

Activities

1. Flood response

The period from November 2010 to mid January 2011 has been extremely wet. BOM indicate it is the wettest December on record for Queensland and eastern Australia. LDMG and regional agencies have responded to a series of flood events. Thankfully there was no loss of life. There has been significant road, rail and property damage, major disruption to normal business conduct, extended periods of isolation for many rural landholders and some of our regional townships such as Rolleston.

Flood event - commencing 3rd December 2010

- o Wet catchment - since August 2010.
- o Heavy rain over 12 hour period:
 - Retreat, Medway & Borilla Cks.
 - Southern Fairbairn Dam catchment.
 - Blackdown Tableland area.
 - Comet catchment.
 - Upper Isaac catchment.
- o Major floods Retreat and Theresa Creek systems, lower Nogoia and Comet systems. Moderate floods in the Mackenzie and Dawson systems. Minor floods in Fitzroy.
- o Retreat Ck broke its banks at Sapphire around 2.00am. Flood approximately 200mm lower than 2008 event.
- o LDMG not activated, but met a number of times.
- o Significant onsite water in some mine pits.
- o Fairbairn Dam peaked at 1.88m, 123% capacity.
- o Landholders along Retreat system Sapphire to Emerald were called and warned in the early hours of the morning.
- o As flood moved down the system, a number of information sharing teleconferences were arranged and held with different sector groups:
 - Hydrologists, Ensham and Curragh mining staff.
 - Hydrologists, Agforce, key irrigators on lower Nogoia and Comet.
 - Grape growers. TMR and Rail.
- o Some evacuations and re-supply of isolated rural landholders.
- o Comet catchment continued to get further rain post this event causing stream rises and damage.

Flood event commencing 26 Dec 2010

- o Heavy rainfall in upper Nogoia and Comet catchment – 200 to 240mm.
- o Fairbairn dam still 1.2m over spillway.
- o Most roads south of Capricorn Highway already badly damaged, many still closed.
- o Peak at Fairbairn Dam - 5.58m midnight 30/12/10.
Dam reached 176% capacity, spilling 373,016ML/day (4317cumeecs) at peak. Largest previous peak 4.44m in 2008.
- o Peak at Vince Lester Bridge - 16.05m. Largest previous peak recorded – 15.7m in 1957 prior to Dam construction.

- Major flood in Nogoia, Comet, Mackenzie, Dawson and Fitzroy.
- Largest flood on record for Nogoia and Comet River systems.
- LDMG activated 0900 hrs 27/12/10 – finally stood down 0930hrs 5/1/11.
- Recovery program currently running.

Beyond continuing to closely monitor TC Anthony and TC Yasi, I have not yet had time to formally prepare a report on the above two events either in the capacity of reviewing LD Coordination and Response, and the objective information regarding the flood event itself and mitigation issues.

My focus has and will be on:

- Collection and collation of objective flood data - field capture and survey work which is a vital for future preparedness and decision making
- Preparing a report for Council and LDMG.
- Providing and preparing maps and information suitable to take to the community as we did in 2008.

I have been inundated with requests for inundation data, maps, phone calls about the weather, flood levels, insurance issues, revaluation issues and flood mitigation queries.

2. SES support

- Three funding applications submitted for SES groups in late December.
 - New vehicle for Springsure Group.
 - Computer projection unit Gemfields Group.
 - Onsite waste water treatment plant for Emerald Group.
- Quotes obtained to complete maintenance work on Capella Group shed.
- Rolleston ESU final building approval awaiting bitumen in carpark and awaiting telephone line connection. Continued wet conditions and the need to get road network open elsewhere have delayed completion of the work at Rolleston.

Unfortunately during the recent event, our newly appointed CHRC SES Local Controller, George Thomson resigned from his position. Council and CHRC LDMG would like to officially acknowledge and pay much deserved credit to the tireless commitment that George has given the community and SES groups - the leadership, mentoring, training, incident response and callouts. George has given a tremendous amount of personal time and commitment over a very long period of time. Council would ask all members of the LDMG to personally thank George for all his work supporting our communities. George will remain an active SEDS member as a team leader.

Judy McDonald is now Acting CHRC Local Controller, and we would like to thank Judy for undertaking this role.

3. Emergency Management Coordinator

I would like to welcome Glenn Bell ex EMQ to Council and the CHRC LDMG role as our new Emergency Management Coordinator. Glenn officially starts on the 7th of February – so please welcome Glenn and assist him as he undertakes his role.

4. Summary

I know this report is brief, but can I personally thank everyone for their input, commitment and support during the last two events. A more detailed report will be completed in the coming weeks.