

FLOOD CONCERNS

I am writing to you because I have a few concerns regarding the recent floods and the way they are now reported.

I lived on the Rous River, for 38 years and experienced quite a few floods during that time. The biggest, was the mothers day flood in 1987, which was approximately 1 metre under our house. I now live at Banora Point, but I have family in Murwillumbah and Eungella. Murwillumbah has always been a big part of my family's life.

My biggest concern is the fact that everything is reported through the ABC and instead of everything handled in our local shire area it goes through the far north coast area.

We have 3 branches, North Arm, Middle Arm & South Arm, which flow into the Tweed River. Originally, each branch of the river had a member of the public, reporting river level heights to the SES and these levels were then announced over the local radio station, 2MW later known as Radio 97, starting at regular intervals - every hour, half hour, quarter of an hour depending on the urgency of the situation. The river height would be announced and if it was rising, steady, or going down and if the south Murwillumbah levy wall was going to be topped etc.

Everyone new what was going on and what the situation was going to be for them. That was a brilliant system.

Not everyone has a mobile phone or computer to receive the internet. As we saw recently all services were down everywhere.

I also believe that the river should be dredged, as it was years ago.

I'm no expert, but, when there is a lot of silt being washed into the river – to me, the river bed would be rising, so therefore when it floods the water level would be higher.

There is also the problem of land being built up for housing estates and levy walls etc. They might be a good idea in some ways, but, that low lying land which is now built up, is pushing the water across into other areas, where they might not have had as much water, as they are getting now.

I don't know the solution, but it is a concern.

All the best to those families who are suffering.