

Robert Cousin



Friday, 11 March 2011

The Charisma
Commission of enquiry into Queensland floods

River levels.

I submit that the information presented concerning river levels was very misleading.

The levels reported included

Town/location	Level (metres)
Goondiwindi	20
Brisbane	4.5
Ipswich	18
Dalby	3
Condamine	15
Bundaberg	5.7
St George	18

My point is the 'level' is meaningless to the general public. I understand the level is measured from a specific datum... however the level does not relate to any local datum.

News broadcast were full of dramatic "walls of water 18 metres high heading towards St George"!!! Very alarming... clearly the Bureau Of Meteorology has a problem in honestly relaying informing to the press.. Dalby was severely flooded at 3 metres.... The same level would have a minimal effect on Ipswich.

The information must be readily understood by the population. This could be disastrous in a real emergency... Residents of Dalby told the level would be 5 metres need to evacuate immediately. Visitors from Ipswich would not bother to even put on their gum boots...

The information MUST be more relevant.

The use of weather districts.

People travelling within the state may not know they are in the 'Maranoa' when a specific weather alarm is issued for that area. Possibly a simplified use of a numeric grid would be more readily understood....

As simple as we all see in street directories...

Yours sincerely

R. M. Cousin

Robert Cousin