



Australian Government
Bureau of Meteorology

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11th March 2011

Senator D N Cameron
Chair
Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Senator Cameron

On 21 February 2011 I appeared as a witness before the Standing Committee on Environment and Communications, Additional Estimates 2010-2011.

During the hearing, Senator Ian Macdonald asked a number of questions relating to the closure of some Bureau of Meteorology offices in Queensland during both the recent flood events and the coastal impact of Tropical Cyclone Yasi.

I provided Senator Macdonald with the correct closure and reopening times of the offices he referred to (Rockhampton, Cairns and Townsville). Senator Macdonald then questioned me on whether the offices were therefore closed during the crossing of the coast of Tropical Cyclone Yasi. In this regard I would like to clarify that both the Cairns and Townsville Offices were closed just prior to the crossing and re-opened shortly afterwards, consistent with the times I had provided at the hearing.

As I pointed out at the hearing, our office on Willis Island was also evacuated prior to Tropical Cyclone Yasi crossing that office. It has yet to reopen owing to the need for repairs.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr Ray Canterford
Deputy Director Services
Bureau of Meteorology

Cc: Dr Greg Ayers
Director of Meteorology

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