



WINTON FLOOD February 2000

This report includes some observations on the flood in Winton which occurred in February 2000 and is subject to confirmation.

Rainfall

- Rainfall in the Winton area was practically continuous during the 10 day period from 14th to 24th February 2000 due to a monsoonal trough over Western Queensland. However a slight easing of rain from 9am 15th February to 9am 16th February resulted in two distinct events:
 - ▶ 9am Sunday, 13th February to 9am Tuesday, 15th February
 - ▶ 9am Wednesday, 16th February to 9am Thursday, 24th February

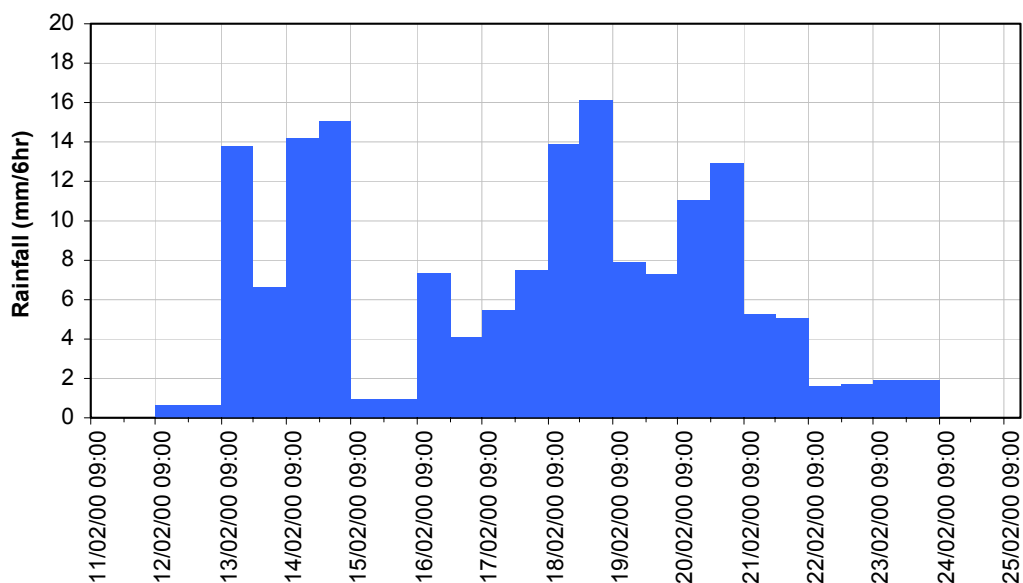
- Rainfall during the 10 day period from 14th to 24th February 2000 in the upper reaches of the Diamantina River basin is shown in the table below as millimetres in the 24 hours ending at 9am each day.

Daily Rainfall totals for the Winton Area (mm)

CBM	Station	February											Total
		Mon 14	Tue 15	Wed 16	Thu 17	Fri 18	Sat 19	Sun 20	Mon 21	Tue 22	Wed 23	Thu 24	
037006	Bladensburg	0	54	7	8	18	90	26	18	7	5	0	233
037009	Mackunda Downs	41	14	3	3	1	62	10	5	16	23	20	198
037030	Malboona	0	51	4	31	53	72	40	82	21	11	24	389
037051	Winton	101	114	0	60	29	92	31	27	4	2	0	460
037056	Mahrigong	0	23	0	0	29	78	56	133	1	33	0	353
037063	Glenlyon	7	67	4	11	108	15	45	19	22	5	0	303
037076	Mt Landsborough	0	66	0	0	10	68	14	38	22	4	5	227
037081	Corfield	86	0	0	36	0	32	0	64	6	6	0	230
037105	Belmont	2	73	2	55	22	71	52	151	56	16	2	502
037120	Wyora	0	161	19	15	25	58	61	26	30	5	10	410
037122	Tulmur	16	0	0	1	27	61	34	60	25	0	15	239

- The average 6 hourly rainfall pattern at Winton is shown in the graph below.

