



HAUGHTON RIVER FLOOD

April 2000

This report includes some observations on the flood in the Haughton River which occurred on Monday 3 April and Tuesday 4 April and is subject to confirmation.

Rainfall

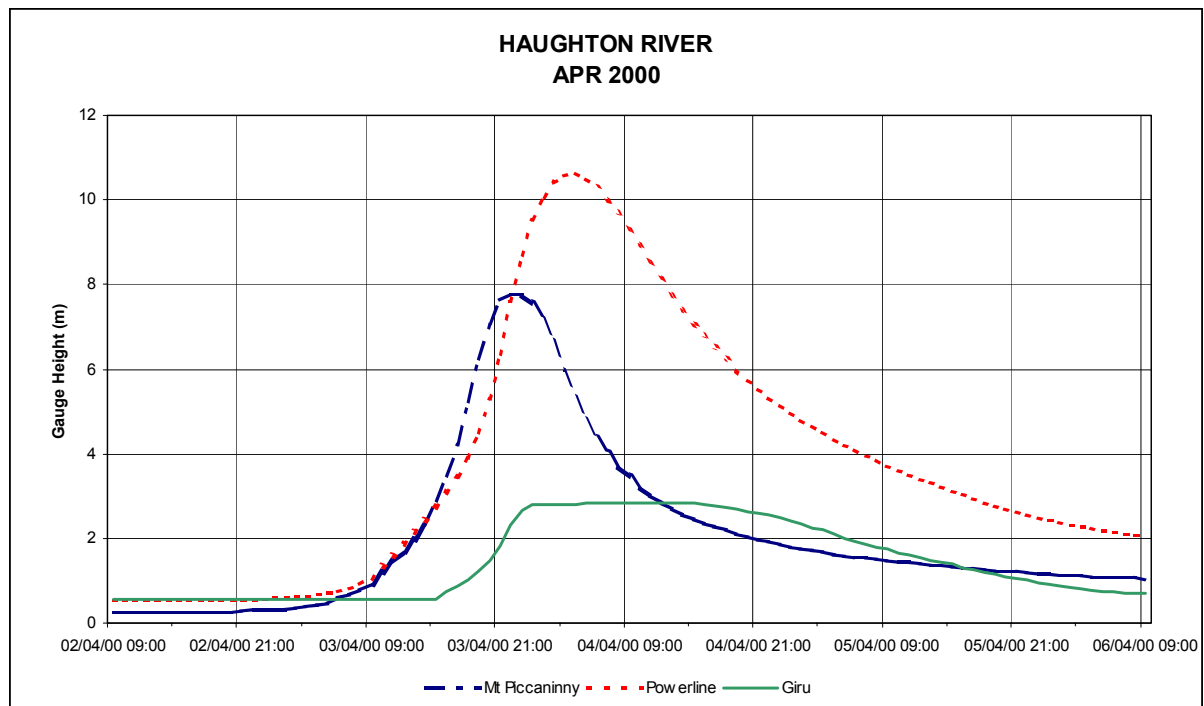
- Although there was some rainfall in the Haughton River catchment during the early hours of Monday morning 3 April, the flood producing rainfall did not commence until that afternoon. This was about 6 hours after Tropical Cyclone Tessi crossed the coast just south of Lucinda on Monday morning.
- The period of heaviest rainfall in the Haughton catchment occurred between noon and 7pm on Monday 3 April.
- Highest totals were recorded in the upper reaches of the Haughton River where the ALERT station at Upper Reid recorded over 200 mm in the 12 hours to 7:18pm Monday 3 April.
- In the 48 hours to 9am Tuesday, rainfalls ranged from just over 100 at Mingela to over 260 mm at Upper Reid, only 19 kilometres north of Mingela.
- Most intense recorded one hourly rainfalls were:
 - 44mm at Upper Reid ending 03:28pm Monday 3 April
 - 18mm at Mt Picaninny ending 08:46am Monday 3 April
- Intensity- frequency- duration analysis of rainfall at these stations shows the rain was generally below the 2 year Average Recurrence Interval (ARI) except at Upper Reid where the 6 to 24 hour durations were in the 10 to 20 year ARI range.
- Unfortunately, the gauge at McDonalds had failed prior to the event while the gauges at Woodstock and Giru also failed during the event.
- Rainfall during the most intense periods in the Haughton River from midnight 3 April to midnight 4 April is shown in the table below as millimetres per hour. Intensities greater than 20 mm in an hour are highlighted.

