

# QUEENSLAND FLOODS COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

## SUBMISSION BY

**IAN RICKUSS MP, MEMBER FOR LOCKYER**

### **ON BEHALF OF RESIDENTS AND CONSTITUENTS OF THE LOCKYER VALLEY AND SURROUNDING AREAS THAT WERE DEVASTED OR INUNDATED BY WATER**

As I am a State Government representative I will concentrate my report on issues that relate to the State Government agencies and how the system could be improved so that a disaster of this proportion does not occur again.

A lot of the issues that I have examined in the Disaster Management Act 2003 have been raised or asked of me by constituents during the previous several months since flooding on Boxing Day, 26 December 2010.

#### **The Queensland Floods Commission Section a) -**

- a) the preparation and planning of Federal, State and local governments;  
emergency services and the community for 2010/2011 floods in Queensland.**

The Queensland Government preparation and planning should be guided by the *Disaster Management Act 2003*. This is a fairly comprehensive Act of Parliament. Some of the Act is poorly drafted and overly wordy when plain English would be more appropriate for an Act that is to be used by most Councils, many Government Departments and agencies such as State Emergency Service (SES), Rural Fire Brigades, and others.

**\*\* This section needs to be read in conjunction with the Disaster Management Act \*\***

#### **Disaster Management Act 2003, Division 2, Section 4 (page 12 of the Act) -**

This part of the Act states how the primary objectives are achieved. As this Act has been in force since 2003, have these primary objectives been achieved?

- a) establishing disaster management groups for the state, disaster districts and local government areas.

#### **Question 1 -**

Is the State community aware of these groups and how has the Government managed to get information of these Disaster Management groups to the community?

- b) preparing a Disaster Management Plan and Guidelines.

*Question 2 -*

Have Disaster Management Plans been prepared for all areas of the State and if so have the local communities been involved in this process. Where and when were the community consultations held?

- c) ensuring communities receive appropriate information about preparing for, responding to and recovering from a disaster.

*Question 3 -*

Has appropriate action been put in place and followed through in relation to 4(c) of the Act as this is imperative to the good implementation of the Act. What training exercises, have been held during the last 12 months to improve procedures of senior bureaucrats, Mayors and Councillors and who was required to attend Disaster Management meetings.

- d) declaring a disaster situation.

*Question 4 -*

There seemed to be some confusion in the Lockyer Valley area as to what type of disaster declaration the area was in and who had the ultimate authority (e.g. Police, Department of Communities, Lockyer Disaster Management Group, Red Cross, the community, the Army).

**Disaster Management Act 2003, Division 2, Section 4A (page 12 of the Act) -**

- a) Disaster Management should be planned across the four following phases -

*Question 5 -*

- (a)i & ii Has the State given the appropriate training and held the appropriate practical programs for events such as the storm and flooding events that occurred in the Lockyer to lessen the effect of the event.

*Question 6 -*

- (a)iii Has a what-if scenario or desk-top exercise been previously planned into disaster management events in the Lockyer Valley, including flooding and the recovery phase after these major events have occurred.

*Question 7 -*

- (b) All appropriate frameworks and plans should be in place at a State group level and at a district level. Has the State provided appropriate resources to support and help the local Governments carry out disaster operations.

*Question 7(a) -*

Did the Commonwealth Government or the State Government provide the local Government areas with the appropriate resources and funds to carry out planning and training that would be required to manage such a disaster situation?

**Disaster Management Act 2003, Division 4A, Section 16A (page 18 of the Act) -**

**Functions of the Chief Executive**

*Question 8 -*

16A(a - f)-

Has the Chief Executive or his delegate carried out the requirements under these sections of the Act to regularly review and manage the effectiveness of the disaster management and strategic policy framework for disaster management of the State?

**Disaster Management Act 2003, Subdivision 2, Section 19 (page 20 of the Act) -**

19(1) (b)

The Chief Executive Officer of the Department in which the Constitution of Queensland is administered.

**This is some of the unclear English that makes this Act hard to read. Why would this not be called the Premier's Department?**

**Disaster Management Act 2003, Subdivision 2, Section 25 (page 27 of the Act) -**

**Chairperson and deputy chairperson -**

- (1) The commissioner of the police service must appoint -
  - (a) a person as the chairperson of a district group; and
  - (b) a person as the deputy chairperson of a district group.
- (2) The commissioner of the police service may appoint a person under subsection (1) only if satisfied the person has the necessary expertise or experience to perform the functions and exercise the powers of a chairperson or deputy chairperson.

*Question 8a*

Was there any position that the Police Commissioner could not appoint an appropriate person to?

**This is more gibberish that I am sure the Police Commissioner would not know whether he should appoint, or should not appoint, or must appoint; it is very unclear. A clearer definition in plain English is required.**

**Disaster Management Act 2003, Division 2 (page 24 of the Act) -  
District Disaster Management Groups, Subdivision 1 Establishment and  
Function**

**22 Establishment -**

*Question 9 -*

What is the local district disaster group that Toowoomba, Lockyer and Somerset would be part of?

*Question 10 -*

Has this group been established and is it functional? How often has it met and is the district group relevant? Do Police districts align with disaster districts?

**23 Functions -**

*Question 11 -*

(a) - (n)

There are 14 directions in this section of the Act, have these directions been carried out by the District group and are they appropriate for this disaster and other disasters that could occur in our area?

**24 Membership -**

*Question 12 -*

(a) - (f)

Are these the appropriate people who should be members of these groups and is there any requirement for a broader scope of appointees who may come from private enterprise or other community sectors that are not involved with the Government?

*Question 13 -*

Did the membership of the District Group use the Act as a guide and did the District Group find the skills required from this group of people?

**Disaster Management Act 2003, Subdivision 3 (page 29 of the Act) -**

**Temporary District Groups**

*Question 14*

Was there a temporary district group formed in the Lockyer or surrounding areas and if so what agencies, Departments and Councils were involved in the group?

**Disaster Management Act 2003, Division 3, Subdivision 1, Section 30 (page 31 of the Act) -**

*Question 15-*  
(a)-(l)

There are 12 directions in this section of the Act, have these directions been carried out by the District Group and are they appropriate for this disaster and other disasters that could occur in our area?

**Disaster Management Act 2003, Subdivision 3, Section 34A (page 34 of the Act)-**

*Question 16-*  
(c)

Has this been carried out on a regular basis and what response has the Department made to the local group?

**Disaster Management Act 2003, Division 4, Section 38 & 39 (page 35 of the Act)-**

*Question 17 -*  
(1, 2, 3, 4 & 5)

Are these clauses carried out at a State level to provide the appropriate information to the Minister?

**Disaster Management Act 2003, Division 5, Subdivision 1, Section 44 (page 38 of the Act) -**

## **Annual Reports**

*Question 18 -*

I have asked the Parliamentary Library to find the Annual Reports for 2008/2009/2010 and they cannot locate them. Are they available and could they be made public? Extract below from email received, 18 March 2011 -

Hello again Mr Rickuss,  
There are two reports which are available they are attached here for 2005-06 and 2007-08. Strangely, they are not 'visible' on the webpage under Publications, but are there from a 'google' search. There are the only two we can locate.

Regards,

  
**Research Librarian**  
**Research and Information Service**

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QUEENSLAND PARLIAMENTARY SERVICE

**Disaster Management Act 2003, Division 2, Section 56 (page 43 of the Act) -**

*Question 19 -*

Are the District Disaster Management Plans available, where are they located?

**Disaster Management Act 2003, Part 7, Division 1, Section 89 (page 65 of the Act) -**

*Question 20 -*

(1)(a-b) & (2) (a-b)

Would there have been some advantage to establish Emergency Service Units to assist the more isolated areas such as Murphy's Creek and Mount Sylvia? This could have also been used for the smaller villages and communities around the area that were cut off for several days (e.g. Forest Hill, Laidley, Brightview, Glenore Grove, Plainland, Lockyer Waters, Withcott, Mulgowie)?

*Question 20 (a) -*

Was this part of the Act understood and were these options discussed at State District or Local District Management level? If not, why not?

*Question 20 (b) -*

Could Emergency Service Units been a better use of other organisations by establishing the Emergency Service units to assist the SES e.g. Rural fire fighters, Red Cross, Lions, Apex, Rotary ?

**Disaster Management Act 2003, Part 9, Division 1, Section 110 (1 - 5) (page 74 of the Act) -**

*Question 21 -*

Authorising person to exercise rescue powers. This section of the Act seems over complex and convoluted, couldn't this be simplified by changing the Act to read that *'this process should be done through the normal chain of command'*?

**Review of Disaster Management Legislation and Policy in Queensland 2009 -  
(This part of the submission to be read in conjunction with the above review)**

In 2009 Jim O'Sullivan AC, APM and the Consultancy Bureau Pty. Ltd. conducted a review of the Disaster Management Legislation. This review's overall conclusion was that the disaster management arrangements are soundly based.

- a) On page ii of the report I found it confusing as previously on page 1 the report had stated that the disaster management arrangements were sound, then the assessment confirmed that the State's arrangements do comply in many respects with best practice principles but in others there was room for improvement. The State's current response arrangements should be more comprehensive, integrated and co-ordinated to ensure that risk driven plans and responses are delivered in the most responsive and efficient way.

*Question 22-*

The disaster management arrangements are either soundly based or they should be more comprehensive. Which one applies; you cannot run with the foxes and hunt with the hounds.

