



## FLOOD IN THE TULLY RIVER

February 1999

*This preliminary report only includes some observations on the flood in the Tully River which commenced on Thursday 11 February and is subject to confirmation.*

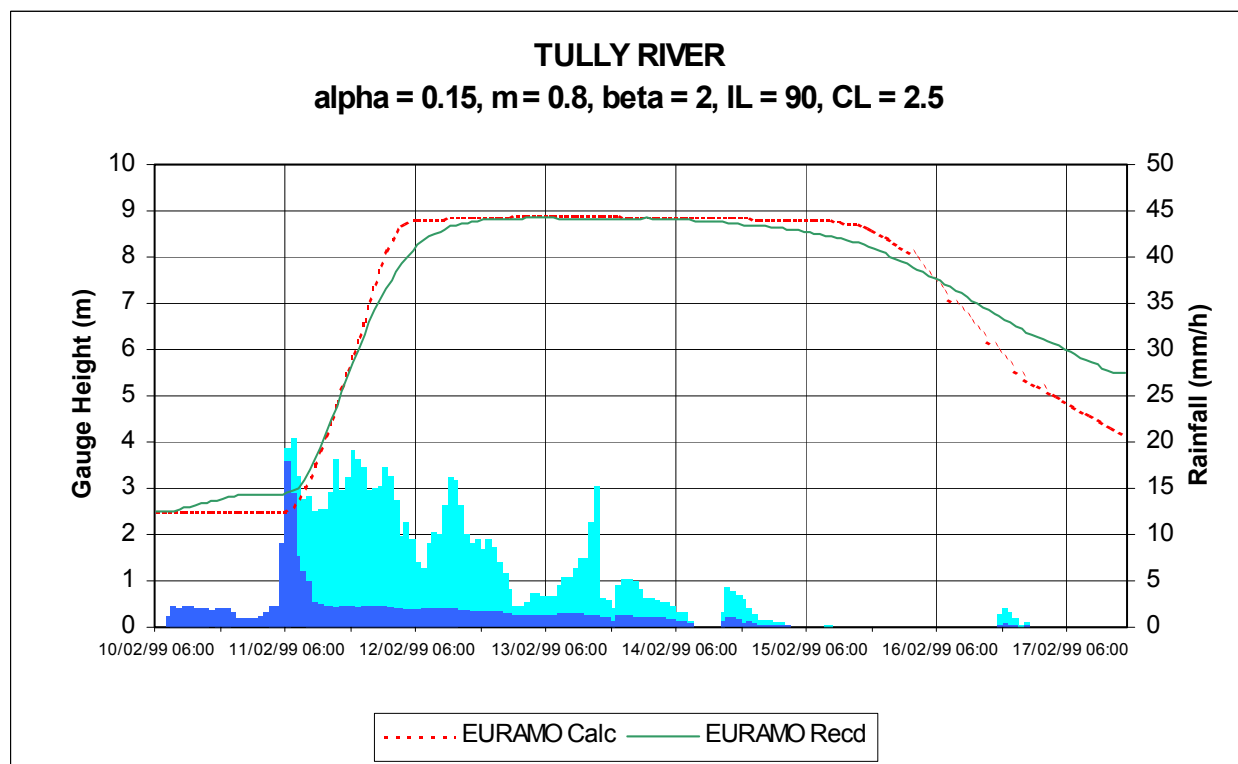
### Rainfall

- Heavy rain in the Tully River commenced in the early hours of Thursday 11 February and continued intermittently until Sunday morning 14 February.
- During this period, rainfall totals between 500 and 800 mm were recorded in the catchment.
- Highest rainfall totals up to 800mm were recorded in the middle part of the catchment around Bolinda Estate.
- Most intense 3 hourly rainfalls occurred at the beginning of the event:

76 mm at Greenhaven	ending 06:00pm Thursday 11 Feb
69mm at Bolinda Estate	ending 09:00am Thursday 11 Feb
66mm at Jarra Creek	ending 09:00am Thursday 11 Feb
62mm at Tully	ending 09:00am Thursday 11 Feb

### River Heights

- River levels in the catchment commenced to rise about 9:00am on Thursday 11 Feb.
- At Bolinda Estate, the river rose from 0.6 metres at 9:00am Thursday to an initial peak of 5.23 metres at 9:00pm Thursday. It then slowly fell overnight before recording several lower peaks over the next few days.



- The Tully River at Euramo reached 8.1 metres, the level of the highway approaches to the Euramo Bridge, at 3:00am Friday and remained above this level until 9:00pm Monday 15 February.
- It peaked at 9.10 metres midnight Saturday 13 February.

#### **Flood Forecasts and Warnings**

- Rainfall and river heights in the Tully River are primarily monitored by regular telephone polling of several rainfall and river height stations in the catchment.
- The primary forecast point for the Tully River is the gauge at Euramo which has some records dating back to 1967.
- The telephone telemeter readings at Euramo are supplemented by manual observations.
- A Preliminary Flood Warning for Coastal Rivers between Cairns and Townsville was issued at 10:31am on Thursday 11 February.
- A specific Flood Warning for the Tully River was issued at 01:00pm on Thursday 11 February and then subsequently updated regularly until the final warning was issued at 09:40am on Tuesday 16 February.
- Flood warnings were issued directly to Council, QES, Police and media via fax.
- River height bulletins, containing the latest river heights, were also issued directly to Council, QES, Police and media via fax.
- Flood Warnings and River Height Bulletins were also available via Weather by Fax and at the Bureau's Web site [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au).
- River Height Bulletins on the www and Weather by Fax were updated every hour.

#### **Further Information**

- Contact Peter Baddiley (07 3239 8768) or Terry Malone (07 3239 8765).
- A report on the floods in north Queensland will be prepared by the Bureau.