

Submission to the Royal Commission into the Flood Disasters in Queensland.

At about midday on the morning of the Toowoomba flood I came home and went to the BOM website to check the weather.

I was shocked to see a massive storm about to hit Toowoomba and the headwaters of the Lockyer Valley. I thought my computer may be playing up so I rang a friend in Toowoomba to check. He confirmed my fears and so I was not surprised to see the massive flood damage that hit those areas.

My questions to the Commission are the following-

1. Why was no early warning system such as text messaging enacted.
2. Are the levels of bureaucracy in Government agencies so great that no decision can be made without a number of meetings being held.
3. Are centralised planning systems going to cause more disasters in the future when people who have never been to an area make decisions about what can be built and where in an area.

I think a practical way that Government can help educate people is to place flood levels on signs or public buildings so that people can make a valid decision as to where they live. School halls and other public buildings could also be built to cyclone (5) rating in cyclone areas and be used as shelters.

On a more positive note the text service of the Western Downs Council was very good as was the information from ABC Radio. These people need to be commended.

Yours faithfully,
Greg Mckay