

<i>Name of Witness</i>	Colleen Florence ENGEL	
<i>Date of Birth</i>	[REDACTED]	
<i>Address and contact details</i>	[REDACTED]	Brassall
<i>Occupation</i>	State School Principal	
<i>Officer taking statement</i>	Detective Sergeant Paul Browne	
<i>Date taken</i>	12/05/2011	

# ADDENDUM STATEMENT:

I, Colleen Florence ENGEL state:

1. I previously provided a statement to the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry, dated 20<sup>th</sup> April 2011.
2. I wish to provide further information outlining a number of recommendations that I would like to see considered by the Commission and implemented. I make these recommendations as a result of my involvement and the death of my Brother in the January 2011 flood.
3. It is my understanding that my Brother died as a result of his vehicle having been washed off the road and submerged underwater along Karrabin - Rosewood Road, Karrabin.

Exhibit Number:

442

QFCI

Date:

20/05/11

JMN

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[REDACTED]

Signature of officer

[REDACTED]

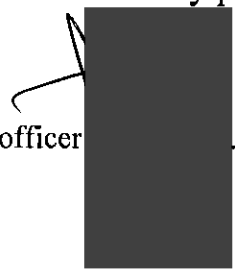
400 George Street Brisbane  
GPO Box 1738 Brisbane  
Queensland 4001 Australia  
Telephone 1300 309 634  
Facsimile +61 7 3405 9750  
www.floodcommission.qld.gov.au  
ABN 65 959 415 158

4. The first recommendation I would like to see is in regards to signage that is put up along flooded roads or crossings to advise the community that the road is not safe to cross. In particular, any recommendation should address how quickly these signs are put out on the road/s, informing people that the road should not be traversed or that it is unsafe to drive on the road ahead.
  
5. Near the area of Karrabin road where my Brother's vehicle was washed off, there is also a blind corner and near the crossing, the road funnels downward and narrows. I am not sure whether or not this contributed to what happened but believe that there needs to be better signage of the road, alerting drivers to those particular features.
  
6. The features and design of the road are also something that perhaps require further consideration. For example, where did that water come from and could a better design of the road avoid this in the future. On this point I have been told that another vehicle had gone off the crossing in that same area, when the road was dry.
  
7. At the time of the flood there were no flooding depth indicators, however these have since been installed.
  
8. The installation of guardrails (or other similar measures) to prevent cars from being washed across the causeway and into the creek (which is what occurred in the case of my Brother) is also required. Currently there are guardrails on the high side of the road but nothing on the low side, despite there being a significant drop. Not only are those required in times of flood or high water but even in dry periods because of the drop off the roadway.

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Signature of officer.....



9. Guardrails and signage are probably something that is not only specific to this area but applicable to other roadways and crossings which are subject to flooding or being cut by rising water.

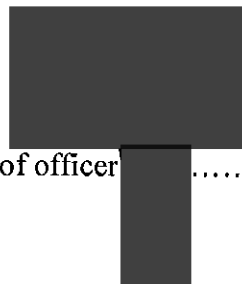
10. Warnings are something that I do not have a lot of knowledge of, however I am aware that staff working in the Bradk<sup>an</sup> Engineering plant (which is adjacent to the creek where my Brother was located) were advised of the flood on the Monday morning and told to go home if they needed to. I don't know if this is something that was initiated by Management or if they received a warning, but it would make sense that at the same time, consideration should have been given to placing signage along the road.

11. More generally, the adequacy of community warnings about flooding also needs to be addressed. Until losing power, I was able to monitor and receive the warnings through television, however once the electricity went off (without power for 2 days), there was no real way of receiving the warnings. My husband received a text message warning him of flooding via his mobile phone, however I did not receive anything myself. Instead, we went for a walk down to where the water was rising (near our home) and heard most of what was happening through the local grapevine.

