

Your ref:  
Our ref: CRS/PRE052/1856/LAP  
Contact: Paul Lack  
Direct ph: [REDACTED]  
Direct fax: [REDACTED]

Department of  
**Justice and Attorney-General**

18 January 2012

Ms Jane Moynihan  
Executive Director  
Qld Floods Commission of Inquiry  
Level 30, 400 George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Jane

**Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry - State Representation -  
Dam related matters**

I am instructed that in relation to the Commission's final report, the State confirms the following:

1. The State submits that DERM is the appropriate agency to review emergency action plans for dams with Emergency Management Queensland providing advice and input. The process of review would include evidence of appropriate technical assessments, consultation with Disaster Management Groups and compliance with any guidelines.
2. As a result of an audit conducted in late 2010, the State designated the Department of Local Government and Planning (DLGP) as lead agency for flood mitigation issues. Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) and the Department of Community Safety (DCS) provide support to within their areas of responsibility. **Enclosed** is a copy of correspondence that sets out the actions taken and responsibilities accepted by the Ministers for the three agencies.

[REDACTED]  
Yours faithfully  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Assistant Crown Solicitor  
for **Crown Solicitor**

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Queensland  
Government

Ref CTS17552/10

27 OCT 2010

The Honourable Stirling Hinchliffe MP  
Minister for Infrastructure and Planning  
PO Box 15009  
CITY EAST QLD 4002

Dear Minister

We are writing to you to request your assistance in clarifying the Queensland Government's role in the strategic policy and planning responses to flood risk management. □

Natural Disaster Recovery and Relief Arrangements (NDRRA) expenditure indicates that between \$200 and \$600 million has been spent annually on flood and cyclonic events in Queensland during the last four years, with projections indicating expenditure of approximately \$600 million into 2011 and 2012.

Given that one of the likely impacts of climate change is the increased likelihood for more extreme weather events and that current forecasts indicate that we are heading into a period of several wet years, it would be advantageous to review the State's strategic policy and planning response to flood risk management.

As you are aware, flood risk management in Queensland is a complex matter. The roles and responsibilities related to managing flood are shared across various departments. This has resulted in the need to clarify lead agency responsibility at the Queensland Government level; which is particularly evident in the fact that the state does not have jurisdictional representation on the National Flood Risk Advisory Group (NFRAG).

A recent audit was undertaken with key agencies of flood risk management related activities across the Queensland Government, to understand the full nature of the State's flood risk management framework and to establish where gaps in policy activities may exist.

The audit identified the Department of Infrastructure and Planning as an agency with significant responsibilities relating to the planning, infrastructure and local government matters of flood risk management.

The Hon. Stephen Robertson MP, Minister for Natural Resources,  
Mines and Energy and Minister for Trade

Level 17  
61 Mary Street, Brisbane  
PO Box 15128, City East  
Queensland 4002 Australia  
Telephone +617 3225 1061  
Facsimile +617 3225 1828

The Hon. Kate Jones MP, Minister for Climate Change  
and Sustainability

Level 13  
400 George Street, Brisbane  
GPO Box 2454, Brisbane  
Queensland 4001 Australia  
Telephone +617 3239 0644  
Facsimile +617 3227 6309

We welcome your agency's recent agreement to lead assessment work, with the Department of Environment and Resource Management's comprehensive input and support of the Queensland Government's response to the Charleville Flood Strategy. The audit also found that there is a clear need to identify a lead agency who can take on the responsibility for managing flood risk in Queensland and offer jurisdictional representation on the NFRAG.

The NFRAG is the key national coordination group for strategic flood risk policy and planning responses. Representation is coordinated through the National Emergency Management Committee (NEMC) with endorsement from the formal Queensland NEMC representative (currently the Department of Community Safety). The Terms of Reference and current membership are attached.

We believe that your department would be best placed to provide coordinated and informed jurisdictional input to this group and would ask that your department nominate an officer. We will then notify relevant staff in our department of the jurisdictional representation to ensure this officer receives the advice and assistance required.

As the next meeting of the NFRAG is scheduled to be held in Brisbane in November 2010 and Queensland does not currently have a jurisdictional representative, I would urge you to consider this matter within the next fortnight to ensure that clear advice can be provided to all parties in the lead up to this meeting.

If any further information is required, please do not hesitate to contact Mr [REDACTED] Policy Advisor, Office of the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy and Minister for Trade on telephone [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely



STEPHEN ROBERTSON MP



KATE JONES MP

Att



Hon Paul Lucas MP

Our ref: DEPBN11/222  
Your ref: CTS17552/10

28 MAR 2011

Honourable Kate Jones MP  
Minister for Environment and Resource Management  
GPO Box 2454  
Brisbane QLD 4001



Queensland  
Government

Deputy Premier and Attorney-General  
Minister for Local Government and  
Special Minister of State

Dear Minister Jones *Kate*

I refer to a joint letter of 27 October 2010 from yourself and the Honourable Stephen Robertson MP, Minister for Energy and Water Utilities, to the former Minister for Infrastructure and Planning, the Honourable Stirling Hinchliffe MP, about the Queensland Government's representation on the National Flood Risk Advisory Group (NFRAG) and the work led by the Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) on the review of flood risk management activities across Government.

I understand that officers from the Department of Local Government and Planning, DERM and the Department of Community Safety (DCS) progressed these matters at the time of your and Minister Robertson's letter to Minister Hinchliffe.

I am advised that Mr Michael Papageorgiou, from the former Department of Infrastructure and Planning, attended the November 2010 NFRAG meeting in Canberra.

Enclosed is recent correspondence from the Acting Director-General of the Department of Local Government and Planning, to the Directors-General of DERM and the DCS on this matter.

