



## HAUGHTON RIVER FLOOD

March 2000

*This report includes some observations on the flood in the Haughton River which occurred on Friday 17 March and is subject to confirmation.*

### Rainfall

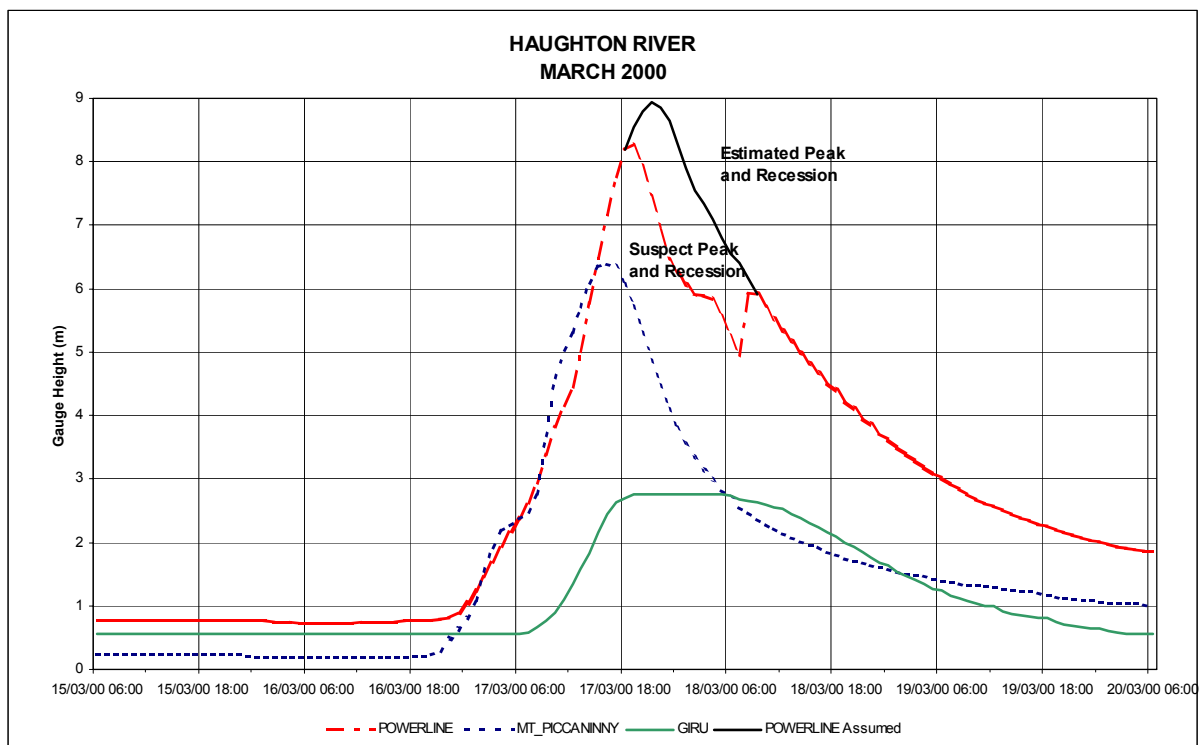
- The flood producing rainfall in the Haughton River catchment commenced on Thursday afternoon 16 March during the crossing of a tropical low and finished about 6pm Saturday evening 18 March.
- The period of heaviest rainfall occurred between 11pm Friday 17 March and 3am Saturday 18 March.
- Highest totals were recorded in the Majors Ck catchment where Woodstock recorded over 200 mm in the 48 hours to 9am Sunday.
- In the 48 hours to 9am Sunday 18 March, rainfalls ranged from less than 100 at Giru to over 200 at Woodstock.
- Most intense recorded one hourly rainfalls were:
  - 43mm at Woodstock ending 00:30am Friday 17 Mar
  - 20mm at Upper Reid ending 10:15am Friday 17 Mar
  - 23mm at Mt Picaninny ending 01:25am Friday 17 Mar
- Intensity- frequency- duration analysis of rainfall at these stations shows that it was less than 5 year Average Recurrence Interval for 12 to 24 hours durations.
- Rainfall during the most intense periods in the Haughton River from 3pm 17 March to 6pm 18 March is shown in the table below as millimetres per hour.

Date/Time	Brabons	Nettlefield	Mcdonalds	Mingela	Upper Reid	Cameron Hill	Mt Picaninny	Woodstock	Powerline	Giru
16/03/00 16:00	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	2
16/03/00 17:00	4	1	2	0	1	3	1	1	4	1
16/03/00 18:00	1	1	3	1	4	4	1	2	9	6
16/03/00 19:00	7	3	4	1	3	4	5	4	8	6
16/03/00 20:00	4	3	3	2	4	8	18	3	5	3
16/03/00 21:00	6	5	7	9	4	5	6	2	4	7
16/03/00 22:00	7	12	7	3	3	2	3	10	4	4
16/03/00 23:00	4	5	9	1	3	4	7	4	13	10
17/03/00 00:00	26	18	22	3	8	9	10	27	15	6
17/03/00 01:00	19	24	15	7	19	7	15	29	20	9
17/03/00 02:00	22	7	2	11	13	14	15	6	4	2
17/03/00 03:00	16	10	1	3	15	2	4	13	4	7
17/03/00 04:00	8	7	1	9	10	3	3	9	0	0
17/03/00 05:00	8	3	2	12	13	1	1	13	0	0
17/03/00 06:00	12	10	4	9	10	3	2	4	1	2