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12. As far as warnings systems go, I believe that whichever system is adopted, this needs to cater for a variety of age groups. For example, I know that a lot of younger people use and were using 'Facebook' at the time, however a lot of older people do not have this technology. It might also be that the Internet or mobile phones are not always reliable so perhaps a combination of methods is needed to ensure everyone is getting the message.

13. I believe a recommendation should also be made regarding the implementation of, or putting systems in place for the establishment of a local Evacuation Centre, set-up in times of need. This could be operated by Council but involve a local Disaster Committee, including members of the community and could be publicised throughout the year (local paper, emergency contact lists etc).

14. This would be somewhere local that people would know of and could contact for information or to ring and get advice. Whilst it would be a central location, establishing a 'contact tree' of other local people throughout the relevant area, might also be an effective way of getting the message out at the time of an incident.

15. Some of the Schools that were activated at the time of the flood are an example of how this might work. Effectively this was what happened, but in an ad hoc fashion and I believe there needs to be some structure in place or plan of what to do and how those things would operate when the need arises. This is something that was missing in the January flood event.

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16. A recommendation should also be made regarding a Community Education campaign (via the media and other sources). This could include advice or information on crossing flooded roads or causeways, staying out of flood waters and what to do in the event of Emergency. It might also include details of the local evacuation centres and could be circulated prior to the wet season, educating the public on the various issues that may arise in times of flood. Similar to what occurs now for storm season but taking things a bit further.

17. I would also like to see recommendations made introducing appropriate protocols regarding the release of names of deceased persons by the media. In my Brother's case, he was named in the *'Queensland Times'* Newspaper on the Saturday, two days before we had formally identified his body on the Monday.

18. Not only had he not been formally identified but his name and death was also being spoken about on 'Facebook' and was how some members of our immediate family found out about his death.

19. I understand 'Facebook' is not something that is easily controllable, however I would like to see protocols recommended in regards to commercial media publishing details of a person's death.

20. Finally, I am concerned about the circumstances of my Brother's death and the time that it took for his remains to be located. I am not sure whether or not a protocol exists in regards to missing persons, however if not, I believe this is something that is necessary.

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21. I believe my Brother's vehicle was seen to be washed off the roadway around 10am on the Monday morning and that Police were aware of that but could do little to retrieve the vehicle or search for him at the time and because of the conditions. However, it was not until the following day (when the water had receded) that workers from ~~Bradkin~~ Bradkin Engineering saw the submerged vehicle and contacted Police. This was sometime around 12 midday, 1pm Tuesday, about 27 hours after the vehicle had been washed away.

22. Tow truck drivers have told us that they were contacted at the time the car was washed off. They attended within a couple of minutes and tried to retrieve the car, but could not do so safely. After a couple of hours they were called away to other incidents. It has been reported to us that the Police had "just forgot" to go back.


23. I am not sure about a register of missing persons but believe that under circumstances such as those, there should be a system in place to record a person as missing (although not necessarily by name). Then as soon as possible attempts should be made to go back and search for or locate that person. I understand there were a lot of people missing and a lot happening at the time, however it seems in this instance nobody went back until after Bradkin staff had again contacted Police.


24. I understand there is a Coronial Investigation into my Brother's death and as that proceeds we will find out more about his death. Some of these issues will be considered as part of that process.

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25.I would also ask that the Flood Commission consider these relevant issues as part of their recommendations.

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**Colleen Florence ENGEL.**  
12<sup>th</sup> May 2011.

<b>Justices Act 1886</b>
I acknowledge by virtue of section 110A(5)(c)(ii) of the Justices Act 1886 that:
(1) This written statement by me dated 12 <sup>th</sup> May 2011 and contained in the pages numbered 1 to 7 is true to the best of my knowledge and belief; and
(2) I make this statement knowing that, if it were admitted as evidence, I may be liable to prosecution for stating in it anything that I know is false.
.....  .....Signature
Signed at .....Brassall.....this.....12 <sup>th</sup> .....day of.....May.....2011....

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Signature of officer.....

