

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

Date: 19/10/2011

Name of Witness: Mr David Anthony Hatton, OAM

Address of Witness: [REDACTED]

Occupation: Former Acting Area Director Redlands

Division: Emergency Management Queensland
Department of Community Safety

Telephone: (Work) [REDACTED] (Mobile) [REDACTED]

I, David Anthony Hatton OAM, provide the following information as it pertains to a previous role I was appointed to: namely: Acting Regional Director, Redlands, Emergency Management Queensland, Department of Community Safety. I state I worked in this temporary role for a period of approximately 10 months. I recall commencing in this temporary role in May 2010 and concluded in March 2011. My current role is the General Manager of Corporate Protection Australia, Pty Ltd.

1. Your role and position within Emergency Management Queensland (EMQ), including information about your direct supervisor and the person to whom you reported in a disaster.

- 1. I was Acting Regional Director, with EMQ in Brisbane based at Redlands. I recall commencing this role in May 2010 and concluded in March 2011.
- 2. I provided advice as required to Local Government Redlands City Council Disaster Management Group. I also assisted in training and administrative support of the Redland SES Group.
- 3. I reported to the Regional Director of the Brisbane Region, Mr Shane Wood.

2. The SES unit with your region/including details (if known) of any paid SES members within their region.

- 4. In my area I was responsible for only one SES unit based at Redlands.
- 5. There were no paid members in this unit.

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Army Warrant Officer

3. The adequacy of current SES volunteer numbers (including any issues with recruitment and retention of members), level of training and equipment and resources available to SES units within their area/region.

6. At the time of the January 2011 flood events, I recall there were adequate SES volunteer numbers as I remember the Local Controller and Executive Staff were satisfied with this. I do not recall the exact numbers; however I recall approximately 80 odd volunteers being enrolled at Redlands SES Unit. The continuation and induction training that was conducted at this unit was in accordance with EMQ guidelines for SES induction and continuation training. Additionally I am aware that the unit held adequate resources, namely sandbags and water roof repair leakage stores during the January 2011 floods.
7. I am no longer employed with EMQ and therefore am not qualified to comment on current SES numbers.

4. The mechanisms for receiving requests for assistance and the process for, and your role in, managing requests for assistance, including the prioritization and/or management of competing requests for assistance.

8. At the time of my involvement requests for SES assistance passed through the 132 500 telephone number.
9. In Brisbane the 132500 number is answered by Brisbane City Council. The Brisbane region consisted of Brisbane, Redlands and Moreton Bay. Calls were then directed onto the respective SES unit.
10. Requests for assistance were prioritized by the Local Controller and / duty officer.
11. The call for assistance would then be made directly through the SES on call duty officer and also passed on electronically.

5. Your authority for, and role in, the tasking and deployment of SES members, including local controller tasking/deployment, both when a disaster is declared and at other times.

1. SES Local Controllers and Group Leaders provide the required leadership coordination and supervision of tasks allocated to their respective SES members. Deployments are based on agreement from the respective Council and State Government to ensure operational capability in that area.
2. I did not have a role relating to SES deployment.

6. Whether any SES members within your area/region were deployed to another area/region during the 2010/2011 floods and, if so, the process by which this occurred and their role in it.

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Witness (.: [REDACTED] .): [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	JP/Solicitor/Commissioner for Declarations:
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Army Warrant Officer

12. SES personnel were deployed from within the region to assist SES Groups upon request in Grantham and Brisbane. I recall approximately 10 Redlands SES Members deploying to this area, under the command and control of Redland SES Executive. I do not recall the exact date. I do recall the persons in charge on the ground at Grantham were Queensland Police Officers as this information was relayed back to me.

13. Redlands Shire was not affected by flooding with the exception of a landslip at Wellington Point and a rock wall collapse on North Stradbroke Island.

