



HON CRAIG EMERSON MP

MINISTER FOR SMALL BUSINESS, INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS AND THE
SERVICE ECONOMY
MINISTER ASSISTING THE MINISTER FOR FINANCE ON DEREGULATION

4BC BRISBANE

Interview with Jamie Dunn

TUESDAY, 10 February 2009

E & OE

SUBJECTS: *Queensland floods*

DUNN: Okay thank you very much Pamela. Okay 4BC, we are now going to go to North Queensland and speak to Chris Emerson, I believe Emergency Services Minister, Chris.

EMERSON: Hi it's Craig actually and I'm the Small Business Minister from Canberra.

DUNN: Well that's what you need, see, credibility – I've called you the wrong name and the wrong Department

EMERSON: I've been sent up by Kevin Rudd because he wants a ministerial presence up here in North Queensland to cut through any red tape. But I must say Jamie that the staff up here are doing a fantastic job in getting relief to people who are affected by the floods. So we're going to Ingham today, I'm talking to you from Townsville. The road is open today, but you know there's still a lot of water around and I can actually report that there is sunshine which is something pretty welcome up here at the moment.

DUNN: Well and we need rain in Victoria, but I will say Craig, I'm sorry for calling you Chris before.

EMERSON: No worries.

DUNN: I will say I get a sense, I said earlier this morning, I get a sense that the Government is on top of this and I like, I like that you've been sent up there to oversee this. I like that you're there to cut through red tape because there is absolutely nothing worse than bureaucracy when something like this that transcends it. You know it happens. You know I get a great sense that Kevin sent you up there and you know it's going to be tough I suppose.

EMERSON: Yeah I think so. I mean some communities have been flooded for quite a long time now and some have done a bit of a clean up only to have the river raise again and have to do it all over again.

DUNN: Yeah.

EMERSON: It's pretty exasperating for them. But the Centrelink staff, for example, are terrific. I can tell you that 20 Centrelink staff will be making their way to Ingham today to join those who are already there.

DUNN: Yeah.

EMERSON: That includes four social workers and the money is flowing. The relief money is flowing. More than 600 claims have already been received.

DUNN: And is, is that your, is that what you're there for to make sure that money flows? What, what sort of red tape are you cutting?

EMERSON: Oh well its really, I want to say in a positive way, that we're here to support to the staff and if they need any decisions being made, they'll have a Minister with Executive powers on the spot rather than have to write or contact someone, who then has to contact someone, who then has to contact someone in Canberra.

DUNN: And that's what I love, that's what I, look you know I may not be a overly Labor supporter sort of guy, but I, I love that you're up there doing it and it's cutting out the crap I really, I love it.

EMERSON: Yeah well, you know I think there's some, some positive signs up here. As they say, the sun is shining, it doesn't mean that we're out of the water yet by any means but at least there's some room for a bit of optimism around the place.

DUNN: And if I can, if I can give you a suggestion from my father George Dunn...

EMERSON: Yeah.

DUNN: ...who, who went through the 1974 Brisbane floods and our suburb was completely under.

EMERSON: Yep.

DUNN: He claimed insurance and they wouldn't pay because they weren't paying flood, it had to be like rain, you know it had come in threw the ceiling.

EMERSON: Oh okay.

DUNN: He climbed on the roof, he climbed on the roof and he took off a couple of sheets of iron and then wrote back to the insurance company and said it came in threw the ceiling, and they paid the claim, so there's ...

EMERSON: It came in threw the bathroom.

DUNN: Yeah (laughter), yeah so he got his claim through. It may have been illegal but it kind of worked back then.

EMERSON: Oh the good old days you reckon.

DUNN: Yeah I reckon mate. Thank you for talking to us. Sorry I got your name wrong.

EMERSON: No, no worries.

DUNN: Next time I see you I'll know you that for sure. I'm pleased you're up there, I'm glad the Government's doing something, good on you.

EMERSON: Okay thanks mate bye, bye.

DUNN: Ah thanks for talking to us. It's 18 minutes past eight. You're listening to 4BC.

ENDS.

The information contained in this e-mail, and any attachments to it, is intended for the use of the addressee and is confidential. If you are not the intended recipient you must not use, disclose, read, forward, copy or retain any of the information. If you received this e-mail in error, please delete it and notify the sender by return e-mail or telephone.

The Commonwealth does not warrant that any attachments are free from viruses or any other defects. You assume all liability for any loss, damage or other consequences which may arise from opening or using the attachments.

The security of emails transmitted in an unencrypted environment cannot be guaranteed. By forwarding or replying to this email, you acknowledge and accept these risks.
