

## Annex A

*Questions from Mr Ian McPhedran, received on 10 April 2014:*

1. Did the Governor General organise any aid or other arrangements for the Solomon Islands flood disaster prior to discussing it with the government? If so, what and who did he talk to?
2. Did he have discussions with his Solomon Islands counterpart? If so when? What was discussed?
3. Did he contact any government agency about possible assistance to the Solomon Islands? If so, which ones and when?
4. Did the GG receive any advice from government about the protocols to be followed on issues such as foreign aid or use of military assets? If so, what was the advice?

*Government House response to Mr McPhedran, provided on 10 April 2014:*

Thank you for your enquiry. On 4 April 2014, His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd) sent a letter of condolence to His Excellency Sir Frank Ofagioro Kabui CSI CGMG OBE, Governor-General of the Solomon Islands, following the loss of life and destruction caused by recent flooding.

Letters of condolence to counterpart Governors-General or equivalent following natural disasters are standard practice. Australia's relief and humanitarian response to the flooding is a matter for the Australian Government, and all related questions should be directed to the Office of the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

*Follow-up question from Mr Ian McPhedran, received on 10 April 2014:*

Does that mean the GG had no contact with anyone in the Australian Government re the disaster?

*Government House response to Mr McPhedran, provided on 11 April 2014:*

As indicated in our previous response, the Governor-General's **only response** was to send a letter of condolence to his Solomon Islands counterpart. He has had no contact with anyone in the Australian Government regarding the disaster.

Senate F&PA Committee  
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Witness Name: Mr Mark Fraser  
00599  
Organisation: .....