- b) On page iii of the report the current provisions in the Act to declare a disaster early to provide additional powers to district disaster co-ordinators. This declaration may be made in the event that a disaster has happened, is happening or is likely to happen in the State. There only needs to be a ten percent probability or greater that this disaster will occur. **This part of the disaster management legislation could save lives!**

*Question 23 -*

Surely, the storm event that occurred in Toowoomba and on the range escarpment could have been called a lot earlier as the risk of this happening was much greater than ten percent as Esk had already had torrential rain and a hellishing storm around 12 noon and the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) website was highlighting the disaster about to happen. Did the BOM or any of the other State Emergency Service departments try to implement this procedure? Were they aware that if there was a 10% probability of a disaster they could declare a disaster was going to happen (this is highlighted in the Jim O'Sullivan's Report 2009 on page 3)?

*Question 24 -*

- c) **Refer page xv of the report recommendation 18 - Planning and consultation ...**

Has this recommendation been acted on, and if not, why not?

Question 25 -

- d) On page xvi of the report recommendation 20 - Revised governance arrangements .....A new provision in Section 5.....

Have these two recommendations been acted upon?

Question 26 -

- e) On page xvi of the report recommendation 21 - The SDMG take into account ....key.....

Has this recommendation been acted upon?

.....

**State Planning Policy Guidelines-Mitigating the Adverse Impacts of Flood, Bushfire and Landslide, June 2003**

*(This part of the submission to be read in conjunction with the above Guidelines)*

Question 27 -

This is a comprehensive document that has been prepared since 2003. What assistance has the State Disaster Management group and the State Emergency Service Department given to District Disaster Management groups and local Disaster Management groups to assist to ensure the recommendations in these guidelines have been put in place?

Question 28 -

What form of quality assurance is put in place to ensure that these groups and plans meet the guidelines and requirements to ensure community safety? Are all of these plans and groups independently audited?

Question 29 -

By having this flood event of late December that required the activation of the Lockyer Disaster Management Group, did it highlight any issue or weakness that needs to be acted on? Did the District Disaster Group meet and if so what came out of these meetings? (Did Lockyer and Somerset Council meet to discuss where the Creeks and Council boundaries meet and the operation of the Wivenhoe and Somerset Dams)?



## **Summary of flood events of late December 2010 and January 10 to 15 2011 -**

This flood event occurred in the Lockyer Valley from Boxing Day 2010 (26, 27, 28 December), this had created some flooding with the Laidley, Lockyer, Ma Ma, Flagstone, Murphys and other local creeks breaking their banks and inundating flood plains and low lying areas. Roads were washed out at Mt Sylvia, Junction View, low lying areas of Laidley flooded Forest Hill (Gill Street), flooding in Brightview (Crestwood Estate cut off at Brightview), Lockyer Waters / Kentville, Glenore Grove were cut off several times for a number of days. The Warrego Highway was cut on 2 days in late December 2010.

**This was an indication that the area was at its hydrological capacity, the land could not absorb any more water.**

When undertaking inspections of the 27 and 28 December 2010 flooding - I spoke to a number of land holders who had suffered water inundation, [REDACTED] (near Grantham) for 53 years and never had water in their house before. [REDACTED] also had water in the house on 11 January 2011.

There were large amounts of debris that had been washed down by the flood in late December, when inspecting Tent Hill Creek at the Tent Hill Hotel, [REDACTED] and his wife, [REDACTED] were also inspecting the area. I noted that [REDACTED] was in a Council 4WD, when I enquired why, I was advised that the Police Department had not supplied a 4WD vehicle to Gatton or Laidley. How [REDACTED] or any Police Officer would traverse some of the washed out roads, driveways and tracks in a 2WD needs to be answered.

I visited properties (see attached photo of [REDACTED] property at Kentville) of creek bank slumps on the Lockyer Creek. Some of these slumps appear to have not been helped by the operation of dams that put water in the Brisbane River. As a riparian land holder living on the Lockyer Creek for some 20 years, I have never seen the Creek go down as fast as in late December 2010. It appears when the Lockyer floods the Wivenhoe Dam releases were totally stopped, thereby letting the Lockyer water escape to the Brisbane River unnaturally fast, so the Lockyer Creek came up over quite a few days but dropped very quickly slumping banks of the way.

From my recollection there was little warning about the flooding in late December 2010, with the exception of Mt Sylvia, Junction View. Most services such as electricity, phone were not interrupted and a lot of the community were on holidays including SES, Rural Fire Brigade, Council staff, Police and other agencies. This did limit the amount of equipment available.

(a)

January 2011 - Monday 10

Creeks and streams were virtually at full capacity with rainfall in the vicinity of 200mm - 400mm in the period from Friday 7 January to Wednesday 12 January 2011 (see attached rainfall charts). So, when the storm event started on Monday 10 after the ranges north of Toowoomba, Toowoomba / east of Toowoomba and south of Toowoomba, water cascaded down the valleys.

Monday afternoon people started to call friends, Council and Police for assistance or warnings. There was a lot of confusion and no coordination that was giving any adequate response to information and rumours that were taking place in the community. To evaluate what sort of information had been sent or asked of the Police in Toowoomba, Helidon and Gatton and the Toowoomba and Lockyer Valley Regional Councils the Commission of Inquiry would have to inspect the phone logs and other data sources of these agencies. This would give an indication of the immediate management and response to the emergency that was unfolding.

Anthony Cornelius of Weather Watch at 12.16pm on Monday, 10 January 2011 posted a Blog about water and flooding in Gatton - Grantham area.

Bob Mann of Murphys Creek at 2.22pm spoke to Sergeant H [REDACTED] of Helidon Police, who was trapped in flood water in a Police vehicle in Toowoomba, H [REDACTED] was then contacted by Sergeant B [REDACTED] some time after 2.22pm (see attached memo). [REDACTED] tried to send a Police vehicle to Helidon to ascertain what was actually taking place.

What calls did the SES receive, what calls did Toowoomba, Helidon and Gatton Police Stations receive when the Police in Toowoomba set up a major incident command centre, how senior was the Officer-in-Charge, what advice was relayed to Gatton / Helidon? When was the Lockyer Disaster Management Group set up and how long before it was fully operational?

(b)

When did the District Disaster Management Group activate? What is the process of getting information from the Bureau of Meteorology to local areas such as Toowoomba, Gatton, Helidon Police, Toowoomba, SES unit and headquarters and Lockyer Valley Regional Council? Are these in place and did they happen?

Weather placed a lot of stress of local resources, as after the storms in the west and south of Lockyer Valley Regional Council area on Monday and Monday night, it stormed all day Tuesday. This did cut off areas such as Laidley, Forest Hill, Brightview, Glenore Grove, Lockyer Waters, Tenthill, Mt Sylvia, Kentville, Helidon and areas surrounding these villages. The Warrego Highway was cut to the east at Glenore Grove and west on the Toowoomba range and other small areas would have also been isolated.

(c)

A lot of resources were concentrated on Grantham as this was the community that received the worst devastation. Murphys Creek was somewhat isolated locally, the Department of Communities and SES started to assist people, the Police set up in Murphys Creek State School but were a bit isolated from the rest of the community. After several days and great work by the Murphys Creek Tavern owners and manager and locals, [REDACTED] started to take control. Withcott cleaned up and very quickly they had started to get on top of the situation. Postmans Ridge was receiving assistance from Murphys Creek. Mt Sylvia and further up the road were fully isolated - no phone, power or road access.

Forest Hill and Laidley were flooded, however, it was not a raging torrent in the same way as Murphys Creek and Grantham events. Brightview residents get trapped by the lack of sealed road infrastructure and the low sections of Brightview Road have over a metre of water across them. An evacuation text was sent for the areas that were flooding around Forest Hill and Laidley.

**Emergency Alerts for likely flash flooding in Laidley and Forest Hill # QldFloods #TheBigWet**

*An Emergency Alert has been issued for flash flooding for Forest Hill. Forest Hill is likely to experience rapidly rising water levels and property inundation, posing an immediate danger to residence. You should warn neighbours, secure your belongings and evacuate to the School of Arts Hall, Railway Street, Forest Hill. For more information listen to ABC local radio. For flood assistance contact the State Emergency Service on 132 500. For emergencies call triple zero. An Emergency Alert has been issued for flash flooding in Laidley. Laidley is likely to experience rapidly rising water levels and property inundation, posing an immediate danger to residence. You should warn neighbours, secure your belongings and evacuate now to either Laidley Hospital or Laidley Works Depot, Frome Street, Laidley. For more information listen to ABC local radio. For flood assistance contact the State Emergency Services on 132500 For emergencies call triple zero.*

*By: Queensland Police Service  
January 11 at 11:18am.*

(d)

Community members such as [REDACTED] and many others helped the Laidley, Forest Hill areas. I will list a group of people who the Commission of Inquiry should talk to obtain a full response from a cross section of the valley.

(d) (i)

Areas such as Glenore Grove, Laidley, Gatton, Forest Hill had little disruption to power, phone, however, other areas such as Mt Sylvia and further up Murphys Creek, Withcott, and Postmans Ridge were effected. It would be beneficial for the Commission of Inquiry to talk to Energex, Telstra etc. regarding these issues

(d) (ii)

A percentage of the Lockyer Valley area is reliant on tank water and septic tank or some other style of self contained waste water systems. This infrastructure does require electricity, so it is important to have access to power. Some of the waste water systems would not work efficiently with such large volumes of water. Town water and sewerage system had major infrastructure problems with the extreme flooding. Text messages were sent to some areas about water use e.g. Gatton mobile phones.

