

IN THE MATTER OF
THE QUEENSLAND FLOODS COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

A COMMISSION OF INQUIRY UNDER THE
COMMISSIONS OF INQUIRY ACT 1950

AND PURSUANT TO
COMMISSIONS OF INQUIRY ORDER (No. 1) 2011


SECOND STATEMENT OF PETER CLARK BORROWS

On the 8th day of April 2011, I, Peter Clark Borrows of c/- 240 Margaret St, Brisbane state on oath:

1. I am the Chief Executive Officer of Queensland Bulk Water Supply Authority (*Seqwater*).
2. I refer to paragraph 72 of my first statement sworn on 1 April 2011.
3. Exhibited to this statement and marked PB-38 – PB-40 respectively are true copies of the following further correspondence regarding Full Supply Level issues:
 - (a) a letter dated 31 March 2011 from me to the Director-General of DERM;
 - (b) an email dated 1 April 2011 from the Water Grid Manager to me attaching a letter from Barry Dennien to me of the same date; and
 - (c) a letter dated 5 April 2011 from me to the Director-General of DERM.

SWORN by PETER CLARK BORROWS on 7 April 2011 at Brisbane in the presence of:


Deponent


Solicitor

QFCI

Date: 18/05/11 Jm

Exhibit Number: 415

Filed on behalf of: Queensland Bulk Water Supply Authority trading as Seqwater

Allens Arthur Robinson
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Brisbane QLD 4000

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"PB/3/8"



31 March 2011

Mr John Bradley
Department of Environment and Resource Management
Director General
GPO Box 2454
BRISBANE QLD 4000



John
Dear Mr Bradley,

You will recall the Chairman wrote to the Minister on 4 February 2011 with an update on a number of matters, including consideration of a temporary change to the Full Supply Level (FSL) of Wivenhoe Dam, an update on the provision of the reports required under the Flood Mitigation Manuals, and further modelling work that needed to be undertaken to better quantify an assessment of the potential flood mitigation benefits of operating Wivenhoe Dam at a different FSL.

The only current outstanding matter is the detailed modelling work referred to above, which requires the assistance of BCC, and potentially the Bureau of Meteorology, to quantify downstream impacts of flood events, both in terms of river levels and inundation of urban areas, especially in the Brisbane area. The Chairman's letter noted there were three main components to the modelling:

- (a) water outflows from Wivenhoe Dam;
- (b) the changing Brisbane River levels resulting from those water outflows; and
- (c) the extent of inundation resulting from those water outflows.

Seqwater's intention has been to complete this modelling work by 31 March 2011. However, completion of this modelling work by this date is now unachievable, as the Commission of Inquiry has in the intervening period published extraordinarily demanding timetables for delivery of submissions, witness statements and the interviewing of witnesses, the compliance with which you will appreciate Seqwater has had to afford priority.

In order to progress the work, Seqwater has conferred with BCC representatives on a number of occasions to formulate the basis upon which this modelling work might be efficiently completed. Unfortunately, Seqwater's efforts to date have not culminated in agreement by Seqwater and BCC on how these tasks should be completed. This does not mean that BCC is unwilling to co-operate, but rather it reflects the reality that both parties have necessarily been distracted in meeting the requirements of the Commission and other priority regulatory requirements.

Seqwater's initial preference was to obtain the BCC models and GIS information, which are the most up to date and therefore the most accurate, from BCC and then work collaboratively with BCC to complete tasks (b) and (c) above. If BCC does not wish to so collaborate, Seqwater proposes to obtain the BCC models and GIS data from BCC and complete task (b) itself, which would be inefficient and not cost

effective as BCC would still then need to verify Seqwater's data to complete task (c). You will appreciate that the assessment of inundation in the Brisbane area, as noted in (c) above, can be completed most cost effectively and promptly by BCC. Seqwater has therefore sought to enlist BCC's assistance in completing both tasks (b) and (c). If BCC is unable to provide the necessary assistance, Seqwater will complete task (b) itself.

Until BCC's position is known, Seqwater has been using an older, less calibrated, model to develop the river level modelling as described in (b) above. Seqwater has engaged a suitable independent consultant, SKM, to undertake preliminary work, in anticipation of BCC's subsequent participation in the process. Seqwater considers that BCC's involvement is critical as it has the capability to promptly and efficiently model the inundation impacts, which information is essential for the Commission to determine whether a different permanent or temporary FSL should be adopted for Wivenhoe Dam.

