

**Statement of Lee Hutchison dated 10  
February 2012**

**Statement by Lee Anthony Hutchison, sworn on 10 February 2012**


I, Lee Anthony Hutchison of Level 15, 53 Albert Street, Brisbane, Queensland, Risk & Emergency Manager of the SEQ Water Grid Manager (**Water Grid Manager**), state the following:

- 1 I am the Risk and Emergency Manager of the Water Grid Manager. I have held that position since September 2010.
  
- 2 In this statement to the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry (**Commission**), as required in the letter to me dated 9 February 2012 (**Letter**), I have:
  - (a) provided all the information in my possession and identified the source or sources of that information; and
  - (b) made commentary and provided opinions I am qualified to give as to the appropriateness of particular actions or decisions and the basis of that commentary or opinion,in relation to the matters outlined in topic 1 in the Letter.
  
- 3 During the January 2011 Flood Event, I acted in the role of Emergency Coordinator, which involved providing assistance and support to the appointed Emergency Manager. I was responsible for the coordination of the Emergency Management Room, as well as the operation of the OCA Incident Manager system. I was also responsible for the coordination of information between Water Grid participants with respect to such matters as the inundation of water treatment plants and pumps and the disruption to access for chemical supplies. As regards dam releases, my role was a limited one, confined to taking minutes at teleconferences and meetings, when required.

Signed:

  
Lee Anthony Hutchison

Taken by:

 .....  
[Justice of the Peace/Solicitor]

**The teleconference held at 8.30am on 10 January 2011**

4 At 8.30am on 10 January 2011, I attended a teleconference held in the Emergency Management Room at the Water Grid Manager's office between personnel of the Water Grid Manager and Seqwater.

5 I was responsible for the preparation of the minutes of that meeting. A true copy of the minutes is at pages E1087-E1088 of Annexure E to Exhibit 431 referred to in the Letter **(Minutes)**.

6 My recollection is that the participants in the teleconference are as recorded in the Minutes.

7 I recall that Barry Dennien and Dan Spiller led the discussion during the teleconference on behalf of the Water Grid Manager. I cannot recall who said what from Seqwater.

**(a) Details as to any discussions involving the topic of release strategies**

8 I have some independent recollection of the meeting and what was discussed. I recall the discussions centred around obtaining an update on the current situation, how much water was coming down the river and the status of water supply infrastructure (including water treatment plants' operations).

9 My recollection is that most of the discussion around dam releases centred on the cumecs of the releases coming out of the dams, river volumes and the inundation of bridges and properties downstream.

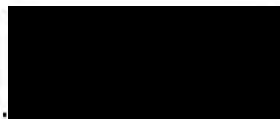
10 I do not have any independent recollection about specific discussions concerning release strategies. However, I prepared the Minutes contemporaneously using a computer in the Emergency Meeting Room. I have no reason to believe they are not an accurate record of

Signed:



Lee Anthony Hutchison

Taken by:



[Justice of the Peace/Solicitor]

*In the matter of the Commissions of Inquiry Act 1950, Commissions of Inquiry Order (No. 1) 2011  
Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry*

the discussion which took place. In particular, in preparing the Minutes I used the same language as that used by the participants.

11 I recall that 3.5 to 4 was a reference to cumecs of releases from the dam. That was the language being used by the participants in the teleconference.

12 At the time of taking the Minutes, I had an understanding that a release over 4,000 cumecs would have significant inundation impacts. That was based on my recollection of the October 2010 flood event when the releases were in the vicinity of 3,500 cumecs. I therefore knew that when people were talking about 4,000 cumecs, the concern had gone past being about bridges and was more about urban inundation.

**(b) Whether the terms 'W1', 'W2', 'W3' or 'W4' were used at any stage during the teleconference and, if so, by whom and in what context**

13 The teleconference notes do refer to different scenarios including 'W2' and 'W3'. I would not have used terms like 'W2' and 'W3' in the Minutes unless they were specifically mentioned by someone.

14 I cannot recall who used the expressions 'W2' and 'W3' and cannot remember in what context the terms were used.

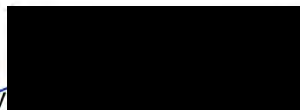
15 Having only joined the Water Grid Manager a few months before the January 2011 Flood Event, my knowledge of the terms 'W1', 'W2', 'W3' and 'W4' at the time was that they referred to an escalating system as to how the dam was to be managed in a flood event. However, I did not have any detailed knowledge of what each term represented. I now know that 'W2' is a transition strategy.