Forest Hill areas such as Burnham Street had sewerage overflow well before the floods. Queensland Urban Utilities and Lockyer Valley Regional Council seems to be struggling to solve the Forest Hill sewerage problem. I have been told Laidley sewerage treatment plant is over capacity and has continued to break down and overflow. Major business and retail area, such as Plainland has no reticulated sewerage system but a system that operates in isolation for each major retail section.

(d) (iii)

Communication such as mobile phones operate at best marginally in the Lockyer Valley and surrounding areas. This problem existed before the 2010-2011 flood event. Areas such as Murphys Creek, Mt Sylvia, Junction View, Ma Ma Creek and Minden mobile service by Telstra can be described as marginal only. Once the flood occurred, the service seemed to get worse due to congestion, I imagine. Some mobile towers were provided by Optus and later by Telstra.

(e)

An early warning system that should be in place does not seem to exist. As I have highlighted earlier in this report the Lockyer Valley and Toowoomba escarpment were fully saturated from December rain that broke 110 years of records. Was this taken into account by the Bureau of Meteorology and advice given to the State Disaster Management Group, the Toowoomba and Lockyer Valley Regional Councils or the Police Commissioner or his representative?

If this amount of rain was highlighted from the previous month (December 2010) and a general warning given, to what agencies was this information forwarded and would this information have helped Disaster Management Groups?

This information would have been of great assistance to Police, SES, Councils and any Disaster Management group on the day of 10 January 2011, after the heavy rain on 6, 7, 8, 9 January where all the local streams were between minor and moderate for some of the times and any rain was going to cause rapid stream rises.

See attached copy of Bureau of Meteorology, 10 January 2011 at 12.06 p.m. EST, the heaviest part of the storm had passed Esk and was heading south west for the Escarpment around Ravensbourne and Murphys Creek and further Toowoomba.

Mayor Graeme Lehmann, Somerset Regional Council has told me he was attending a Disaster Management Group meeting at Fernvale. The Chief Executive Officer, Bob Bain was also at this meeting, where they received phone calls from the Somerset Council office at Esk advising that the office was inundated with water.

*Question 30 -*

Was the question asked by the Disaster Management Group where the Esk water came from, where it was going and was the rainfall event going to effect other areas?

*Question 31 -*

Did the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) have a full staff compliment on 9, 10 and 11 January 2011 and how many of their senior and appropriate staff were on holidays and were these positions backfilled? I have previously had discussions with BOM on the inaccuracies of some of their weather reports and if they required better equipment. ***The flippant response was farmers should listen and this will give a farmers an idea what is happening on their own turf.***

*Question 32 -*

What sort of modelling was being used by Bureau of Meteorology to advise them of what flood or storm event would occur? Was this modelling being used on 10 and 11 January 2011? What advice did this modelling give and was it acted on?

*Question 33 -*

Who should the Bureau of Meteorology advise - State Disaster Management Group, Commissioner of Police, Assistant Commissioner of Police, District Disaster Group or Local Governments?

*Question 34 -*

The Brisbane Valley is just beyond the area that I represent, but I have been contacted by a number of people who have asked why they received so little warning about flooding and dam realises?

*Question 35 -*

Has the Wivenhoe Dam and Somerset Dam been used for water storage? Have these Dams been used for flood mitigation? How appropriately were the Dams used for flood mitigation?

**Local and regional planning system to minimise infrastructure and property impact from floods -**

*Question 36 -*

Surely the number one priority should be the safety of the community, not safety of infrastructure?

**A lot of planning policy is categorised in State Planning Policy 1/03 Guideline**

*Question 37 -*

Has the State Government funded the local Council to implement SPP 1/03?

*Question 38 -*

If not, why not? This Policy has been in place since 2004.

*Question 39 -*

Do local Governments have access to accurate flood data , flood heights? Which level of Government is ultimately responsible for the provision of this data?

*Question 40 -*

Currently, every real estate transaction is now to proceed with a Sustainability Document that tells you how many light bulbs are in a house and other information that is not imperative. Surely it would be better if a flood document with accurate flood heights and measurements of water inundation was provided with these real estate transactions. This process of providing accurate flood data and water heights could also assist renters.

*Question 41 -*

Would it be reasonably efficient and cost effective for flood height information to be forwarded to all land holders with their rate notice?

*Question 42 -*

Renters should be availed of the flood information when they also undertake to rent a property. As quite often these are the less fortunate souls of our society, who can least afford to loose their goods and chattels in flood events.

**The Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry Section -**

**b) the performance of private insurers in meeting their claims responsibilities.**

The response from private insurers has been as varied, as the private insurers themselves. Some of them have acted responsibly and hastily and others have been reluctant, unsympathetic and frustrating.

There have been problems with assessors not keeping appointments, not being reliable, and insurers blaming the assessors and assessors blaming the insurers for the delays. I have found the Insurance Council of Australia very helpful in assisting in sorting out the simpler issues.

Some brokers have been extremely helpful to their clients, whereas others have been more helpful to their insurance company masters. Unfortunately, this seems to be a matter of random selection more so than good management or good luck.

Some of the larger customers at the bottom end of the Lockyer where the creek joins the river have gone to mediation about their major insurance claims for many hundreds of thousands of dollars.

If the Commission of Inquiry wishes to have more detailed personal problems highlighted to them I have a number of constituents who would be willing to talk to the Commission.

**c) all aspects of the response to the 2010/2011 flood events, particularly measures taken to inform the community and measures to protect life and private and public property, etc.**

Please see attached email from Anthony Cornelius [REDACTED] where Anthony raised issues about flooding in the Gatton and Grantham area and water in Sandy Creek just after 12.00 noon on Monday, 10 January 2011.

I also have attached some rainfall data sheets which highlight that Toowoomba received almost 400 mm of rain in December 2010 which is four times the average December rainfall for the last 12 years and two and a half times the wettest rainfall 165 mm for the last 12 years.

Gatton received 317 mm of rain and 21 wet days for December 2010, over three times its average rainfall and its wettest December for 110 years. Laidley received 285 mm in December 2010 which is also well above average.

Did these massive rainfalls start to set off some alarm bells. We were only about to enter our wettest months of January and February. There should have been some foresight of the flooding and that any rainfall event that was going to take place after New Year was going to be of major concern. Whether it be at Toowoomba, Gatton, Laidley or some of the escarpment type areas such as Ravensbourne, Mt. Castle, Mt. Campbell, Mt. Haldon, Black Duck Valley, Hirstglen or Mt. Cross.

On Monday, 10 January, when the storm event travelled across Ravensbourne on its way to Toowoomba there should have been alarm bells ringing loudly in the Bureau of Meteorology offices.

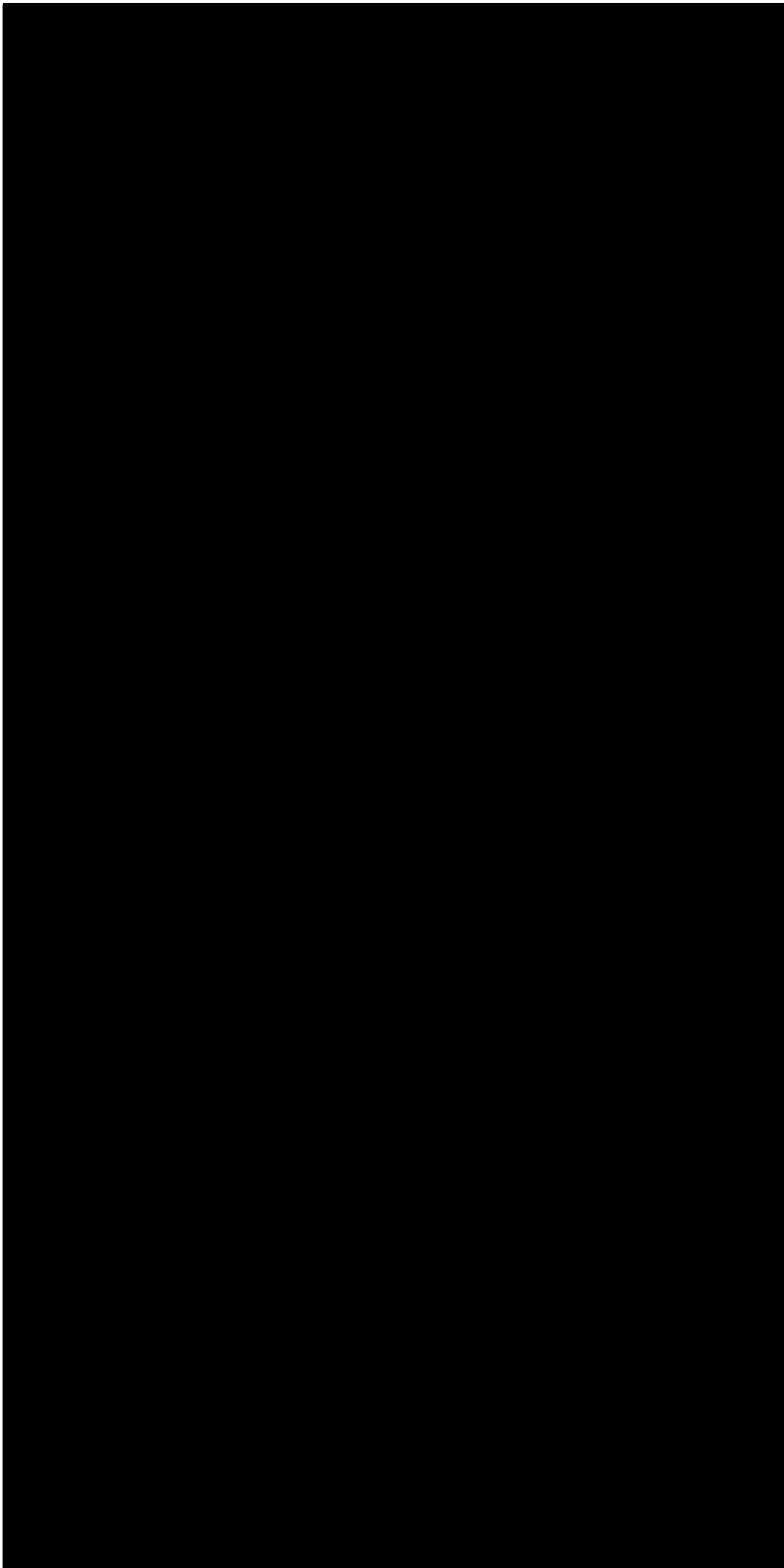
On previous occasions I have asked the question as to whether the Bureau of Meteorology needs to be better resourced or if its processes are appropriate to give accurate and time sensitive predictions and warnings (see attached February 1 2008 media article).

