

G'day Commissioner.

Overnight Tuesday 11 Jan the BoM warnings were forecasting a peak equal to the 1974 level flood for Brisbane but 24 hours later (EG 12-27am 13 January) their warnings were lowered and carried the sentence "This is below the 1974 flood peak of 5.45 metres as releases at Wivenhoe Dam were reduced quickly during Tuesday night".

I hope somebody asks RD Jim Davidson or Hydrologist Peter Baddiley how come they weren't told about that reduction at the time (ie overnight Tuesday 11 Jan) so that their flood warnings THEN might have produced a more accurate forecast instead of forecasting a Brisbane peak that turned out to be 1m too high. This was a major forecast error nobody is complaining about but a major forecast error just the same. The BoM did a much better warning job in 1974 with vastly fewer resources, I believe.

Was there a communications breakdown between the BoM and Dam Operators?
If there wasn't a communications breakdown about the dam releases on Tuesday night, how come their flood forecast was so wrong (high) at that time?

(I am a 13 years retired BoM employee who in the 1960s worked for the BoM's Hydrology section and in the 1990s was responsible for assessing Bureau weather warning accuracy – but not flood warnings)

Ray Garske

