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.

![TULLY RIVER](chart.png)
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.
- 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.