As shown on previous attachment from the Bureau of Meteorology website radar sent to me at 12.06 p.m., Monday, 10 January EST, the storm that had just come across from Esk and was heading across the escarpment towards Toowoomba.

I have been told that the Oakey Air Base staff were sent home prior to 12 midday on Monday 10 January 2011. If this was correct, what data and information was used to make these decisions?

Could this information have been supplied to the general public and the Disaster Management Groups across south-east Queensland?

**List of community members I feel it is important to have input to the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry:**





Some of the major issues that have been highlighted to me by concerned members of the community -

- (i) Police heavy handedness in the way Grantham was locked down for 10 days causing the water damage and flood damage to be extreme. Mildew and rot had set in to a lot of properties that could have been cleaned if earlier access was allowed.
- (ii) The Police use the fact that the area was a Crime Scene. This does not appear to be mentioned in the Disaster Management Act 2003 to exclude people from their house. This was not a crime scene, the community are very frustrated that media could look at their house but they could not. Channel 10 showed Bob Meredith what his house looked like but he could not go and see his own home.
- (iii) Some houses that had no water damage or inundation on the upper levels, were broken into and mud and mess were walked through the houses.
- (iv) One shed had locks cut to get into and the wall smashed to provide access, the shed had not been opened by the flood.
- (v) Lack of local Disaster Management Plan in the communities. Areas such as Laidley, Forest Hill, Brightview, Lockyer Waters, Glenore Grove, Murphys Creek and Withcott - do these areas (as they can be 20-40 kilometres apart) need sub plans ? Laidley floods differently than Murphys Creek.
- (vi) Damage to shops and businesses by trucks and cars using excess speed travelling through flood waters in towns and villages, including Laidley, Forest Hill and other areas.





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## Laidley Rainfall Reports

December 2010

Dec 2010 go latest

date	rain to 9am mm	interval hours
Wed 01/12/2010	-	-
Thu 02/12/2010	19.0	24
Fri 03/12/2010	2.5	24
Sat 04/12/2010	2.5	24
Sun 05/12/2010	22.0	24
Mon 06/12/2010	-	-
Tue 07/12/2010	10.0	24
Wed 08/12/2010	-	-
Thu 09/12/2010	-	-
Fri 10/12/2010	-	-
Sat 11/12/2010	5.5	24
Sun 12/12/2010	17.0	24
Mon 13/12/2010	-	-
Tue 14/12/2010	-	-
Wed 15/12/2010	-	-
Thu 16/12/2010	-	-
Fri 17/12/2010	22.0	24
Sat 18/12/2010	-	-
Sun 19/12/2010	40.0	24
Mon 20/12/2010	40.0	24
Tue 21/12/2010	-	-
Wed 22/12/2010	-	-
Thu 23/12/2010	20.0	24
Fri 24/12/2010	10.5	24
Sat 25/12/2010	9.0	24
Sun 26/12/2010	13.0	24
Mon 27/12/2010	30.0	24
Tue 28/12/2010	22.0	24
Wed 29/12/2010	-	-
Thu 30/12/2010	-	-
Fri 31/12/2010	-	-
December 2010 Total	285.0	16 day(s)
Jan-Dec 2010 Total	860.2	71 day(s)

Highlights the highest daily rainfall during the period.

10

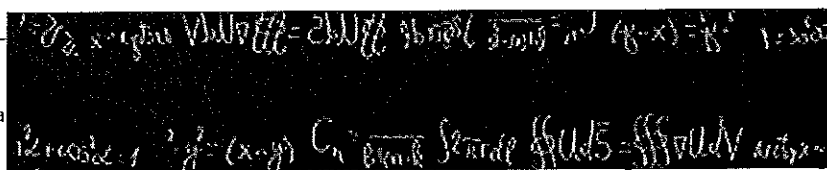
A yellow cell indicates a probable monthly record for this site (sites with  $\geq 10$  years of records only). The number of years of records available for the relevant field for this month is indicated in black. See the station's climate page for full details.


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[network map](#) | [member centre](#)
[Home](#) > [Queensland](#) > [Southeast Coast](#) > Laidley Rainfall Reports

## Laidley Rainfall Reports

January 2011

da



Sat 01/01/2011		
Sun 02/01/2011	-	-
Mon 03/01/2011	-	-
Tue 04/01/2011	5.0	24
Wed 05/01/2011	-	-
Thu 06/01/2011	10.0	24
Fri 07/01/2011	35.0	24
Sat 08/01/2011	13.0	24
Sun 09/01/2011	2.0	24
Mon 10/01/2011	58.0	24
Tue 11/01/2011	55.0	24
Wed 12/01/2011	100.0	24
Thu 13/01/2011	-	-
Fri 14/01/2011	-	-
Sat 15/01/2011	-	-
Sun 16/01/2011	-	-
Mon 17/01/2011	-	-
Tue 18/01/2011	-	-
Wed 19/01/2011	-	-
Thu 20/01/2011	56.0	24
January 2011 Total	334.0	9 day(s)
Jan-Jan 2011 Total	334.0	9 day(s)

Highlights the highest daily rainfall during the period.

10

A yellow cell indicates a probable monthly record for this site (sites with  $\geq 10$  years of records only). The number of years of records available for the relevant field for this month is indicated in black. See the station's climate page for full details.

rainfall bulletin

## Station Details

**LAIDLEY**  
Southeast Coast, Queensland

27.6514°S 152.3808°E 123m AMSL  
Commenced 1982

## Toowoomba Ap 3 Month History

December 2010						
	[December] January February March					
date	min to 9am °C	anomaly °C	max from 9am °C	anomaly °C	rain to 9am mm	
Wed 01/12/2010	16.5	-0.1	20.6	-7.0	8.6	
Thu 02/12/2010	15.6	-1.0	20.0	-7.6	16.0	
Fri 03/12/2010	16.4	-0.2	18.1	-9.5	4.4	
Sat 04/12/2010	15.9	-0.7	18.0	-9.6	7.2	
Sun 05/12/2010	14.9	-1.7	21.4	-6.2	48.6	
Mon 06/12/2010	17.1	+0.5	24.6	-3.0	6.0	
Tue 07/12/2010	17.2	+0.6	23.8	-3.8	1.4	
Wed 08/12/2010	-	-	24.5	-3.1	11.0	
Thu 09/12/2010	18.0	+1.4	25.8	-1.8	0.2	
Fri 10/12/2010	18.7	+2.1	28.0	+0.4	0.0	
Sat 11/12/2010	20.1	+3.5	22.6	-5.0	4.6	
Sun 12/12/2010	16.4	-0.2	24.6	-3.0	53.4	
Mon 13/12/2010	17.5	+0.9	27.1	-0.5	0.2	
Tue 14/12/2010	17.5	+0.9	27.1	-0.5	0.0	
Wed 15/12/2010	16.9	+0.3	28.8	+1.2	0.0	
Thu 16/12/2010	16.9	+0.3	-	-	0.0	
Fri 17/12/2010	16.6	+0.0	28.2	+0.6	48.4	
Sat 18/12/2010	16.1	-0.5	24.0	-3.6	2.8	
Sun 19/12/2010	15.1	-1.5	18.9	-8.7	16.8	
Mon 20/12/2010	14.3	-2.3	21.0	-6.6	38.0	
Tue 21/12/2010	11.5	-5.1	24.3	-3.3	0.0	
Wed 22/12/2010	15.3	-1.3	21.9	-5.7	0.0	
Thu 23/12/2010	15.4	-1.2	-	-	9.4	
Fri 24/12/2010	-	-	24.1	-3.5	1.2	
Sat 25/12/2010	18.5	+1.9	20.7	-6.9	1.8	
Sun 26/12/2010	17.7	+1.1	22.1	-5.5	11.4	
Mon 27/12/2010	18.0	+1.4	22.0	-5.6	64.6	11.9
Tue 28/12/2010	17.5	+0.9	21.5	-6.1	43.0	
Wed 29/12/2010	15.0	-1.6	24.0	-3.6	0.2	
Thu 30/12/2010	15.0	-1.6	26.5	-1.1	0.0	
Fri 31/12/2010	16.5	-0.1	26.5	-1.1	0.0	
December 2010 Average						
	16.5		23.5			
December 1996-2008 Average						
	16.6		27.6			
December 1996-2008 Highest						
	23.2	26th 2001	37.6	25th 2005		
December 1996-2008 Lowest						
	9.0	29th 2004	16.6	27th 1999		
December 2010 Total						
					399.2	23 day(s)
December 1996-2008 Average Total						
					95.7	9.4 day(s)
December 1996-2008 Wettest Total						
					165.6	2002
December 1996-2008 Driest Total						
					32.4	2005