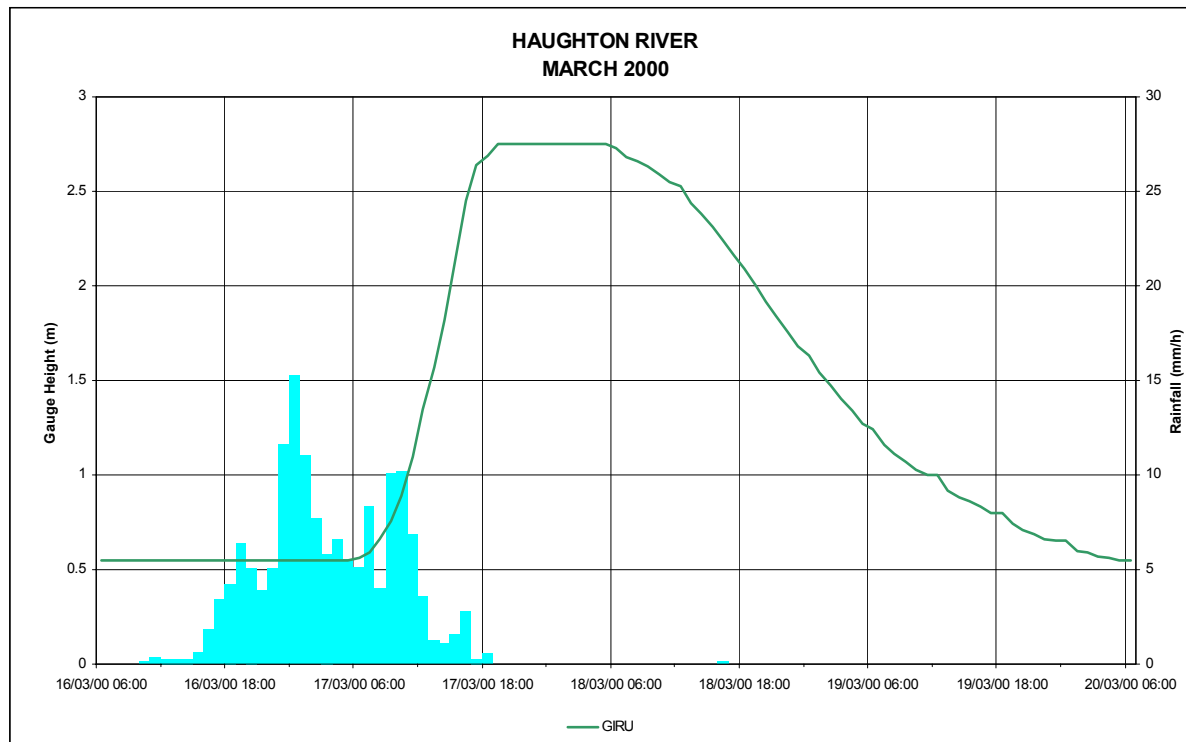
17/03/00 07:00	17	12	12	2	4	4	3	10	4	6
17/03/00 08:00	17	14	8	8	12	6	4	15	4	2
17/03/00 09:00	8	10	7	2	7	3	2	5	2	4
17/03/00 10:00	8	10	12	8	19	9	2	18	2	3
17/03/00 11:00	13	7	11	24	6	13	8	9	4	6
17/03/00 12:00	11	8	6	11	13	3	2	7	2	3
17/03/00 13:00	2	4	0	4	2	11	2	2	1	1
17/03/00 14:00	1	0	0	2	3	1	0	1	1	1
17/03/00 15:00	5	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0
17/03/00 16:00	7	1	0	1	2	2	0	2	1	0
17/03/00 17:00	3	2	0	6	3	4	2	1	1	0
17/03/00 18:00	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0

### River Heights

- By Thursday 16 March, the Haughton River catchment was considered to be saturated as a result of prolonged period of consistent rainfall and major flooding in February. Initial loss (ie the amount of rainfall required to fully saturate the catchment) was in the medium range about 45mm.
- River levels commenced to rise at Mt Piccaninny and Powerline during the evening of Thursday 16 March.
- The river at Mt Piccaninny peaked at a height of 6.43 metres at 3:30pm on Friday 17 March.
- Powerline peaked at 8.94 metres about 9pm on Friday 17 March. As indicated on the attached plot, the gauge failed just before the peak. The peak was surveyed from flood marks by DNR Ayr.



- The river at Giru commenced to rise sharply in the early hours of Friday morning, eventually peaking at 2.75 metres at about 6.30pm Friday night. It maintained this level for about 12 hours until 6am Saturday morning.
- This level is probably the highest level ever reached at Giru in the period of record which commences in 1978. The previous highest was 2.73 metres in August 1998.



#### Further Information

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