Signed



Lee Anthony Hutchison

Taken by



[Justice of the Peace/Solicitor]

**(c) Whether I took any notes of the teleconference**

16 I recall that immediately prior to the teleconference, Mr Dennien and Mr Spiller identified some dot points for discussion during the teleconference. I typed those on the computer in the Emergency Management Room, with the notes being projected onto a screen in that room. I used those dot points during the teleconference as the template for the Minutes, by typing relevant notes on the computer as the discussion progressed.

17 During the teleconference, my typed notes were projected onto a screen in the Emergency Management Room and those participants present in the room were able to see the developing document as the teleconference progressed.

18 I do not have a recollection of highlighting items in bold print during the teleconference, but that is something which I would normally do, either during or after a meeting.

19 Following the meeting, at 10.21am on 10 January 2011, I emailed the Minutes to Dan Spiller, Barry Dennien, Scott Denner, Michael Lyons and Aleisha Coote of the Water Grid Manager. I also posted the Minutes to OCA Incident Manager. A copy of my email is attached as **Annexure A** to my statement.

20 I do not recall receiving, and have no records of, any feedback from the Water Grid Manager personnel to whom I distributed the Minutes.

21 In preparing this statement, I have conducted a review of my records and located a version of the minutes which is different from that previously provided to the Commission (being the version which is Annexure A to this statement). I have attached that version as **Annexure B** to my statement. I have no recollection of amending the document or distributing that version.

Signed  ....  
Lee Anthony Hutchison

Taken by  .....  
[Justice of the Peace/Solicitor]

*In the matter of the Commissions of Inquiry Act 1950, Commissions of Inquiry Order (No. 1) 2011  
Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry*

22 I have conducted a review of the computer metadata for the document which shows the document was last amended on 10 January 2011 at 1.31pm. The metadata does not show who made the amendments and I am therefore unable to state definitively who made them. I assume they were made by me after the meeting as a note of what further information was required by the Water Grid Manager.

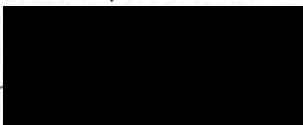
23 I did not take any other notes during the meeting.


**(d) Whether I observed or was aware of any other person taking notes of the teleconference and, if so, who that person was**

24 I cannot recall anyone else taking notes at the meeting.

25 All the facts and circumstances deposed to herein are within my own knowledge, save such as are deposed to from information only, and my means of knowledge and sources of knowledge appear in this my statement to the Commission.

Sworn by Lee Anthony Hutchison on 10 February 2012 in the presence of:

▲  \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of witness

▲  \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Lee Anthony Hutchison

▲ Cindy Jane Hulsey  
Name of witness (print)

Gina O'Driscoll

---

From: Lee Hutchison  
Sent: Monday, 10 January 2011 10:21 AM  
To: Dan Spiller; Barry Dennien; Scott Denier; Michael Lyons  
Cc: Aleisha Coote; SEQWGM Emergency  
Subject: 0830h Teleconference Notes  
Attachments: Flooding 0830 10JAN11 Teleconference.docx

Colleagues,

Attached are the notes as taken during the teleconference today.

Lee Hutchison  
Risk and Emergency Manager  
SEQ Water Grid Manager  
Phone: [REDACTED]  
Email: [REDACTED]  
Post: PO Box 16205, BRISBANE CITY EAST, QLD 4002  
Office: Level 15, 53 Albert St, BRISBANE  
Phone: 14 783 317 630

## Teleconference 0830h 10 January 2011 – Dam Releases and Flooding

### In attendance

Barry Denhien  
Dan Spiller  
Scott Denner  
Michael Lyons  
Lee Hutchison.

Seqwater – Peter Burrows, Rob Dury, Paul Bird, Stan Stevenson

### Agenda

Review the current release strategy

- 3.5 and 4
  - Seqwater – Manual – 4,000m<sup>3</sup>/s but aiming for 3,500m<sup>3</sup>/s – 4,000m<sup>3</sup>/s in the river
  - Will adjust timings based on what is happening downstream
  - Release at 3,500m<sup>3</sup>/s – currently at 2,000m<sup>3</sup>/s
  - 2,500m<sup>3</sup>/s in next 12-24hrs
  - Objective is to minimise urban impacts.
  - Barry - @ 3,500m<sup>3</sup>/s comfortable through Moggill. Point between W2 and W3 is critical. Need to engage BCC at highest level when decision is made.
  - Dan – above 3.5 – flooding attributable to dam releases – Comms need to be clear
  - Peter Burrows – 8,800-9,000m<sup>3</sup>/s inflows
  - Barry – Team talks to BCC and Bom (planned above 3.5), check concerns (not input into model), document any concerns.
  - Peter – how much notice can we give that we are moving from 3,500m<sup>3</sup>/s to 4,000m<sup>3</sup>/s at Moggill – Key question.