Hottest min/max
Coldest min/max
Wettest rainfall total
Probable monthly record (for stations with ≥ 10 years of records)

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## Toowoomba Ap 3 Month History

January 2011

date	December [January] February March					
	min to 9am	anomaly	max from 9am	anomaly	rain to 9am	
	°C	°C	°C	°C	mm	
Sat 01/01/2011	16.7	-0.8	24.9	-3.2	0.0	
Sun 02/01/2011	19.9	+2.4	27.8	-0.3	7.6	
Mon 03/01/2011	17.5	+0.0	28.4	+0.3	46.8	
Tue 04/01/2011	18.2	+0.7	26.6	-1.5	0.8	
Wed 05/01/2011	18.1	+0.6	26.0	-2.1	0.0	
Thu 06/01/2011	17.4	-0.1	19.4	-8.7	67.8	
Fri 07/01/2011	15.5	-2.0	21.5	-6.6	16.8	107.2
Sat 08/01/2011	16.6	-0.9	25.1	-3.0	22.6	
Sun 09/01/2011	18.3	+0.8	21.9	-6.2	5.2	
Mon 10/01/2011	18.6	+1.1	21.7	-6.4	83.6	207
Tue 11/01/2011	18.4	+0.9	21.2	-6.9	123.4	
Wed 12/01/2011	19.1	+1.6	26.1	-2.0	26.6	
Thu 13/01/2011	18.5	+1.0	24.6	-3.5	1.0	
Fri 14/01/2011	17.4	-0.1	25.1	-3.0	0.2	
Sat 15/01/2011	17.4	-0.1	25.4	-2.7	0.0	
Sun 16/01/2011	15.5	-2.0	25.9	-2.2	0.0	
Mon 17/01/2011	16.5	-1.0	30.2	+2.1	0.0	
Tue 18/01/2011	19.9	+2.4	31.4	+3.3	0.0	
Wed 19/01/2011	19.6	+2.1	28.1	+0.0	0.0	
Thu 20/01/2011	17.2	-0.3	26.4	-1.7	10.6	
Fri 21/01/2011	16.6	-0.9	25.3	-2.8	0.0	
Sat 22/01/2011	13.8	-3.7	25.4	-2.7	0.0	
Sun 23/01/2011	14.9	-2.6	25.4	-2.7	0.0	
Mon 24/01/2011	15.9	-1.6	27.7	-0.4	0.0	
Tue 25/01/2011	16.7	-0.8	30.6	+2.5	0.0	
Wed 26/01/2011	18.4	+0.9	29.3	+1.2	0.0	
Thu 27/01/2011	18.2	+0.7	29.3	+1.2	0.0	
Fri 28/01/2011	18.3	+0.8	26.7	-1.4	0.0	
Sat 29/01/2011	17.2	-0.3	25.6	-2.5	0.0	
Sun 30/01/2011	17.5	+0.0	26.6	-1.5	0.0	
Mon 31/01/2011	18.4	+0.9	27.8	-0.3	-	
January 2011 Average						
January 1997-2009 Average						
January 1997-2009 Highest						
January 1997-2009 Lowest						
January 2011 Total						
January 1997-2009 Average Total						
January 1997-2009 Wettest Total						
January 1997-2009 Driest Total						

Hottest min/max
Coldest min/max
Wettest rainfall total
Probable monthly record (for stations with ≥ 10 years of records)

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### Gatton 3 Month History

December 2010						
[December] <u>January</u> <u>February</u> <u>March</u>						
date	min to 9am	anomaly	max from 9am	anomaly	rain to 9am	
	°C	°C	°C	°C	mm	
Wed 01/12/2010	19.6	+1.5	24.1	-7.2	5.6	
Thu 02/12/2010	18.5	+0.4	24.9	-6.4	12.2	
Fri 03/12/2010	19.4	+1.3	23.5	-7.8	3.8	
Sat 04/12/2010	19.1	+1.0	23.1	-8.2	2.2	
Sun 05/12/2010	17.4	-0.7	25.8	-5.5	33.4	
Mon 06/12/2010	19.6	+1.5	27.7	-3.6	3.4	
Tue 07/12/2010	19.9	+1.8	27.6	-3.7	18.8	
Wed 08/12/2010	20.9	+2.8	29.6	-1.7	5.8	
Thu 09/12/2010	19.7	+1.6	30.3	-1.0	0.0	
Fri 10/12/2010	20.5	+2.4	32.7	+1.4	0.0	
Sat 11/12/2010	23.5	+5.4	28.1	-3.2	0.0	
Sun 12/12/2010	19.7	+1.6	26.7	-4.6	12.2	
Mon 13/12/2010	19.4	+1.3	31.9	+0.6	0.0	
Tue 14/12/2010	18.3	+0.2	31.5	+0.2	0.0	
Wed 15/12/2010	19.0	+0.9	33.4	+2.1	11.0	
Thu 16/12/2010	19.0	+0.9	32.4	+1.1	0.0	
Fri 17/12/2010	19.5	+1.4	33.8	+2.5	20.6	
Sat 18/12/2010	19.8	+1.7	29.3	-2.0	0.8	
Sun 19/12/2010	19.6	+1.5	24.0	-7.3	9.2	
Mon 20/12/2010	16.3	-1.8	26.0	-5.3	40.4	
Tue 21/12/2010	11.0	-7.1	28.8	-2.5	0.0	
Wed 22/12/2010	15.8	-2.3	25.4	-5.9	0.0	
Thu 23/12/2010	18.2	+0.1	25.7	-5.6	38.6	
Fri 24/12/2010	20.2	+2.1	27.7	-3.6	3.2	
Sat 25/12/2010	21.2	+3.1	24.3	-7.0	10.0	
Sun 26/12/2010	21.1	+3.0	22.6	-8.7	11.2	
Mon 27/12/2010	20.7	+2.6	25.6	-5.7	59.4	
Tue 28/12/2010	19.7	+1.6	24.9	-6.4	11.4	
Wed 29/12/2010	18.5	+0.4	27.7	-3.6	3.8	
Thu 30/12/2010	16.3	-1.8	31.3	+0.0	0.0	
Fri 31/12/2010	16.9	-1.2	31.0	-0.3	0.0	
December 2010 Average	19.0		27.8			
December 1913-2008 Average	18.1		31.3			
December 1913-2008 Highest	28.5	21st 1979	42.0	4th 2002		
December 1913-2008 Lowest	8.8	5th 1984	19.0	27th 2006		
December 2010 Total					317.0	21 day(s)
December 1898-2008 Average Total					98.3	9.4 day(s)
December 1898-2008 Wettest Total					278.7	1942
December 1898-2008 Driest Total					1.3	1938

Hottest min/max
Coldest min/max
Wettest rainfall total
Probable monthly record (for stations with ≥ 10 years of records)

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### Gatton 3 Month History

January 2011						
date	min to 9am	anomaly	max from 9am	anomaly	rain to 9am	
	°C	°C	°C	°C	mm	
Sat 01/01/2011	18.5	-0.6	28.3	-3.2	0.0	
Sun 02/01/2011	21.3	+2.2	31.7	+0.2	7.4	
Mon 03/01/2011	21.2	+2.1	31.1	-0.4	0.0	
Tue 04/01/2011	20.5	+1.4	31.2	-0.3	3.0	
Wed 05/01/2011	20.7	+1.6	29.2	-2.3	0.0	
Thu 06/01/2011	19.8	+0.7	22.2	-9.3	17.4	
Fri 07/01/2011	18.7	-0.4	26.4	-5.1	33.4	
Sat 08/01/2011	19.8	+0.7	27.4	-4.1	16.0	
Sun 09/01/2011	21.1	+2.0	26.6	-4.9	4.4	
Mon 10/01/2011	21.5	+2.4	27.6	-3.9	87.2	} 204.4
Tue 11/01/2011	21.6	+2.5	30.9	-0.6	79.0	
Wed 12/01/2011	20.9	+1.8	31.0	-0.5	38.2	
Thu 13/01/2011	21.3	+2.2	29.4	-2.1	5.4	
Fri 14/01/2011	19.5	+0.4	30.0	-1.5	0.0	
Sat 15/01/2011	18.1	-1.0	29.4	-2.1	-	
Sun 16/01/2011	18.8	-0.3	30.7	-0.8	0.0	
Mon 17/01/2011	18.4	-0.7	35.2	+3.7	0.0	
Tue 18/01/2011	21.3	+2.2	37.0	+5.5	0.0	
Wed 19/01/2011	22.6	+3.5	32.1	+0.6	2.8	
Thu 20/01/2011	19.9	+0.8	31.1	-0.4	23.2	
Fri 21/01/2011	19.8	+0.7	29.2	-2.3	0.0	
Sat 22/01/2011	16.5	-2.6	29.8	-1.7	4.6	
Sun 23/01/2011	15.6	-3.5	29.7	-1.8	0.0	
Mon 24/01/2011	17.6	-1.5	30.7	-0.8	0.0	
Tue 25/01/2011	17.7	-1.4	33.3	+1.8	0.0	
Wed 26/01/2011	21.0	+1.9	33.1	+1.6	0.0	
Thu 27/01/2011	19.2	+0.1	33.0	+1.5	0.0	
Fri 28/01/2011	19.6	+0.5	30.1	-1.4	0.0	
Sat 29/01/2011	20.9	+1.8	29.8	-1.7	0.0	
Sun 30/01/2011	19.2	+0.1	29.9	-1.6	0.0	
Mon 31/01/2011	17.5	-1.6	31.6	+0.1	0.0	
January 2011 Average						
January 1913-2009 Average						
January 1913-2009 Highest						
January 1913-2009 Lowest						
January 2011 Total						
January 1899-2009 Average Total						
January 1899-2009 Wettest Total						
January 1899-2009 Driest Total						

