based on a flood stain on an unpainted wall behind the hot water system and discussion of information previously supplied by former neighbours who were in the area in 1974 and agreed that the 1974 flood had come approximately 0.3 m through the lowest level of our home (we were not here in 1974).
- Moved all furniture and effects, except one large, heavy item, from the lowest level of our home to the highest level, about 3 m above, and placed the large item on blocks about 0.8 m above floor level.
- Moved all movable items except the piano and white goods from the second level, about 0.3 m above the 1974 flood level, to the home of an acquaintance living on higher ground using his daughter's utility, and placed the piano on blocks about 0.3 m above floor level.
- Made contingency plans to move white goods to the highest point in the back yard and cover with a tarpaulin.
- Made contingency plans to block the toilet on the lowest level with soil in a plastic bag to prevent it spilling sewage directly into the house.
- Made contingency plans for evacuation by placing tools for removing palings from the back fence at hand with torches.
- Attempted to seal doors on the lower level with plastic sheeting, blocks, soil and duct tape (I doubt this would have been successful for more than a few centimeters of water, peaking only for an hour or so, when it may have been possible to collect leakage with a mop and bucket).
- Moved vehicles to higher ground.
- Equipped ourselves with water, food, torches and a gas light and cooker, and maintained a watch on flood levels which reached the bottom of our drive. When levels started to fall about 1:30 am on 13 January, we notified immediate neighbours, who had evacuated, that their homes were safe.
- Marked flood peak levels on a number of public utility poles in the area on 13 January as the flood receded.

I believe that damage to vehicles, furniture and personal belongings would have been appreciably reduced had more householders considered their situation late on 11 January or early on 12 January and taken actions similar to those listed above.

I submit that the Brisbane City Council and the Queensland Government should have been much more proactive in encouraging people to consider their situations during the afternoon of 11 January and the morning of 12 January, and to act to minimise damage to their property.


Robert E Reid
Fig Tree Pocket
11 March 2011