

QFCI

Date: 11/11/11 *Jm*

Exhibit Number: 998

QUEENSLAND FLOODS COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF WESTERN DOWNS REGIONAL COUNCIL

In accordance with Section 5 of the Commissions of Inquiry Act 1950 (Qld), I, Philip Adrian Berting Chief Executive Officer Western Downs Regional Council, provide the following statement of information as required by the Commission of Inquiry Requirement to Provide Statement dated 03 October 2011

An overview of the interaction between the Western Downs Regional Council (council) and the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) regarding interim floodplain mapping, including any consultation , data sharing or provision of information

1. Question 1

Council has not provided the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) with any information regarding the interim floodplain mapping. Council has provided information to the Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) to assist in the development of the 2010-2011 interim flood lines. This information includes contour information for the towns of Chinchilla and Dalby, flood height points for Chinchilla, Dalby, Jandowae and Warra, oblique aerial photography of Chinchilla and Dalby captured by council staff and feedback and discussion on the accuracy of draft flood lines.

An account of materials received by the council from the QRA since the release of interim floodplain mapping, including hard copy map books

2. Question 2

Council was aware that the QRA had mounted state-wide flood mapping on its website and has received a hard copy of the document *Temporary State Planning Policy 2/11: Planning for stronger, more resilient floodplains Part 1 – Interim measures to support floodplain management in existing planning schemes*

The council's understanding of what the interim floodplain area (yellow shaded area on maps available at www.qld.gov.au/floodcheck) represents

3. Question 3

Council's understanding of what the interim floodplain mapping area represents is: It is an area of land possibly impacted upon by flooding; the land within which may or may not be inundated by floodwaters but may otherwise be affected by way of access, isolation, services disconnection etc. Land within which, development may need to be assessed more specifically against the relevant Flood Planning Provisions.



A comparison of the area covered by the interim floodplain area with other flood mapping, development lines, natural hazard management areas or areas derived from flood studies available to the council

4. Question 4

The interim floodplain area map produced by QRA covers a greater area than any flood study council has access too. Council currently only has flood mapping for developmental purposes in the former Dalby Town Council Area.

An explanation of whether the council intends to use the interim floodplain maps provided by the QRA in its emergency management, land planning or any other council function, and
a. If so, for what purpose and why
b. if not, why

5. Question 5

Emergency management

With other flood mapping, development lines, natural hazard management assessments or areas derived from flood studies available to council it is thought the QRA maps would be only used to assist with evacuation and emergency planning where other information is not available.

Land Planning

Council would potentially use the interim flood maps in areas where there is no flood study completed or commissioned or historical flood heights are unknown or inaccurate. This would include townships such as Condamine, Warra, Meandarra and Glenmorgan.

Council would not use the interim flood mapping for towns where recently completed current flood studies have been developed or towns where Council has commissioned a flood study to be developed and its finalisation is imminent, these being Dalby, Chinchilla, Miles, Wandoan, Tara and Jandowae. It is considered that the interim flood mapping provides minimal benefit when considering particular development applications, as there is little or no information about depth, velocity, hazard category or duration of flooding, whereas the flood studies (and associated mapping) will provide this information and allow assessment against specific planning code requirements.

The interim flood mapping represents a "broad brush" approach to identifying areas that may be impacted upon by flooding based on observed data rather than hydrologic or hydraulic analysis and may in some areas, exaggerate the actual impacted area. The public perception of the affected area on the interim floodplain mapping may lead to a poor understanding of the actual inundated area and actual affects of flooding which may discourage development in areas such as Dalby - which is shown to be entirely covered by the interim floodplain map.

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Deponents

[Redacted]
Solicitor / Justice of the Peace / Commissioner for
Declarations



An explanation of whether, and if so how, the council intends to incorporate the interim floodplain mapping or the Model Interim Floodplain Assessment Code (which appears as Schedule 1 to the QRA Guideline *Planning for stronger, pre resilient floodplains*) into its planning scheme

6. Question 6

Due to the extensive flood study work being carried out by council's Consultants which is intended to be incorporated into Council's amalgamated planning Scheme for the Western Downs region, it is not anticipated that that the interim floodplain mapping or Model Interim Floodplain Assessment Code will be incorporated into the new planning scheme. In the interim, for areas other than Dalby, the mapping and the Model Interim Floodplain Assessment Code will be used as 'best available information' in assessing flood issues associated with development applications

If the interim flood plain mapping is to be incorporated into the planning scheme, an explanation of how council officers assessing development applications will use the map

7. Question 7

If the interim flood mapping were to be incorporated into the planning scheme, it would be used to identify if development proposals may be impacted upon by flooding and if so would trigger further assessment of the proposal against a flood planning code within the scheme, the State Planning Policy and "Floodplain Management in Australia - Best Practice Principles and Guidelines"

The interim floodplain mapping is not to be incorporated into the planning schemes in use in the Western Downs region.

Whether, and if so how, the council intends to use the interim floodplain mapping performed by the QRA to set a habitable floor level or other flood height relevant to development in the council area

8. Question 8

Council does not intend using the floodplain mapping to set a habitable floor level or other flood height relevant to development in the Western Downs region.

The council plans, if any, to promote the interim floodplain maps to the public, and if so for what purpose

9. Question 9

Council has made no decision to promote the interim floodplain maps to the public.



An account of any public feedback, enquiry or comment given to the council about the QRA interim floodplain maps by residents of the council area

10. Question 10

Council has received no feedback in relation to the QRA floodplain maps.

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