Hottest min/max
Coldest min/max
Wettest rainfall total
Probable monthly record (for stations with ≥ 10 years of records)

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NEWS | MYCAREER | DOMAIN | DRIVE | FINANCE | MOBILE | RSVP | TRAVEL | WEATHER

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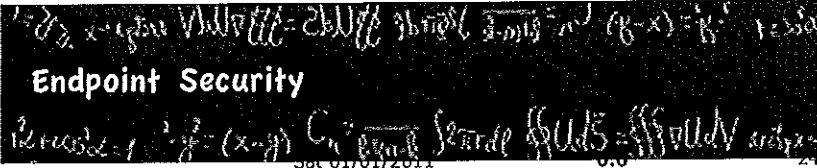
## Laidley Rainfall Reports

December 2010		Jan	2011	go	latest
date		rain to 9am		interval	
		mm		hours	
Wed 01/12/2010		-		-	
Thu 02/12/2010		19.0		24	
Fri 03/12/2010		2.5		24	
Sat 04/12/2010		2.5		24	
Sun 05/12/2010		22.0		24	
Mon 06/12/2010		-		-	
Tue 07/12/2010		10.0		24	
Wed 08/12/2010		-		-	
Thu 09/12/2010		-		-	
Fri 10/12/2010		-		-	
Sat 11/12/2010		5.5		24	
Sun 12/12/2010		17.0		24	
Mon 13/12/2010		-		-	
Tue 14/12/2010		-		-	
Wed 15/12/2010		-		-	
Thu 16/12/2010		-		-	
Fri 17/12/2010		22.0		24	
Sat 18/12/2010		-		-	
Sun 19/12/2010		40.0		24	
Mon 20/12/2010		40.0		24	
Tue 21/12/2010		-		-	
Wed 22/12/2010		-		-	
Thu 23/12/2010		20.0		24	
Fri 24/12/2010		10.5		24	
Sat 25/12/2010		9.0		24	
Sun 26/12/2010		13.0		24	
Mon 27/12/2010		30.0		24	
Tue 28/12/2010		22.0		24	
Wed 29/12/2010		-		-	
Thu 30/12/2010		-		-	
Fri 31/12/2010		-		-	
December 2010 Total		285.0	16 day(s)		
Jan-Dec 2010 Total		860.2	71 day(s)		

Highlights the highest daily rainfall during the period.

10

A yellow cell indicates a probable monthly record for this site (sites with  $\geq 10$  years of records only). The number of years of records available for the relevant field for this month is indicated in black. See the station's climate page for full details.

 <b>NEWS   MYCAREER   DOMAIN   DRIVE   FINANCE   MOBILE   RSVP   TRAVEL   WEATHER</b> <a href="#">network map</a>   <a href="#">member centre</a>		
<a href="#">Home</a> > <a href="#">Queensland</a> > <a href="#">Southeast Coast</a> > <a href="#">Helidon Rainfall Reports</a>		
<b>Helidon Rainfall Reports</b>		
<b>January 2011</b>		
<div>  </div>		
	Sat 01/01/2011	0.0 24
	Sun 02/01/2011	8.0 24
	Mon 03/01/2011	1.0 24
	Tue 04/01/2011	1.0 24
	Wed 05/01/2011	0.0 24
	Thu 06/01/2011	54.0 24
	Fri 07/01/2011	37.0 24
	Sat 08/01/2011	23.0 24
	Sun 09/01/2011	3.0 24
	Mon 10/01/2011	57.0 24
	Tue 11/01/2011	29.0 24
	Wed 12/01/2011	- -
	Thu 13/01/2011	- -
	Fri 14/01/2011	- -
	Sat 15/01/2011	- -
	Sun 16/01/2011	- -
	Mon 17/01/2011	- -
	Tue 18/01/2011	- -
	Wed 19/01/2011	- -
	Thu 20/01/2011	0.0 24
	January 2011 Total	213.0 9 day(s)
	Jan-Jan 2011 Total	213.0 9 day(s)

Highlights the highest daily rainfall during the period.

10

A yellow cell indicates a probable monthly record for this site (sites with  $\geq 10$  years of records only). The number of years of records available for the relevant field for this month is indicated in black. See the station's climate page for full details.

[rainfall bulletin](#)

#### Station Details


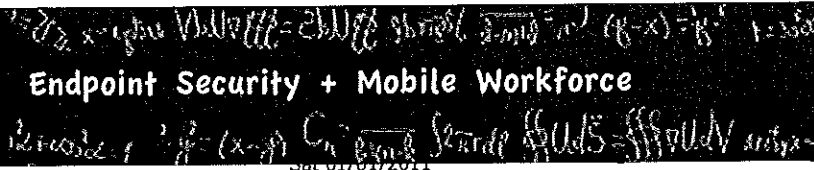
**HELIDON TM**  
Southeast Coast, Queensland

27.5439°S 152.1133°E 124m AMSL  
Commenced 1972

**10-Day Extended Forecast** [Accurate 10-Day Forecast & Weather Maps - Download WeatherBlink Free!](#) [www.WeatherBlink.com](#)

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Home > Queensland > Southeast Coast > Laidley Rainfall Reports		
<b>Laidley Rainfall Reports</b>		
<b>January 2011</b>		
		
	Sat 01/01/2011	
	Sun 02/01/2011	-
	Mon 03/01/2011	-
	Tue 04/01/2011	5.0 24
	Wed 05/01/2011	-
	Thu 06/01/2011	10.0 24
	Fri 07/01/2011	35.0 24
	Sat 08/01/2011	13.0 24
	Sun 09/01/2011	2.0 24
	Mon 10/01/2011	58.0 24
	Tue 11/01/2011	55.0 24
	Wed 12/01/2011	100.0 24
	Thu 13/01/2011	-
	Fri 14/01/2011	-
	Sat 15/01/2011	-
	Sun 16/01/2011	-
	Mon 17/01/2011	-
	Tue 18/01/2011	-
	Wed 19/01/2011	-
	Thu 20/01/2011	56.0 24
	January 2011 Total	334.0 9 day(s)
	Jan-Jan 2011 Total	334.0 9 day(s)

Highlights the highest daily rainfall during the period.

10

A yellow cell indicates a probable monthly record for this site (sites with ≥ 10 years of records only). The number of years of records available for the relevant field for this month is indicated in black. See the station's climate page for full details.

rainfall bulletin

#### Station Details

**LAIDLEY**  
Southeast Coast, Queensland

27.6514°S 152.3808°E 123m AMSL  
Commenced 1982



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# Gatton Rainfall Reports

January 2011

Jan 2011 go latest

date	rain to 9am	interval
	mm	hours
Sat 01/01/2011	0.0	24
Sun 02/01/2011	7.4	24
Mon 03/01/2011	0.0	24
Tue 04/01/2011	3.0	24
Wed 05/01/2011	0.0	24
Thu 06/01/2011	17.4	24
Fri 07/01/2011	33.4	24
Sat 08/01/2011	16.0	24
Sun 09/01/2011	4.4	24
Mon 10/01/2011	87.2	24
Tue 11/01/2011	79.0	24
Wed 12/01/2011	38.2	24
Thu 13/01/2011	5.4	24
Fri 14/01/2011	0.0	24
Sat 15/01/2011	-	-
Sun 16/01/2011	0.0	24
Mon 17/01/2011	0.0	24
Tue 18/01/2011	0.0	24
Wed 19/01/2011	2.8	24
Thu 20/01/2011	23.2	24
Fri 21/01/2011	0.0	24
Sat 22/01/2011	4.6	24
Sun 23/01/2011	0.0	24
Mon 24/01/2011	0.0	24
Tue 25/01/2011	0.0	24
Wed 26/01/2011	0.0	24
Thu 27/01/2011	0.0	24
Fri 28/01/2011	0.0	24
Sat 29/01/2011	0.0	24
Sun 30/01/2011	0.0	24
Mon 31/01/2011	0.0	24

