



QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE
STATEMENT OF WITNESS



Occurrence #: _____

Statement no.: _____ Date: 7.3.2011

Statement of

Name of witness: WARDROPE, Stephen Michael

Date of birth: _____ Age: ██████ Occupation: Police Officer

Police officer taking statement

Name: WARDROPE, Stephen Michael

Rank: Superintendent Reg. no.: ██████████

Region/Command/Division: North Coast Region Station: Maryborough

Statement:

Stephen Michael Wardrope states:

I am a Superintendent of Police, Registered Number ██████████ currently on Long Service leave pending retirement from the Queensland Police Service on the 5th November, 2011. I was the District Officer in Charge of the Maryborough Police District appointed to that position on the 17th June 2007.

I joined the Queensland Police Service on the 6th December, 1971 and was sworn in as a Constable on the 24th March, 1972.

I have 39 years of policing experience having served at Surfers Paradise, Sherwood, Woolloongabba, Brisbane Mobile Patrols, Roma, Townsville, Brisbane CIB, Woolloongabba CIB, Mornington Island, Cairns, Winton, Cairns. I performed various duties at these establishments including general duties, traffic duties, plain clothes duties and Cross Cultural Liaison duties.

I was promoted to Commissioned Officer on the 7 February, 1994 where I served as Duty Inspector Cairns, District Officer Roma, District Officer Innisfail and District Officer Maryborough on the rank of Superintendent.

Exhibit Number: 800
 QFCI
 Date: 12/10/11
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(Witness's signature)

(Justice of the Peace (Qual.)/
Commissioner for Declarations's signature)

(Signature of police officer
preparing statement)

CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: **WARDROPE, Stephen Michael**

My Emergency Management experience includes periods from 22/8/83 to 28/23/86 as officer in Charge Mornington Island where I was a member of the Local Disaster Management Group. From 13/4/89 to 1/3/91 as Officer in Charge Winton where I was a member of the Local Disaster Management Group. I have been the District Disaster Co-ordinator for the Roma District between 29/9/2000 to 1/3/2006; Disaster District Co-ordinator for the Innisfail Police District from the 2/3/06 to 16/6/07 and the Disaster District Co-ordinator for the Maryborough Police District from 17/6/07 to 25/2/2011.

The role and responsibilities of the DDC is to co-ordinate Disaster operations in the Disaster District for their group to include chairing the District Disaster Management Group. As Chair person for the District Group, the DDC is required to manage and Co-ordinate the business of the group, to ensure as far as practicable the group performs its functions and to report regularly to the State Group about the performance by the District Group of its functions. In performing the role of DDC, I have undertaken the following Emergency Management Training: Emergency Co-ordination Centre Management at Mt Macedon Vic – October 1998; Emergency Evacuation Management at Mt Macedon Vic – March, 2001; Emergency Management Risk Assessment at Mt Macedon Vic – July 2004; Senior Disaster Management Workshop, Townsville - April 1998; HAZCHEM Course at Longreach QIT – 1990; Land Search Operations Course Longreach – 1990. I was the DDC of Innisfail during the lead up to and recovery phase of Cyclone Larry in 2007. I have taken part in numerous desk-top and practical field exercises during the past 12 years whilst DDC of Roma, Innisfail and Maryborough.

My role as DDC Maryborough was activated on Saturday morning the 8th January, 2011. At that time the Disaster Management Group was not required to activate fully and I maintained a watching brief in liaison with the Fraser Coast Local Disaster Management Group.

In response to the written requirement of the Qld Floods Commission of Inquiry dated 28 February 2011, I provide the following information:



(Witness's signature)

(Justice of the Peace (Qual.)/
Commissioner for Declarations's signature)

(Signature of police officer
preparing statement)

CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: **WARDROPE, Stephen Michael**

The preparation and planning undertaken by the District Disaster Coordinator and the District Disaster Management Group in advance of and/or in relation to the 2010/2011 floods

Following the Fraser Coast Council Operations Team activating at 0001 hrs on the 8th January, 2011, the LDMG met at mid day on the 8th January and a local Disaster Co-ordination Centre was activated at the Morton Street Council Depot. The DDC and Executive Officer maintained a presence within the LDCC and provided advice, guidance and assistance as required. The LDCC provided Situation Reports to myself as the DDC and to Sergeant [REDACTED] and we subsequently provided Situation Reports to the SDCC.

The actions undertaken by the District Disaster Coordinator and the District Disaster Management group in respect of the 2010/2011 floods in relation to immediate management, response and recovery operations

The DDC and Executive Officer maintained a presence within the LDCC and provided advice, guidance and assistance as required. The DDMG was not called upon to actively manage the incident as the Fraser Coast Local Disaster Management Group had the situation under control and did not request assistance. As DDC, I declared a Disaster Situation to exist as at 14:30 hrs on the 10th January, 2011. The Local Disaster Management Group made only one request to the DDMG on the 12th January in respect to re-supply to retail food outlets within the Fraser Coast area. This request was forwarded to the SDCC but the arrangements were not required after the roads to Maryborough opened for road transport on Thursday evening the 13th January. The DDC played no role in the Disaster recovery operations.

The actions undertaken by the District Disaster Coordinator and the District Disaster Management Group in respect of the 2010/2011 floods in relation to resourcing, coordination and deployment of personnel and equipment

All operations were undertaken at the LDMG level. The DDMG only provided advice and guidance.

[REDACTED]

(Witness's signature)

(Justice of the Peace (Qual.)/
Commissioner for Declarations's signature)

(Signature of police officer
preparing statement)

CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: **WARDROPE, Stephen Michael**

Measures taken by the District Disaster Coordinator and the District Disaster Management Group to manage, maintain or reinstate the supply of essential services (water, power and communications) during the 2010/2011 floods


Ergon Energy was isolating and re-connecting power to various communities as the situated demanded. This was co-ordinated by Ergon Energy who performed these functions as part of their core business arrangements.

Only one request was received to the DDMG on the 12th January in respect to re-supply to retail food outlets within the Fraser Coast area. This request was forwarded to the SDCC but the arrangements were not required after the roads to Maryborough opened for road transport on Thursday evening the 13th January.

Measures taken by the District Disaster Coordinator and the District Disaster Management Group to inform the community about the 2010/2011 flood events and the response thereto

The Fraser Coast Regional Council provided regular Situation Reports to both the printed and electronic media. The Council Web site was updated regularly and provided a complete information source to members of the community. Call operators were made available to provide information to members of the community who phoned the Council's Flood Hot Line.

Due to the limited effect of the flooding in Maryborough, apart from the isolation of a number of suburbs and communities and the need to resupply retail food outlets, there was no requirement for the DDC to activate the DDMG. Only four homes and thirteen businesses were inundated. No evacuation centres were required to be established and no mandatory evacuations were carried out.



Stephen Michael Wardrope
Superintendent, 4002225



(Witness's signature)

(Justice of the Peace (Qual.)/
Commissioner for Declarations's signature)

(Signature of police officer
preparing statement)