In summary, Seqwater has engaged SKM to update and develop the appropriate models to more accurately determine the impact on river levels at various outflow rates from Wivenhoe Dam. This assessment will investigate only a limited number of scenarios in the first instance but should give more robust and reliable estimates than Seqwater is currently able to provide. Seqwater then intends to provide this data to BCC for its use in completing the necessary modelling work. Seqwater will then apply the modelling to other events and will use the modelling as an operational tool in Seqwater's Flood Operation Centre.

I do not wish to convey any suggestion that BCC has been unco-operative, but rather both it and Seqwater have been distracted by the abovementioned more pressing commitments. Seqwater intends to complete the outstanding modelling work and provide it to the Minister and the Commission of Inquiry as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely



Peter Borrows
Chief Executive Officer

^ PB-34 ^



Peter Borrows

From: Barry Dennien [Redacted]
Sent: Friday, 1 April 2011 4:45 PM
To: Peter Borrows
Cc: Dan Spiller; Debbie Best [Redacted] Bradley John; Lance McCallum; Waldman Karen
Subject: Wivenhoe Dam
Attachments: Letter to Seqwater 1 April 2011.pdf; ATT00001.txt

Peter

Please find attached a letter with regards maintenance of Wivenhoe at 75%.

Regards

Barry Dennien
Chief Executive Officer
SEQ Water Grid Manager
Phone: [Redacted]
Email: [Redacted]
Visit: Level 15, 53 Albert Street, Brisbane
Post: PO Box 16205, City East Qld 4002
ABN: 14783 317 630

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Secure and efficient water
through partnership and innovation

TRIM ref: D/11/2398

01 April 2011

Mr Peter Borrows
Chief Executive Officer
Seqwater
PO Box 16146
City East QLD 4002


Dear Mr Borrows

I refer to our letter of 25 March 2011, responding to Seqwater's letter about maintenance of Wivenhoe Dam at 75% of its full supply level until 30 June 2011 (Seqwater's Proposal).

I have become aware that Seqwater may have some concerns about qualifications to our response. I note that Seqwater has not contacted us directly regarding any concerns with our response, however, I take this opportunity to provide clarification.

I confirm that, from a water security perspective, the SEQ Water Grid Manager has no objection to Seqwater's Proposal. This is consistent with our letter to you dated 25 March 2011.

I also understand that the Queensland Water Commission advised Seqwater that:

- the Queensland Water Commission had no objection to Seqwater's Proposal
- operational and regulatory impacts such as potential increased pumping costs have not been assessed.

Upon considering any impacts on the cost of operating the Water Grid, I further confirm that we have no objection to Seqwater's Proposal.

Again, if you have any queries please contact me on [redacted] or via email at [redacted]

Yours sincerely
[redacted signature]

Barry Dennien
Chief Executive Officer

^ PB-40 ^



5 April 2011

Mr John Bradley
Department of Environment and Resource Management
Director-General
GPO Box 2454
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Bradley,

INTERIM SUPPLY SECURITY LEVEL

I refer to my letter of 30 March 2011.

Since my letter, I have received the attached advice from the Water Grid Manager.

You will recall that the level of Wivenhoe dam was reduced to 75% of FSL in February 2011 following advice from Seqwater and the Water Grid Manager. This decision was taken on the basis that it was to be a temporary reduction for the remainder the wet season. Consistently with this, the part of Seqwater's approved interim program which permitted Seqwater to retain Wivenhoe dam at 75% of FSL has now expired.

The Commission of Inquiry is currently considering the FSL issue. In this regard, we note a number of parties have made submissions in respect of FSL and a number of witnesses are to be called next week during the public hearings on FSL issues. We expect the Commission will deal with and make recommendations in respect of FSL in the Commission's interim report due in August.

Notwithstanding the change in advice from the Water Grid Manager, Seqwater considers that it is important that any recommendations of the Commission are also taken into account in the making of a decision to extend the 75% level beyond the temporary period which ended at the conclusion of the wet season.

In addition to these recommendations, the Commission might make, Seqwater is concerned to ensure that detailed investigations are carried out before a decision is taken to extend the temporary supply level of 75% for significant additional time outside the wet season. These investigations could be led by the Queensland Water Commission (which could have responsibility for the overall co-ordination of the project and the yield studies) and Seqwater could undertake the flood studies (this is similar to the way in which the project for considering the raising of the FSL was structured). We have previously identified the additional flood modelling to be carried out (see Seqwater's letter to the Minister dated 4 February 2011). We think it is important this additional modelling work be carried out and we are planning to work with Brisbane City Council on these issues.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Borrowes
Chief Executive Officer

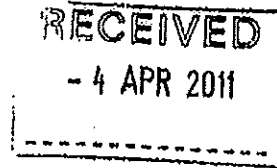
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Again, if you have any queries please contact me on  or via email at 

Yours sincerely 

Barry Dennien
Chief Executive Officer

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