Date/Time	Brabons	Nettlefield	Cormacks	Mingela	Upper Reid	Cameron Hill	Mt Picaninny	Woodstock	Powerline	Giru
03/04/00 00:00	2	2	6	0	1	2	3	8	9	11
03/04/00 01:00	2	1	5	0	4	8	5	4	5	3
03/04/00 02:00	2	1	9	4	3	2	2	2	1	6
03/04/00 03:00	10	2	9	3	0	1	4	5	3	11
03/04/00 04:00	11	12	7	0	6	1	1	11	7	11
03/04/00 05:00	7	13	11	0	4	2	11	8	9	7
03/04/00 06:00	8	11	9	7	8	5	6	11	4	10
03/04/00 07:00	10	9	6	1	13	8	5	10	5	11
03/04/00 08:00	7	10	8	1	18	4	6	7	11	6
03/04/00 09:00	16	8	8	2	7	8	18	5	9	6

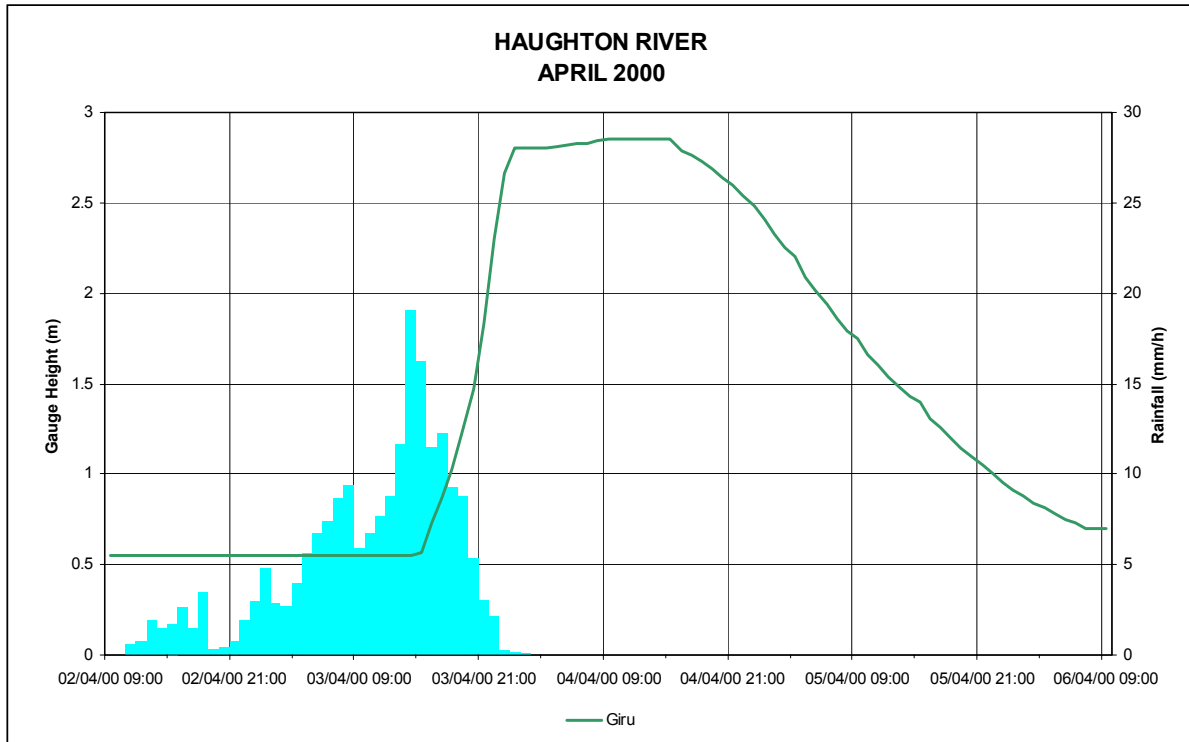
03/04/00 10:00	13	7	5	4	4	4	7	1	8	6
03/04/00 11:00	12	5	12	5	7	4	8	5	7	6
03/04/00 12:00	11	14	14	4	9	6	6	No record	7	7
03/04/00 13:00	8	10	17	7	15	6	6		4	4
03/04/00 14:00	13	18	11	7	20	11	8		5	9
03/04/00 15:00	12	21	18	18	35	15	11		9	3
03/04/00 16:00	19	14	34	10	36	11	5		5	3
03/04/00 17:00	13	9	13	7	25	4	8		8	No record
03/04/00 18:00	21	22	29	11	19	9	5		5	
03/04/00 19:00	15	22	10	6	14	8	7		4	
03/04/00 20:00	23	12	10	3	11	5	3		15	
03/04/00 21:00	9	5	5	2	3	5	7		10	
03/04/00 22:00	5	5	12	1	3	3	3		2	
03/04/00 23:00	5	7	5	1	1	2	2		1	
04/04/00 00:00	1	2	1	0	0	0	0		0	
Total	255	242	274	104	266	134	147		77	153

River Heights

- The initial loss (ie the amount of rainfall required to fully saturate the catchment) was about 60mm.
- River levels commenced to rise at Mt Piccaninny and Powerline from 6am Monday 3 April.
- The river at Mt Piccaninny peaked at a height of 7.83 metres at 9:30pm on Monday 3 April. This is below the record level of 9.09 metres reached during the January 1978 flood.



- Powerline peaked at 10.62 metres about 3am Tuesday 4 April. Again, this is about 1 metre below the level of 11.50 metres reached in January 1978.
- The river at Giru commenced to rise sharply from a gauge height of 0.55 metres about 3pm Monday and had reached 2.8 metres by midnight, about 3 hours prior to the peak at Powerline. It peaked at 2.85 metres at 9am Tuesday and maintained this level until 3pm when it commenced to fall.



- This level at Giru is 100mm higher than the flood which occurred in March this year and is the highest level ever reached at Giru in a record which commences in 1978.

Further Information

- Contact Peter Baddiley (07 3239 8768) or Terry Malone (07 3239 8765).