

**Statement of Michael Lyons dated 10
February 2012**

Statement by Michael Llewellyn Lyons, sworn on 10 February 2012

I, Michael Llewellyn Lyons of Level 15, 53 Albert Street, Brisbane, Queensland, Director, South East Queensland Water Grid Communications Unit, of the SEQ Water Grid Manager (**Water Grid Manager**), state the following:

- 1 I am currently employed as the Director of the South East Queensland Water Grid Communications Unit. I have held this position since 12 August 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.

The teleconference held at 8.30am on 10 January 2011

- 3 At 8.30am on Monday, 10 January 2011, I attended a teleconference held in the Water Grid Manager's Emergency Management Room. I attended that meeting in my role as the Water Grid's Emergency Communications Manager and as part of my duties under the draft Wivenhoe and Somerset Floods Communications Protocol.
- 4 In preparing this statement, I have reviewed the minutes of the teleconference contained at pages E1087-E1088 of Annexure E to Exhibit 431 (Statement of Daniel Spiller dated 13 May

Signature 
Michael Llewellyn Lyons

Taken by 
[Solicitor]

2011) (**Minutes**), referred to in the Letter. I recall that I attended the teleconference but have only limited independent recollection of the discussions had during that teleconference.

5 I recall that also present in the Emergency Management Room were Barry Dennien, Dan Spiller, Scott Denner and Lee Hutchison from the Water Grid Manager. My recollection is that the other participants were from Seqwater and that they participated by telephone. Besides Peter Borrows, I believe the Seqwater employees participating were Robert Drury, Paul Bird and Stan Stevenson.

6 I recall that Mr Dennien and Mr Spiller were the primary participants from the Water Grid Manager and that Mr Borrows was the primary participant from Seqwater.

7 My participation in the teleconference was primarily as an observer. I do not recall taking an active speaking role but I may have had made some, limited, comments from time to time.

8 My recollection is that the teleconference was primarily to provide a technical update or clarification around release rates. My interest in attending the teleconference was to gain a general overview of the then current situation.

9 As my role is to communicate matters to the public in an efficient and readily understandable way, I generally avoid using technical language as far as possible.


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

10 My understanding of the discussion in relation to release strategies was that the seriousness of the situation was escalating and that the public and key stakeholders would need to be made aware of that fact.

Sign


Michael Llewellyn Lyons

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*

11 I understand the references to 3.5 and 4 in the Minutes to mean an increase from 3,500 to 4,000 cumecs in release strategies, but do not have any detailed knowledge about release strategies beyond that.

12 I remember the conversation around Moggill and references to cumecs, but cannot recall the specifics of these discussions apart from the fact that the level of possible releases was increasing.

(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 I remember that the 'W' term was used during the teleconference, but I cannot recall who used that term or in what context.

14 At the time of the teleconference, and even now, the terms 'W1', 'W2', 'W3' and 'W4' were not ones which I used regularly or naturally, if at all. While I am (and was) aware that they referred to strategies used to operate the dam during flood events, I did not, and do not, have a detailed technical knowledge of each stage.

(c) Whether I took any notes of the teleconference

15 I did make brief, 'jotted' notes during the meeting but I did not keep a copy of those notes.

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

16 I remember that the Water Grid Manager staff who were physically present at the teleconference had pen and paper in front of them and may have taken notes. The Seqwater staff called in by teleconference and I do not know if they took any notes.


Signature: 
Michael Llewellyn Lyons

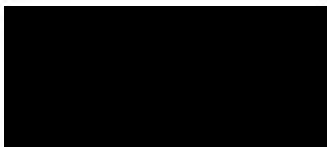
Taken by: 
[Justice of the Peace/Solicitor]

*In the matter of the Commissions of Inquiry Act 1950, Commissions of Inquiry Order (No. 1) 2011
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- 17 I do not recall who took the Minutes. However, in preparing my statement, I have identified an email from Lee Hutchison which I received at 10.21am on 10 January 2011 attaching a copy of the Minutes. A copy of that email is attached as **Annexure A** to my statement. From that email, I assume that the Minutes were prepared by Mr Hutchison.
- 18 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 Michael Llewellyn Lyons on 10 February
2012 in the presence of:

^  _____
Signature of witness

^  _____
Signature of Michael Llewellyn Lyons

^ 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 Denher; 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 – 4,000m³/s but aiming for 3,500m³/s – 4,000m³/s in the river
 - Will adjust timings based on what is happening downstream
 - Release at 3,500m³/s – currently at 2,000m³/s
 - 2,500m³/s in next 12-24hrs
 - Objective is to minimise urban impacts.
 - Barry - @ 3,500m³/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 – 8,800-9,000m³/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 3,500m³/s to 4,000m³/s at Moggill – Key question.

Scenarios –

- W2
- BCC second scenario – river at 3,500m³/s with local rainfall causing localised/flash flooding.
- Barry – inflows in calcs?
- Dan – could it go over 4,000m³/s?

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

How long at 3,500m³/s

Trigger to go from 4,000m³/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