January 2011 Total	322.0	13 day(s)
January 1899-2009 Average Total	110.5	10.1 day(s)
January 1899-2009 Wettest Total	452.9	1974
January 1899-2009 Wettest 24hr Total	199.4	26th 1974
January 1899-2009 Driest Total	2.0	2003

Jan-Jan 2011 Total 322.0 13 day(s)




## Gatton Rainfall Reports

December 2010

Dec • 2010 • go latest

date	rain to 9am	interval
	mm	hours
Wed 01/12/2010	5.6	24
Thu 02/12/2010	12.2	24
Fri 03/12/2010	3.8	24
Sat 04/12/2010	2.2	24
Sun 05/12/2010	33.4	24
Mon 06/12/2010	3.4	24
Tue 07/12/2010	18.8	24
Wed 08/12/2010	5.8	24
Thu 09/12/2010	0.0	24
Fri 10/12/2010	0.0	24
Sat 11/12/2010	0.0	24
Sun 12/12/2010	12.2	24
Mon 13/12/2010	0.0	24
Tue 14/12/2010	0.0	24
Wed 15/12/2010	11.0	24
Thu 16/12/2010	0.0	24
Fri 17/12/2010	20.6	24
Sat 18/12/2010	0.8	24
Sun 19/12/2010	9.2	24
Mon 20/12/2010	40.4	24
Tue 21/12/2010	0.0	24
Wed 22/12/2010	0.0	24
Thu 23/12/2010	38.6	24
Fri 24/12/2010	3.2	24
Sat 25/12/2010	10.0	24
Sun 26/12/2010	11.2	24
Mon 27/12/2010	59.4	24
Tue 28/12/2010	11.4	24
Wed 29/12/2010	3.8	24
Thu 30/12/2010	0.0	24
Fri 31/12/2010	0.0	24

December 2010 Total	111	317.0	21 day(s)
December 1898-2008 Average Total		98.3	9.4 day(s)
December 1898-2008 Wettest Total		278.7	1942
December 1898-2008 Wettest 24hr Total		108.8	12th 1991
December 1898-2008 Driest Total		1.3	1938
Jan-Dec 2010 Total		1112.4	132 day(s)

 <b>NEWS   MYCAREER   DOMAIN   DRIVE   FINANCE   MOBILE   RSVP   TRAVEL   WEATHER</b> <a href="#">network map</a>   <a href="#">member centre</a>		
<a href="#">Home</a> > <a href="#">Queensland</a> > <a href="#">Southeast Coast</a> > Laidley Rainfall Reports		
<b>Laidley Rainfall Reports</b>		
<b>January 2011</b>		
<b>BUSINESS OWNER?</b>		
	Sat 01/01/2011	
	Sun 02/01/2011	-
	Mon 03/01/2011	-
	Tue 04/01/2011	5.0 24
	Wed 05/01/2011	-
	Thu 06/01/2011	10.0 24
	Fri 07/01/2011	35.0 24
	Sat 08/01/2011	13.0 24
	Sun 09/01/2011	2.0 24
	Mon 10/01/2011	58.0 24
	Tue 11/01/2011	55.0 24
	Wed 12/01/2011	100.0 24
	Thu 13/01/2011	-
	Fri 14/01/2011	-
	Sat 15/01/2011	-
	Sun 16/01/2011	-
	Mon 17/01/2011	-
	Tue 18/01/2011	-
	Wed 19/01/2011	-
	Thu 20/01/2011	56.0 24
	January 2011 Total	334.0 9 day(s)
	Jan-Jan 2011 Total	334.0 9 day(s)

Highlights the highest daily rainfall during the period.

10

A yellow cell indicates a probable monthly record for this site (sites with  $\geq 10$  years of records only). The number of years of records available for the relevant field for this month is indicated in black. See the station's climate page for full details.

[rainfall bulletin](#)

#### Station Details

**LAIDLEY**  
Southeast Coast, Queensland

27.6514°S 152.3808°E 123m AMSL  
Commenced 1982

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I spoke to Bob Mann of Murphy's Creek who advised that at 2.22 pm, Monday, 10 January 2011, he phoned Snr. Sgt. Howard Glass of Helidon Police. Bob noted this time from his telephone records.

Snr. Sgt. Howard Glass was at this time stuck in flood waters in Toowoomba.

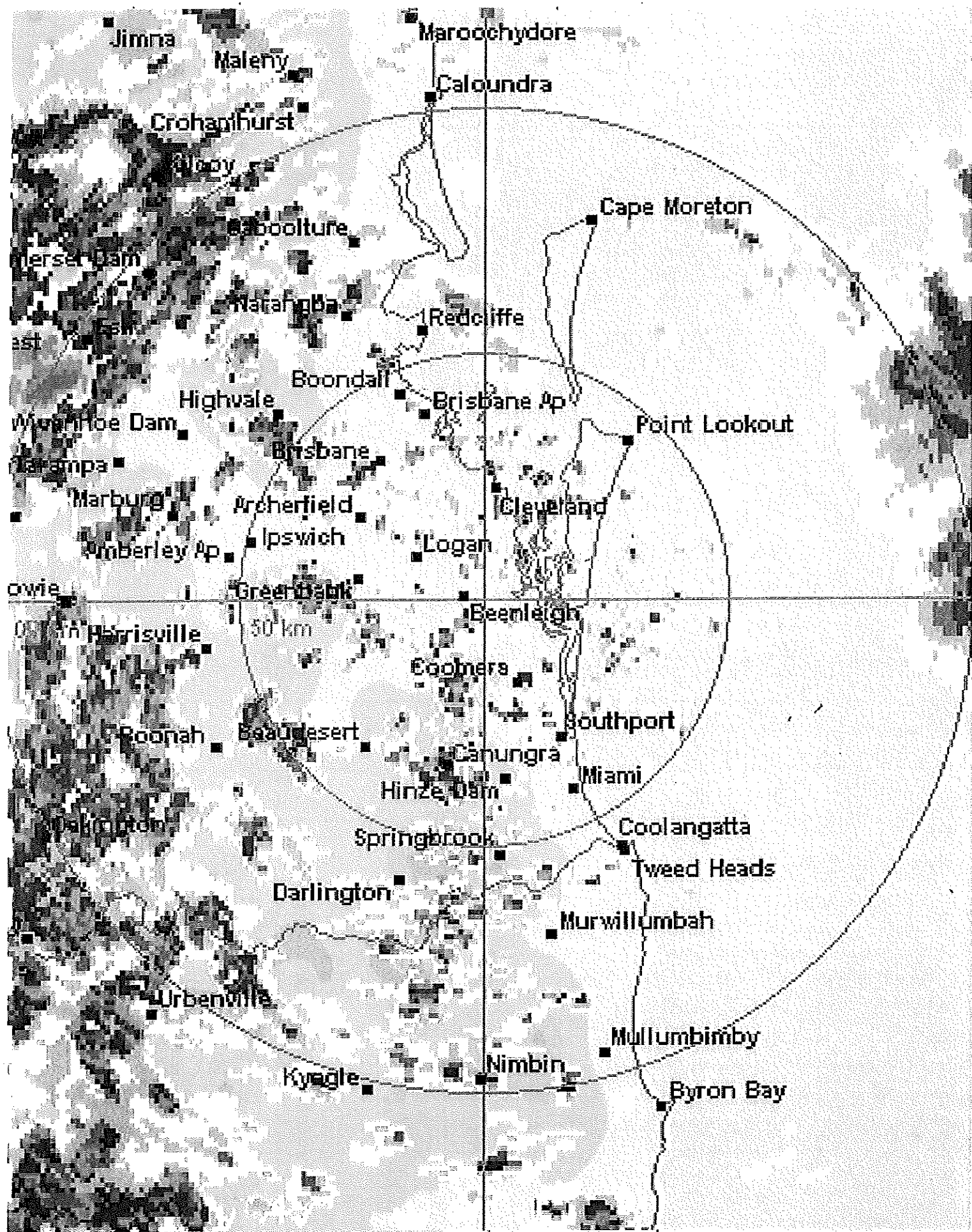
Bob advised Snr. Sgt. Howard Glass that he had never seen water as high in Murphys Creek and that people in low lying areas of Helidon should be warned.

I called Snr. Sgt. Howard Glass who advised that he was stuck in his car in Toowoomba in flood waters. Shortly after Bob Mann's call Snr. Sgt. Bernie Wilce of Gatton Police called Snr. Sgt. Glass, as Gatton Police were starting to get reports also about rising waters.

I then talked to Snr. Sgt. Bernie Wilce who wasn't on duty at the time who said from his recollection he did speak to Snr. Sgt. Glass who advised him that there was no officers available in Helidon and that he was stuck in Toowoomba but he had reports from Bob Mann about the rising water.

Snr. Sgt. Wilce then tried to send a crew to Helidon but could not get through.

*Ian Rickuss MP*  
*Friday, 18 March 2011*



Light

Moderate

Heavy

on, 10 Jan 2011 02:06:00 UTC

Monday, 10 January 2011 12:06:00



[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 16 February 2011 9:55 PM  
**To:** Lockyer Electorate Office  
**Subject:** Re: Lockyer Valley Flood Information - Grantham January 10, 2011

Hi Ian,

Not a problem. We will be placing a submission to the inquiry from a meteorologist's perspective and hopefully help change. I would still like to meet up with yourself (and any other MP who is interested) to discuss the event from an independent meteorologist's perspective (ie, non-Bureau). I realise you are busy though - but if you have the time I believe it could be beneficial for everyone to better understand what happened, and what *could* have been done (in terms of warnings).