7. Whether there are any SES units in your area with more than one Local Controller, and, where this is the case, a description of:

a) **the history of this arrangement and how it works in practice (in view of the combined effect of sections 84A and 85 of the Disaster Management Act 2003);**

14. Not applicable.

b) **how SES members are tasked and deployed in that unit;**

15. Not applicable

c) **the person ultimately responsible for that SES unit during a disaster;**

16. Not applicable

d) **how communications are coordinated among the various local controllers for SES unit during a disaster and the process of communicating with the local disaster coordinator;**

17. Not applicable

e) **whether or not this arrangement is considered effective and/or whether or not it may be subject to review or amendment.**

18. Not applicable

8. The nature of your contact and coordination with any Local Disaster Coordinator, Local Disaster Coordination Centre, Local Disaster Management Group, and other EMQ officers during the 2010/2011 floods.

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19. The Redlands City Council Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC) was established during this period. Given that I have left this role and the period of time ago in which it occurred I cannot recall the dates.
20. During the period I operated out of the EEC and was liaison officer providing information to EMQ, I:
- a. Advised what Redlands ECC staff were doing including directing staff on a daily basis;
 - b. Advised the number of SES staff that were activated.
 - c. Supported ECC staff of the situation in surrounding areas.
 - d. Provided interpretation of legislative matters.
 - e. I was prepared to advise on directives imposed upon the Local Disaster Management Group by Disaster District Management Group, however, this was never required.
 - f. Directly reported to [REDACTED] EMQ Regional Director, providing him with a verbal Daily Situation Report. I also forwarded directly to him an electronic copy of the Redland ECC Daily Situation Report. This report was formally sent by Redlands ECC to the Disaster District Management Group. I also sent an electronic copy of the Redland SES report, which was compiled by the Local Controller, detailing the number of calls for SES assistance Redlands received and the status of tasks completed and those that remained tasks outstanding.

9. Any instances, during the 2010/2011 floods, where EMQ's requirements or expectations of the SES differed from those of the Local Disaster Management Group or Local Disaster Coordinator, and how these issues were managed.

21. There were no instances in Redlands where requirements or expectations of the SES differed from Local Disaster management Group or Local Disaster Coordinator.
22. Local Government officials, namely the Redlands Council Mayor, Mrs Melva Hobson, Council Executive Employee and Local Disaster Coordinator, [REDACTED] and Redlands Council Disaster Management Advisor, [REDACTED] clearly articulated, as I recall, during and after the event how professional their local SES volunteers were.
23. Of note Redlands experienced next to no impact during the January floods apart from significant wet weather conditions.

10. The Government (State and State/Commonwealth) funding programs accessed by SES units within their area in the financial years 2009-10 and 2010-11, and your role in all aspects of the funding application process and administration of this funding.

24. I cannot recall whether any funding programs were accessed and given I no longer work within EMQ cannot access such records.

11. Whether or not issues have been raised with them directly by SES members about the level of funding provided by the State Government, including any suggestions by SES members about how the funding arrangement could be improved.

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Declarations:

Amy Corbett OPR

25. I cannot recall whether any issues had been raised by SES members about funding levels.

12. The results of any assessment or debrief within your area relating to the performance of the SES units during the 2010/2011 floods.

26. Debriefing was conducted by the Regional Director [REDACTED]. I cannot recall when this took place. I recall this was conducted during my absence.

13. Any other observations on the structure, funding and command and control arrangement of the SES generally and/or in relation to the 2010/2011 floods, including possible areas for improvement, and any improvements made, or proposed to be made, in any of these aspects following the 2010/2011 floods.

27. As regarding the Redlands SES Unit, the unit, in my opinion was well lead by the internal command structure. The internal command structure had a solid working relationship with the local council. Redlands SES conducted regular training, regular recruitment drives and induction training. This unit was well resourced and significantly supported by local government.

28. The clarification of ownership of the SES i.e. State or Local Government continues to be an issue for members as is clarification of the "Command & Control" structure of the SES.

Justices Act 1886

I acknowledge by virtue of Section 110A(6)(c)(ii) of the Justices Act 1886 that:

- (1) This written statement by me dated 19 /10/2011 and contained in the pages numbered 1 to ~~8~~⁵ is true to the best of my knowledge and belief; and
- (2) I make it knowing that, if it were admitted as evidence, I may be liable to prosecution for stating anything that I know is false.

..... [REDACTED] Signature

Signed at Brisbane..... this 19th day of Oct.....2011

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Witness ([REDACTED]):

JP/Solicitor/Commissioner for
Declarations:

Amy Dorrant Officer