### Scenarios –

- W2
- BCC second scenario – river at 3,500m<sup>3</sup>/s with local rainfall causing localised/flash flooding.
- Barry – inflows in calcs?
- Dan – could it go over 4,000m<sup>3</sup>/s?

Action - Seqwater will come back with some further modelling info next hour.

How long at 3,500m<sup>3</sup>/s

Trigger to go from 4,000m<sup>3</sup>/s and up

### Grid Operations

- WTP
- Stan – Somerset – some facilities shut down.
- Site access – emerging issues
- Landslips – emerging issue



- Landers Shute – landslide issues\*\*\*
- Kenilworth – 36hrs
- Mt Crosby – OK.
- More detail at 1100h.
- Need to max sys storage. Linkwater comfortable.
- Staff unable to return from leave or access workplace – is resourcing a risk?

#### Coordination –

- 1000h Min
- 1030h Min
- 1100h Grid OPs
- 12PM meeting BCC/BoM (telecon)
- TSRs – BoM and BCC – update with issues and expectations
- W37 post 1200h teleconference as technical basis for media comms

#### Communications

- 1400h TV
- Short advisory am hrs earlier today

#### Level 3 Emergency Escalation

- Emergency Manager appointed – Dan
- Comms Manager appointed – Michael

Teleconference end at 0902h.

Tipping point discussion – how long can we hold for and what are the risks

#### SEQWGM Actions

- Distribute TSR to BCC and BoM for formal input and endorsement
- Communicate TSR to Gov't stakeholders

## Teleconference 0830h 10 January 2011 – Dam Releases and Flooding

### In attendance

Barry Dennien  
Dan Spiller  
Scott Denner  
Michael Lyons  
Lee Hutchison

Seqwater – Peter Burrows, Rob Dury, Paul Bird, Stan Stevenson

### Agenda

Review the current release strategy

- 3.5 and 4
  - Seqwater – Manual – 4,000m<sup>3</sup>/s but aiming for 3,500m<sup>3</sup>/s – 4,000m<sup>3</sup>/s in the river
  - Will adjust timings based on what is happening downstream
  - Release at 3,500m<sup>3</sup>/s – currently at 2,000m<sup>3</sup>/s
  - 2,500m<sup>3</sup>/s in next 12-24hrs
  - Objective is to minimise urban impacts
  - Barry - @ 3,500m<sup>3</sup>/s comfortable through Moggill. Point between W2 and W3 is critical. Need to engage BCC at highest level when decision is made
  - Dan – above 3.5 – flooding attributable to dam releases – Comms need to be clear
  - Peter Burrows – 8,800-9,000m<sup>3</sup>/s inflows
  - Barry - - Team talks to BCC and Bom (planned above 3.5), check concerns (not input into model), document any concerns
  - Peter – how much notice can we give that we are moving from 3,500m<sup>3</sup>/s to 4,000m<sup>3</sup>/s at Moggill – Key question.

Scenarios –

- W2
- BCC second scenario – river at 3,500m<sup>3</sup>/s with local rainfall causing localised/flash flooding.
- Barry – inflows in calcs?
- Dan – could it go over 4,000m<sup>3</sup>/s?

Action - Seqwater will come back with some further modelling info next hour.

How long at 3,500m<sup>3</sup>/s

Trigger to go from 4,000m<sup>3</sup>/s and up

Grid Operations

- WTP
- Stan – Somerset – some facilities shut down.
- Site access – emerging issues
- Landslips – emerging issue

- Landers Shute – landslide issues\*\*\*
- Kenilworth – 36hrs
- Mt Crosby – OK.
- More detail at 1100h
- Need to max sys storage. Linkwater comfortable
- Staff unable to return from leave or access workplace – is resourcing a risk?

#### Coordination –

- 1000h Min
- 1030h Min
- 1100h Grid OPs
- 12PM meeting BCC/BoM (telecon)
- TSRs - BoM and BCC – update with issues and expectations
- W37 post 1200h teleconference as technical basis for media comms

#### Communications

- 1400h TV
- Short advisory am hrs earlier today

#### Level 3 Emergency Escalation

- Emergency Manager appointed - Dan
- Comms Manager appointed – Michael

**Teleconference end at 0902h.**

**Tipping point discussion – how long can we hold for and what are the risks**

#### SEQWGM Actions

- Distribute TSR to BCC and Bom for formal input and endorsement
- Communicate TSR to Gov't stakeholders

#### Key information Requirements

- Continue to advise inflows
- Continue to keep SEQWGM appraised of the downstream risks and issues from Dam releases
- What are the triggers for going over 4,000m<sup>3</sup>/s in the river
- how much notice can we get that we are moving from 3,500m<sup>3</sup>/s to 4,000m<sup>3</sup>/s at Moggill
- Are there any alternative strategies and what are the risks