Regards,

[REDACTED]  
Weatherwatch  
<http://www.weatherwatch.net.au>

[REDACTED]  
Personal website: <http://www.downunderchase.com>

On 28/01/2011 1:54 PM, Lockyer Electorate Office wrote:

Anthony,

Thanks you for the information.

Regards,

*Ian Rickuss MP*  
**Member for Lockyer**

Ph: (07) 5462 2772  
Fax: (07) 5462 2388  
Toll Free: 1800 817 791  
[www.ianrickuss.com.au](http://www.ianrickuss.com.au)  
Email: [lockyer@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:lockyer@parliament.qld.gov.au)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 17 January 2011 8:12 PM  
**To:** Lockyer Electorate Office  
**Subject:** Lockyer Valley Flood Information - Grantham January 10, 2011

Hi Ian,

I realise this is an extremely stressful and traumatic time for you and your residents right now. Unfortunately, this is not the first time a devastating flash flood event has occurred with insufficient or inadequate warnings. After the Coomera 2009 floods, the next meeting I had with the Bureau I said "We are going to see a significant loss of life in one of these events if these are not better warned for."

I've attached two images, one is a screenshot of the radar cell, the other is the flood heights from the Bureau of Meteorology at Helidon where you can clearly see the large spike in Lockyer Creek prior to being washed away. You may also be interested in the complete radar loop - this is available at this link:  
<http://www.theweatherchaser.com/radar-loop/IDR663-brisbane/2011-01-09-21/2011-01-10-05> (You can clearly see a very large, slow-moving, intense thunderstorm moving into the region).

I've also been constructing an internal report for our own purposes (it's quite detailed, approximately 5000 words). It's still in the draft stages, but there is some information here you might be interested in. In particular, the succession of events (a full, detailed timeline is included in the main report which I can also send you if of interest. It includes our warnings and notes, the Bureau's warnings and the observed rainfall and reports). I would be more than happy to meet up with yourself (and any other members of parliament interested in this) to discuss what happened on this day and ways this may be able to be improved. Something is obviously not working - and things have to change. I've been involved in the forecasting of severe weather and thunderstorms for many years now and constantly see weather events that are insufficiently warned.

The part of the report of interest is below - please don't hesitate to contact me for further information and discussion. As I said - I would like to meet up with yourself and/or other MPs to discuss this event further - my number again is [REDACTED]



On approach to Toowoomba, a meteorologist of Weatherwatch kept people up to date on the Weatherzone Forums discussing the potential for Toowoomba, Grantham and Gatton. The detailed timeline is presented at the bottom of this report, but a few quotes of interest:

1216 EST – *"Concerning for the Gatton-Grantham area right now with that very large storm/rain area moving towards it with no doubt, torrential rainfall! Sandy Creek (in Grantham) has caught quite a few people by surprise and I hope they're prepared for it, but sadly I think most won't know until the water starts lapping up at their homes due to our insufficient warning system."*

1434 EST – *"...there's going to be a near wall of water flowing down into the communities through there...  
 The flooding in Toowoomba would be significant too with 60mm in the last hour."*

These extreme concerns were based on several factors (some of which have been mentioned)

- Radar can be known to underestimate rainfall over the region (both due to distance from the radar and due to the lack of hail likely on the day).
- Rainfall was confined into the upper reaches of the Lockyer/Sandy Creek catchments, both of which are small creeks and rarely carry much water
- Topography of the region with mountainous areas meaning water flow would carry great acceleration
- Recent rainfall figures in the region

- The very large geographical area the storm covered with high intensity

At the time, the Bureau of Meteorology had a severe weather warning for flash flooding and potential worsening of river flooding but that warning had been out for many days with exactly the same wording. Furthermore, there were no specific times given to danger areas – Weatherwatch outlined days of concern to initially be Thursday and Friday and then Sunday and Monday. On later revision, Weatherwatch revised the main time of concern to be Monday and Tuesday (with conditions easing late on Tuesday). However emphasis was given that "this was a very serious flash flooding situation for Southeast Queensland" on Monday morning. Such wording has never been used in Weatherwatch forecasts for the nine years an office has been open in Queensland. (Likewise, on the February 2009 Victorian Black Saturday bushfire disaster, the term "ultra-extreme bushfire danger" was used to try and distinguish the potential between that event and other "extreme bushfire danger" events).

Unfortunately in accordance to the Bureau and Meteorology laws and regulations, Weatherwatch was unable to contact a media outlet and issue warnings for such an event. Furthermore, there's no formalised way for private meteorological companies to contact the Bureau of Meteorology and discuss unfolding situations and alert them to a situation that is critical. In fact, trying to contact Bureau of Meteorology forecasters is often extremely difficult and long-wait times are often experienced.

The observations following the forecasts on Monday and Tuesday were soon devastatingly apparent. Reports of massive flash flooding came through from Toowoomba. With most media contacts overseas, Weatherwatch made contact with Peter Doherty at Channel 7 who mentioned they were organising a helicopter to fly over the area. Soon after, one reporter described the situation "It's like Bangladesh."

But perhaps the worst observation of all was at 1523 the two Helidon flood gauges recorded an 8m peak in flood waters in a period of tens of minutes before failing. Despite this occurring, the Bureau of Meteorology still failed to issue an alert for the region – and at 1616 issued a generic "moderate to major" flood warning for the Lockyer Creek with no mention of the towns in the upper Lockyer Creek catchments. It wasn't until 1700 when a more urgent warning was issued in response to the extreme flash flooding in the upper Lockyer Creek region. Unfortunately this warning was placed in a separate river area (ie, not the Lockyer Creek warning), which meant that it probably was not distributed as efficiently as it could have been.

--

Regards,  
Anthony Cornelius  
Weatherwatch  
<http://www.weatherwatch.net.au>

Personal website: <http://www.downunderchase.com>

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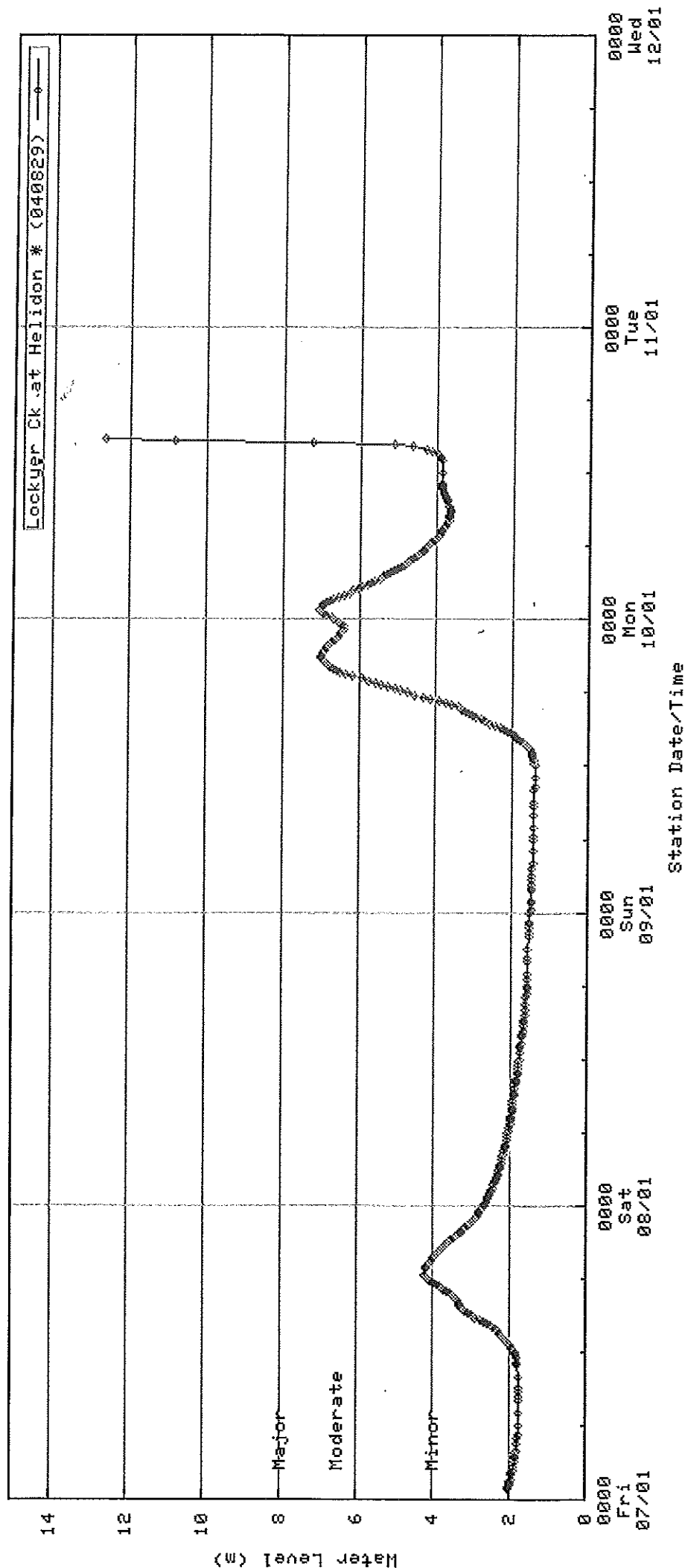
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