Inquest into the death of Thomas Hunt and Youngeun Kim

Coroner Nerida Wilson conducted a joint inquest into the deaths of Thomas Hunt and Youngeun Kim who died in separate events two years apart at Josephine Falls, located in the Wooroonooran National Park. The coroner investigated measures that could be implemented to minimise the risk of water related fatalities at Josephine Falls.

Coroner Nerida Wilson delivered her findings of inquest on 18 October 2019.

The Queensland Government responds to recommendations directed to government agencies at inquests by informing the community if a recommendation will be implemented or the reason why a recommendation is not supported.

Further information relating the implementation of recommendations can be obtained from the responsible agency named in the response.

**Recommendation 2**
The Department of Environment and Science continue to fund the development and maintenance of a water monitoring and alarm system at Mount Bartle Frere and Josephine Falls.

Response and action: the recommendation is implemented.

Responsible agency: Department of Environment and Science

On 3 February 2020 the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and the Minister for Arts responded:

A water monitoring and alarm system, depicted in the images on the following page, was installed at Josephine Falls in June 2019.

This system includes a combination of water gauge markers and a flashing light alarm and was developed by experts in hydrology and electrical engineering.

The water gauge markers visually represent the risk levels at different swift water heights so that people can see when the risks are too high to enter the water. The water gauge markers are colour coded and use standard warning symbols for those with non-English speaking backgrounds. The flashing alarm system connects to water level monitors and activates when water conditions reach a pre-defined level which is considered to be unsafe, or when levels are likely to reach the unsafe level within the next 10 minutes.

The alarm system provides an additional measure to the water gauge markers to alert people on the creek bank of the risk of entering the water, and for people already in the water who may be unaware of the changing conditions.

The department is funded in its ongoing maintenance budget to undertake regular testing of the equipment and to maintain the infrastructure.
Sign and gauge post installed at the bottom pool.

The platform at the lower pool, showing three of the four beacons installed at that location.

The cabinet at the lower pool, containing the main controller for the warning system.

The cabinet at the middle pool, containing the second controller for the warning system.