Average 6 hourly rainfalls at Winton

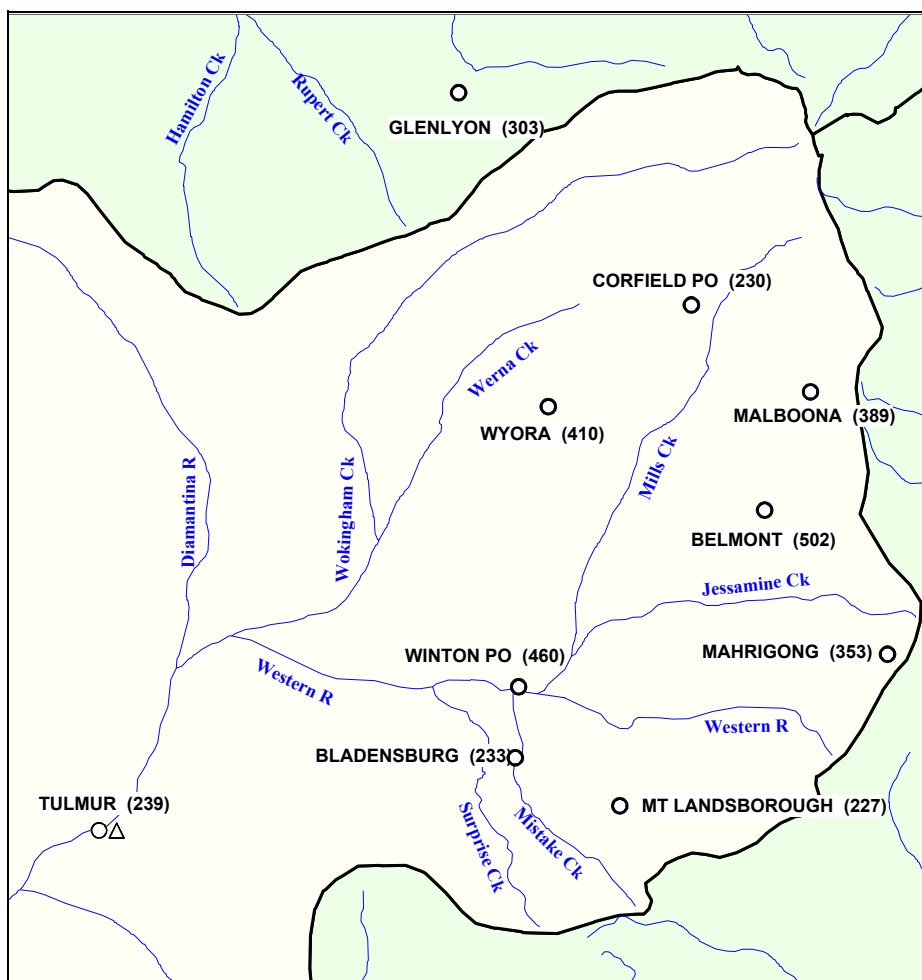


- In the 6 days to 19th February, Winton received 396 mm which is about the same as its mean annual rainfall of 408mm.
- In the month of February, Winton recorded 464mm, the second wettest month on a record stretching back to 1884. The wettest month on record was January 1974 when 563mm was recorded.
- Intensity- Frequency-Duration analysis of the rainfall at Winton shows that Average Recurrence Interval (ARI) varied from a 5-10 year event up to a 20-50 year event for the 6 and 48 hours rainfalls. However, it should be noted that the flood producing rainfalls were recorded in the period 19th to 21st February.

Station: Winton CBM No: 037051

Rainfall (mm)	Period Ending	ARI (yrs)
50	3 hours 6:00pm 13/02/00	5-10
101	6 hours 9:00pm 13/02/00	20-50
113	12 hours 3:00am 15/02/00	10-20
114	24 hours 6:00am 15/02/00	5-10
215	48 hours 12:00pm 15/02/00	20-50
225	72 hours 12:00pm 16/02/00	10-20

- The observer at Wyora recorded a total of 161mm in the 12 hours between 5pm 14 February and 5am 15 February. This is in the range of a 50 to 100 year ARI.

