



Our Ref: BCS/EM/SES

18 October 2011

Jane Moynihan
Executive Director
Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry
Level 30
400 George Street
Brisbane QLD 4000

Dear Sir/Madam

Requirement to Provide Information to Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry

The following information is provided by the Bourke Shire Council ("Council") in response to the Requirement to Provide Information to the Commission of Inquiry dated 13 September 2011.

For each of the financial years 2009-2010 and 2010-2011:

1. The Burke Shire SES Unit consists of two (2) groups at this time, each group located at Burketown and Gregory/Lawn Hill.
2. SES membership is classified as follows:

"Active members" these are members who are available to attend training on a regular basis and are also available for callout.

"Reserve members" these are members who have joined the SES having completed minimal training but may be available for activation at the time of a major event.
3. As at 28 September 2011, Burketown SES had a total of eight (8) active members and five (5) reserve members. These numbers have decreased slightly over the last three (3) years due to some members moving away from Burketown.
4. As at 28 September 2011, Gregory/Lawn Hill had eleven (11) active members and three (3) reserve members. These numbers have increased over the last two (2) years due to recruiting initiatives focused on rural properties in the area.
5. Council supplies the following assets to the Burke Shire SES Unit and associated groups:





- a. Burketown (this is a joint centre for SES, VMR and rural fire brigade)
 - Accommodation sheds located at Burketown to house the operations/training centre and vehicles/flood boat/trailers.
 - One (1) Toyota Hilux dual cab utility. This vehicle is a dedicated SES vehicle that was supplied by the State Government and is owned and maintained by Council. Prior to this vehicle, the SES was given access to a Council fleet vehicle.
 - One (1) trailer for general rescue/traffic control equipment.
 - One (1) flood boat supplied by Queensland Government and maintained by Council.
 - Council plant and equipment including operators are available on an as needed basis.
- b. Gregory/Lawn Hill
 - Accommodation for the SES equipment and communications room co-located in Gregory.
 - One (1) Toyota Hilux supplied by Queensland Government and maintained by Council.
 - One (1) flood boat supplied by Queensland Government and maintained by Council.
 - Council plant and equipment including operators are available on an as needed basis.

All of the above equipment was available for the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 financial years.

6. The Local Controller position is currently filled by Mr [REDACTED]. The Group Leader in Gregory/Lawn Hill is Mr [REDACTED]. Both positions are voluntary.
7. The SES within the Burke Shire has the following approved functions:
 - Agency support including communications, welfare, emergency lighting, food handling, air observation, re-supply and evacuation.
 - Emergency lighting for the Royal Flying Doctor aircraft when required.



- Flood boat operations.
- Incident management. Emergency Operation Centre/Emergency Coordination Centre trained only.
- Road crash rescue (primary response in both Burketown and Gregory/Lawn Hill).
- 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.

8. The Council provides annual funding for the SES:

- a. Council's total SES expenditure in the 2009-2010 financial year was \$10,753.67. Attachment A includes a full list of items included within Council's SES expenditure.
- b. Council's total SES expenditure in the 2010-2011 financial year was \$15,887.20. Attachment B includes a full list of items included within Council's SES expenditure.

In relation to the circumstances surrounding the death of Donna CHONG at the Leichardt River Falls Causeway on 1 January 2011:

1. Any protocols regarding the proper maintenance of SES equipment.

All equipment is checked on a three (3) monthly basis as required by the guidelines of the SES organisation.

2. The frequency of inspections of SES equipment to ensure its proper operation.

Equipment checks of radios and motorised equipment are conducted by Regional SES maintenance staff. The Local Controller also conducts regular operational checks.

3. The person or persons whose responsibility it is to conduct such inspections of SES equipment.

Regional SES maintenance staff inspect all equipment.



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4. The number of SES personnel who responded to the incident at the Leichardt River Falls Causeway on 1 January 2011.

Four (4) SES personnel responded to the incident on the 1st and 2nd of January 2011.

5. Any written reports or logs of the incident at the Leichardt River Falls Causeway on 1 January 2011 completed by SES volunteers.

As the incident resulted in the tragic death of Donna Chong, all reporting was conducted by local Queensland Police Service Constable [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Chief Executive Officer