I have also forwarded this material to Minister Robertson and Minister Roberts.

Should officers of your Department require any further information, they should contact Mr Michael Papageorgiou, Executive Director, Planning Policy Division, Growth Management Queensland, Department of Local Government and Planning, on 3238 3010 who will be pleased to assist.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

PAUL LUCAS MP  
Deputy Premier and Attorney-General,  
Minister for Local Government  
and Special Minister of State

Enc

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Queensland  
Government

Department of  
Local Government and Planning

Our ref: DEPBNI/222

Jim McGowan  
Director General  
Department of Community Safety  
GPO Box 1425  
Brisbane QLD 4001

Dear Mr McGowan

*Jim,*

I refer to a joint letter of 27 October 2010 from Ministers Jones and Robertson to Minister Hinchliffe, the former Minister for Infrastructure and Planning, concerning Queensland Government representation on the National Flood Risk Advisory Group (NFRAG) and the work led by the Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) on the review of flood risk management activities across government.

For your information, I have attached a copy of my correspondence to Mr Bradley, Director-General of DERM, in relation to this work.

I understand that the Deputy Premier may be writing to Ministers Jones, Robertson and Roberts on these matters given the previous correspondence to Minister Hinchliffe as the former Minister for Infrastructure and Planning.

If officers of your Department require any further information, they should contact Mr Michael Papageorgiou, Executive Director, Planning Policy Division, Growth Management Queensland, Department of Local Government and Planning, on 32383010 who will be pleased to assist.

Yours sincerely



Paul Low  
Acting Director General and  
Chief Executive Officer Growth Management Queensland  
Department of Local Government and Planning

(Enc)



Queensland  
Government

Our ref: DEBPN11/222

Department of  
Local Government and Planning

John Bradley  
Director General  
Department of Environment and Resource Management  
GPO Box 2454  
Brisbane QLD 4001

Dear Mr Bradley *John,*

I refer to a joint letter of 27 October 2010 from Ministers Jones and Robertson to Minister Hinchliffe, the former Minister for Infrastructure and Planning, concerning Queensland Government representation on the National Flood Risk Advisory Group (NFRAG) and the work led by the Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) on the review of flood risk management activities across government.

The original letter from Ministers Jones and Robertson referred to the November meeting of NFRAG which was attended by Mr Michael Papageorgiou, Executive Director, Planning Policy Division, from the former Department of Infrastructure and Planning. I understand another meeting is scheduled for early April 2011.

As agreed between senior officers from our departments and the Department of Community Safety (DCS), the Department of Local Government and Planning (DLGP) will continue to represent Queensland at future meetings of the NFRAG. This role will involve coordinating input from the DCS and DERM and that officers from these departments may accompany DLGP to NFRAG meetings depending on the agenda items.

In relation to the work being led by DERM on the audit of the flood risk management activities across government, as agreed between our officers, this work is to be an input to the current review of *State Planning Policy 1/03 - Mitigating the Adverse Impacts of Flood, Bushfire and Landslide (SPP1/03)*

The review of SPP1/03 by DCS was endorsed by Cabinet in March 2010 as part of its approval for the State Planning Instruments Program for 2010/11. The review of SPP1/03 was commenced by DCS in June 2010 and is planned for completion prior to the requirement to have original SPP reviewed by 2013 -- within 10 years of its original commencement.

While DCS has the lead, both DLGP and DERM together with other agencies, are key partners with DCS to ensure that the State's interests in ensuring that the natural hazards

of flood, bushfire and landslide are adequately considered when making decisions about planning and development matters.

Please note that I have written to our colleague Mr Jim McGowan, Director-General of DCS, enclosing a copy of this correspondence to him.

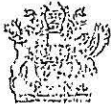
I understand that the Deputy Premier may be writing to Ministers Jones, Robertson and Roberts on these same matters given the previous correspondence to Minister Hinchliffe as the former Minister for Infrastructure and Planning.

If officers of your Department require any further information, they should contact Mr Michael Papageorgiou, Executive Director, Planning Policy Division, Growth Management Queensland, Department of Local Government and Planning, on [REDACTED] who will be pleased to assist.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Paul Low  
Acting Director General and  
Chief Executive Officer Growth Management Queensland  
Department of Local Government and Planning



Hon Kate Jones MP  
Member for Ashgrove

Our Ref CTS 05965/11  
Your Ref DEPBN11/222

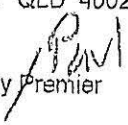


Queensland  
Government

Minister for Environment  
and Resource Management

17 JUN 2011



The Honourable Paul Lucas MP  
Deputy Premier and Attorney-General  
Minister for Local Government and  
Special Minister of State  
PO Box 15009  
CITY EAST QLD 4002


Dear Deputy Premier 


Thank you for your letter of 28 March 2011 concerning the flood risk roles and responsibilities.

I note that while the Department of Local Government and Planning will provide the Queensland representative to the National Flood Risk Advisory Group, it will be supported by senior officers from the Department of Environment and Resource Management and from the Department of Community Safety where agenda items relate more to their areas of responsibility.

I also note that these three departments will be working together to progress the review of the State Planning Policy 1/03, as well as with the Queensland Reconstruction Authority to ensure hazards are adequately considered when making decisions about planning and development matters. While these issues will be progressed, they will not pre-empt any outcomes of the Flood Commission of Inquiry and will be subsequently reviewed based on these outcomes.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention. If any further information is required, please do not hesitate to contact Mr , Principal Policy Advisor in my office on telephone .

Yours sincerely 

  
Kate Jones MP  
Minister for Environment and Resource Management

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