

I noticed watching the Brisbane floods on television that a lot of people were confused as to just how high the water would rise. Although they were told by the media how high the river might rise they seemed to have trouble relating a height in meters to their own situation at their own residence. I remember watching on Sunrise as the owners of a bicycle shop during the course of the show firstly moved their stock from the ground floor to the upper floor of the premises only to realise at the last minute it was not high enough, and then having to involve volunteers in a valiant effort to save what they could as the waters rose around them all. And watching people using boats and all manner of things to go back through the rising flood waters to their residences to save what they could. I think because they misjudged how high the water would rise.

I think if it was made law that the height of the floor of every residence/dwelling above every river or flood risk in Queensland should be clearly stated on the inside of every meter box. Then when people get alerted by the media they will know exactly how and if they will be affected.

Here in Townsville there was a lot of confusion with the approach of cyclone Yasi with people all over town wondering how high a 5 meter tidal surge would come and if they would be affected. If all everyone had to do was look in their meter box they would have known for sure and the warning time could be used more effectively.

Yours Russell Jones.