Mr ████████- Local Controller Scenic Rim State Emergency Service
Scenic Rim Regional Council (SRRC)

Reply to Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry

1.   Structure of SES Units

        1.1   The structure of the Scenic Rim SES is made up of 5 groups spread out
across the Scenic Rim. The groups and member numbers are;
Beaudesert (38)
Tamborine Mtn (44)
Boonah (14)
Aratula (12)
Kalbar (9)
A total of 119 members on the system.

        1.2   No Scenic Rim SES members are in a full time paid position. The Local
                Controller receives a very small honorarium from the Scenic Rim
                Regional Council for his volunteer duties which can be 6 days a week.

        1.3   The Local Controller should be a full time paid employee of EMQ/ Local
                Councils. The current role is at least 5 days a week position (with many
                nights) to ensure the readiness of the Unit to be prepared at any time to
                respond to disasters. I as a Local Controller attend all training as well as
                liaise with other Emergency Services and SEQWater and other utilities to
                ensure that the unit is ready to respond. I do this on a volunteer basis.

        1.4   There is only One Local Controller for the Scenic Rim Area but I have
                now have two Deputies to assist.

2.   Readiness for the 2010/2011 floods

        2.1   I believe that the unit was prepared for the floods that affected the Scenic
                Rim area, but we could have had more and realistic flood boat training.

        2.2   We had enough volunteers to cope with the demand of the floods that
                affected the Scenic Rim. More would have helped.

        2.3   The Unit is equipped to meet the needs of the Scenic Rim Functions less
                the following:

                        Dedicated Unit HQ and EOC (currently shared with SRRC)
                        Troop Carrier Vehicle for Tamborine Mtn
                        Flood boat for Harrisville area
                        2 x Deputy Local Controller vehicles

2.4 Having only taken over as the Local Controller as of 1 March 2011 I do not believe that we were in the best possible position and this is being addressed.

3. Operations during the 2010/2011 floods

3.1 The Scenic Rim had moderate flooding during the period. RFA consisted of Flood assistance and Roof damage mainly, plus chainsaw tasks. Unit members were involved in deployments to Dalby, IMT to Esk, as well as cleanup of Lockyer Valleys (searches, House cleanups etc). 2 x teams were also tasks with Flood boat supply tasks in Somerset Area

4. Command and Control

4.1 Management of Unit Urfa's as well as co-Ord with SRRC for resupply and community operations

4.2 I would report to Area Director SE Region but also include SRRC LDC for info.

4.3 At the time it was via Kit Referral email as well as then RFA from SE EMQ Office

4.4 Teams are co Ord at Unit level and tasked via Radio or Text Message

4.5 Not that I believe

4.6 RFA from Harrisville were unable to be responded to due to a lack of access due to flood water and flood boat in that area.

4.7 Members were deployed in Dec to Dalby co-ord with Regional EMQ Office. IMT Team sent to Esk 11- 15 Jan 2011 via Helo from Beaudesert. Then mainly day tasks to Lockyer Valley

4.8

a) Good co-Ord with LDC and place at LDMG Meeting.

b) Unit EOC collocated with LDCC. (Too small area)

c) Always invited to sit on LDMG, good relationship

4.9

a) Nil

b)   Nil

c)   Nil

4.10   Contact via phone, good relationship.

4.11   Via phone with QPS in local areas effected. Good relationships

4.12   Not in SRRC.

4.13   Area Director - To assist LC's with management and needs of the Area. Supply of extra equipment, liaise with other units & outside Emergency Services for extra teams etc. LC's should be the contact with LDMG. Regional Director – Assist LDCC's with management of SES units.

5.   <u>Communications</u>

5.1   Hand held, vehicle and base VHF Radios. CB Radios in some vehicles. SES as well as personal mobile phones. Internet.

5.2   No

5.3   No (unit purchased their own radios that are programmed with QPS, QFRS, QAS freq so that we can monitor their channels).

The Unit needs four (4) repeater stations to cover our area. Each repeater is on a different channel therefore we cannot speak from one end of the Unit area to the other. We need repeaters to all be on the same channel with capability for multiple channels.

6.   <u>Funding</u>

6.1   SRRC Unit has two (2) Support Units for fundraising.

6.2   Not aware of any but EMQ grants close in Dec and money is not allocated until following Sep, way to long should only be 12 weeks.

6.3   I send request to SRRC for equipment or stores and they provide. Usually very good.

6.4   I am not involved in Budget planning, but intent to start.

6.5   I have had no problems from SRRC

6.6

a) Parking at markets, parking at events, support to local community events

b) Fundraising money is used for welfare (food) during activations as well as extra equipment.

c) Yes extra time that could have been used training. Drains manpower from members using weekends away from family

7. Other

7.1 LC should be on a base salary of $60,000 from State Govt, Local Govt can then top that up to attract a better LC. This would professionalise the management of Units. LC's to have KPI's; member numbers, training, etc. All active volunteer members receive $2000 tax offset from personal income which is tiered with management position (ie. Dep GL $2500, GL $3000, DLC $4000). Volunteer members also receive an offset for each specialised course/deployment conducted. Link any incentive to tax relief. LC's should then conduct management courses at AEMI and be the source of Area Directors then Regional Directors.

- The need to record and better paperwork management has made it harder for some units without IT or management experience to keep members.
- The more members volunteer the more money they lose from not working.

7.2 I think that given the magnitude of the incident most ES personnel performed well. Some things could have been done better but that's hindsight.

- South East Qld needs a specialised purpose built Swiftwater / Floodboat training area. Somewhere below a major dam were coordinated water releases can be used with QFRS swiftwater rescue training as well as SES floodboat training in fast flowing water (more realistic).
- There needs to be some minor changes to RFA to make it user friendly at the Unit level. Units are not recognised only Groups.