



The Hon Ros Bates MP
Minister for Science, Information Technology,
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Senator Simon Birmingham
Deputy Chair
Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Birmingham,

I write regarding the current inquiry by the Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications into recent trends in, and preparedness for, extreme weather events.

A submission to the Committee by Dr Joanna Burston of the Griffith University Centre for Coastal Management (Submission 58) claimed:

“The recent State government cuts to funding at Maritime Safety Queensland and DSITIA have severely constrained the ability of these departments to deliver previously collected data to researchers.”

My Department has advised me:

1. there have been no funding cuts to the operational staff of the Department of Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts (DSITIA) who are responsible for delivering storm surge and ocean level information and data;
2. DSITIA's network of storm surge monitoring gauges is fully operational along the coast of Queensland and consists of 25 gauges from Mooloolaba to Mornington Island, including Cairns, Townsville, Mackay and Hervey Bay; and
3. the information from this network is published on the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection website and is freely available to anyone who has access to the internet, including researchers.

I trust this information is of some assistance to the Committee.

Yours sincerely,

The Hon Ros Bates MP
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