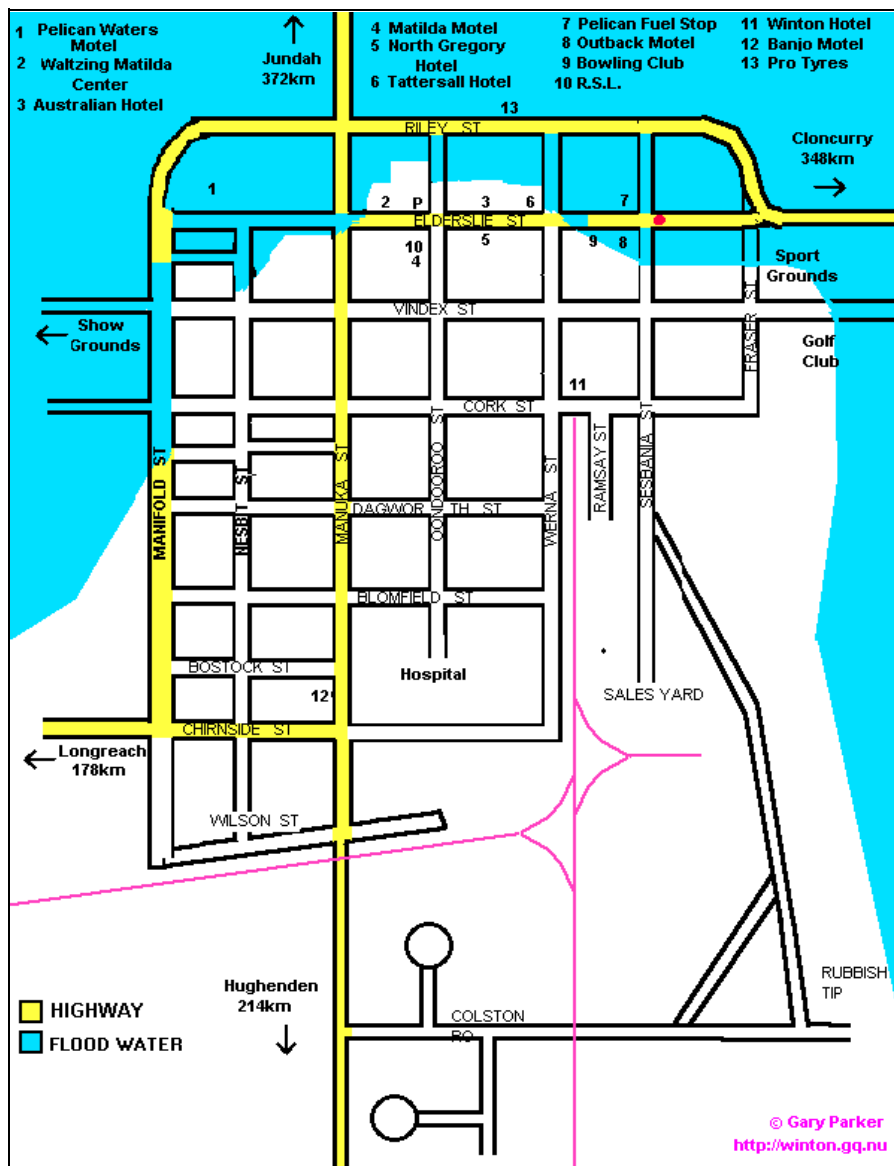


Rainfall (mm) 10 days to 9am 24 February 2000

River Heights

- Unfortunately, there are no official river height gauges at Winton. However, it is understood that a flood of similar magnitude occurred in January 1974. A slightly lower flood occurred in 1950 while the May 1955 flood remains the highest on record.
- The flood waters at Winton rose during Sunday 20 February, then dropped on Monday morning and rose again and peaked during the early hours of Tuesday morning 22 February.
- A preliminary proposal for a flood warning network above Winton has been discussed with Winton Shire Council at the end of 1999. This would consist of a river level station on each of the three main tributaries (Western River and Jessamine and Mills Creeks) and a station at Winton itself.

Flood Inundation Map - Source: Winton Homepage (<http://winton.gq.nu>)



Flood Impact

- Newspaper reports indicate that " the eastern and western sides of Elderslie Street, Riley Street and the bypass have borne the brunt of the flooding."
- The Pelican Waters Motel and the Pelican Fuel Stop and Caravan Park was completely inundated by flood water while water lapped the floor boards of the Outback Motel. Twelve residences, a caravan park and several business were also evacuated.

Further Information

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