

QUEENSLAND FLOODS
COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

STATEMENT OF TERRY WILLIAM WALL

I, **TERRY WILLIAM WALL**, of c/- 400 George Street Brisbane in the State of Queensland, Associate Director-General, Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM), state on oath:

Requirement from Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry

1. I have seen a copy of a letter dated 31 January 2012 from the Commissioner, Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry ("Commission") to me requiring a written statement under oath or affirmation, which is attachment **TWW-09** and which details the topics my statement should cover.

Item 1: his understanding, in the period between 7 January 2011 to 12 January 2011, of which flood operations strategies, referred to in the 'Manual of Operational Procedures for Flood Mitigation at Wivenhoe Dam and Somerset Dam', were used in the operation of Wivenhoe Dam between 7 January 2011 and 12 January 2011 and the times at which each strategy was in use.

2. On Monday, 10 January 2011, I returned to the Department of Environment and Resource Management ("DERM") from a period of two weeks leave. On my return to DERM, I assumed the role of Acting Director-General. Prior to my return to DERM and from 24 December 2010 inclusive, Ms Debbie Best had been the Acting Director-General while Mr John Bradley, Director-General was on leave.
3. I was scheduled to act in that role until Monday, 17 January 2011 when Mr Bradley was due to return from leave. However, given the flood events that were occurring at the time, Mr Bradley returned to his role as Director-General of DERM at or about midday on 11 January 2011. I immediately returned to my substantive role as Associate Director-General, Operations and Environmental Regulator of DERM.
4. My understanding, during the period between 7 to 12 January 2011, of which flood operations strategies, referred to in the flood mitigation manual, were used in the operation of Wivenhoe Dam for that period and the times at which each strategy was in use, was limited to the information in documents I received during the short time I was the Acting Director-General. Those documents are provided as attachments **TWW-10** to **TWW-16** and are outlined below.
5. Only one document titled "Technical Situation Report W39" (attached in an email of 11 January 2011 at 1.18 pm provided as **TWW-10**) makes any express reference to a specific strategy. That document advises of the potential need for releases increases in accordance with strategy "W4". At the time of receiving this

email I was not familiar with the flood operation strategies referred to in flood mitigation manual for Wivenhoe and Somerset dams.

6. As Acting Director-General, I was required to attend a meeting of the State Disaster Management Group (SDMG) on the morning of Tuesday, 11 January 2011. I received a number of emails (provided as attachments TWW-11 to TWW-16) between 6.22 am and 7.34 am on that morning to update me on the latest situation regarding operations at Wivenhoe dam in preparation for the meeting. None of those emails expressly refer to flood operation strategies "W1", "W2", "W3" or "W4" contained in the flood mitigation manual.
7. At the SDMG meeting of that morning, I recall Mr Barry Dennien, Chief Executive Officer, SEQ Water Grid Manager, provided a detailed briefing on releases from Wivenhoe Dam to the SDMG.

Item 2: how, if at all, that understanding changed since 12 January 2011 and the reason for the change in understanding.

8. I subsequently gained a greater understanding of the flood operation strategies referred to in the flood mitigation manual that were used in the operation of Wivenhoe Dam between 7 January 2011 and 12 January 2011 and the times at which each strategy was in use through the publication of the *Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry – Interim Report* of 1 August 2011. My understanding, derived from the Interim Report, is that the flood operations strategies changed from W1 to W3 at 8 am on Saturday, 8 January 2011 and to W4 at 8 am on Tuesday, 11 January 2011.

Item 3: whether he is aware of any accounts of the choice and timing of the dam operations strategies employed to manage the flood event that differ from his understanding of the events and if he is, a description of those different accounts and the source of the accounts.

9. On 23 January 2012, I became aware of an article in *The Australian* newspaper and subsequent media reports of claims that the above account may be incorrect.
10. My knowledge of any accounts of the choice and timing of the dam operations strategies employed to manage the flood event that differ from my understanding of the events, is limited to the claims made in *The Australian* newspaper and other subsequent media reports.

Item 4: when he first became aware of the accounts, if any, referred to in paragraph 3 above.

11. I first became aware on 23 January 2012 of accounts of the choice and timing of the dam operation strategies that differ from my understanding by reading the articles in *The Australian* newspaper of that same day.

Item 5: all discussions, correspondence, meetings or briefings he participated in, in relation to the choice and timing of dam operations strategies used in the operation of Wivenhoe Dam between 7 January 2011 and 12 January 2011 and in respect of these identifying any that related to the different accounts, if any, referred to in paragraph 3.

12. I did not participate in any discussions, correspondence, meetings or briefings specifically in relation to the choice and timing of dam operations strategies used in the operation of Wivenhoe Dam between 7 January 2011 and 12 January 2011. My knowledge of releases from Wivenhoe dam is limited to the correspondence attached to this statement and as outlined in my answer to Item 1 above.


Item 6: any decision made, or action taken, by him in relation to the different accounts, if any, referred to paragraph 3 above.

13. I took no decision or action on becoming aware of the claims made in *The Australian* newspaper on 23 January 2012. I note that the Commission indicated on 24 January 2012 its intention to re-examine these matters.

I make this solemn statement on oath conscientiously believing the same to be true, and by virtue of the provisions of the *Oaths Act 1867*.

Signed 
Terry William Wall

Taken and declared before me, at Brisbane this 2nd day of February 2012


Solicitor/Barrister/Justice of the
Peace/Commissioner for Declarations