

**From:**  
**To:** [Flood Inquiry](#)  
**Subject:** Submission - 2022 Lismore Flood Inquiry  
**Date:** Saturday, 23 April 2022 4:33:09 PM  
**Attachments:** [River Height Flood 28-2-2022.PNG](#)  
[River Height Flood 30-3-2017.PNG](#)

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Dear Professor O'Kane and Mr Fuller

As an owner of a beef cattle farm at Goolmangar in the Lismore catchment I wish to make the following submission to the flood inquiry:

1. **Local Knowledge**

Flood predictions for Lismore should be made by an experienced group of LOCAL personnel who have local knowledge and understanding of the flood patterns of the creeks and rivers in the Lismore catchment, rather than a centralised organisation that cannot possibly possess this understanding.

2. **Inaccurate Flood Predictions for Lismore**

Four days prior on 24-2-2022 the Goolmangar Creek in the Lismore Catchment experienced a 10 meter (moderate) flood. Please see the attached screen shot of the BOM River Height reading from Station #558075 for Goolmangar Creek at Goolmangar that evidences this.

It should therefore come as no surprise that the predicted deluge of rain on 27-2-2022 would result in Major Flooding, as by 9pm on Sunday 27-2-2022 this same Goolmangar Creek was approaching 12 Meters (Major Flooding) being a similar height to that which resulted in the catastrophic flooding in Lismore in April 2017 (see the attached 2017 River Reading). Then ultimately going to the unprecedented height of 14 meters.

With this knowledge together with the rain that was occurring across all catchments Lismore should have been on high alert and evacuating from midday Sunday 27-2-2022. Delayed predictions and calling for evacuations in the middle of the night puts lives at risk.

3. **River Height Plots**

All BOM River Height Plots should have the indicators for Minor, Moderate and Major flooding similar to that on station #058061 at Woodburn so when people new to an area or travelling in an area can easily reference the up-stream river height plots and make an informed decision. All rivers have different heights at which flooding occurs so it is imperative this is shown.

4. **Unreliable Modes of Communication**

Our reliance on technology has resulted in telecommunications becoming unreliable or non-existent, at least with the old phone system calls could still be made, as my father would get up in the peak of floods to phone through the river height data in order for Lismore to have reliable predictions. Now once power failure occurs

accessing the internet including BOM, telephones and social media become useless.

5. **Stop Reliance on Social Media**

Not all people use social media and it becomes difficult to access reliable sites. Traditional modes of warning residents of impending flood and communication such as alarms, dedicated LOCAL radio station or a community emergency radio channel could be used together with direct message warnings to all phones, televisions and internet services.

6. **Live Traffic App Updates**

Live Traffic App Updates of road flood conditions should be decentralised from Councils that are often only doing them in office hours once a day, making them an unreliable source of information.

7. **Centralised Flood Recovery Information**

Following the floods it highlighted how difficult it was to access information on flood recovery resources, many spread over different Government Agencies, together with delayed announcements increasing the trauma and uncertainty.

8. **Faster Consistent Response**

Even now it wasn't until 21-4-2022, some seven weeks after the flood on 1-3-2022 have the Back Home Grant Applications opened which is a very long time to wait and live with uncertainty. Where Natural Disasters occur, the response should be consistent across State Borders as Queenslanders are able to apply to have their homes lifted out of flood but this has not been offered to NSW.

9. **Lose the Ego**

Unfortunately, many decisions are made by heads of departments that are more interested in protecting their patch, securing funding for their departments, furthering their own career advancement, promotion and media recognition than they are with protecting the communities they are appointed to serve. This was clearly evident in the Bush Fires and history appears to be repeating itself with the floods. Come and do a real days work beside the flood victims who are doing it day in day out, week in week out, rather than media appearances, then you can truly show understanding and empathy.

I would be happy to provide further information if required.

Yours faithfully



AA

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IDN00231

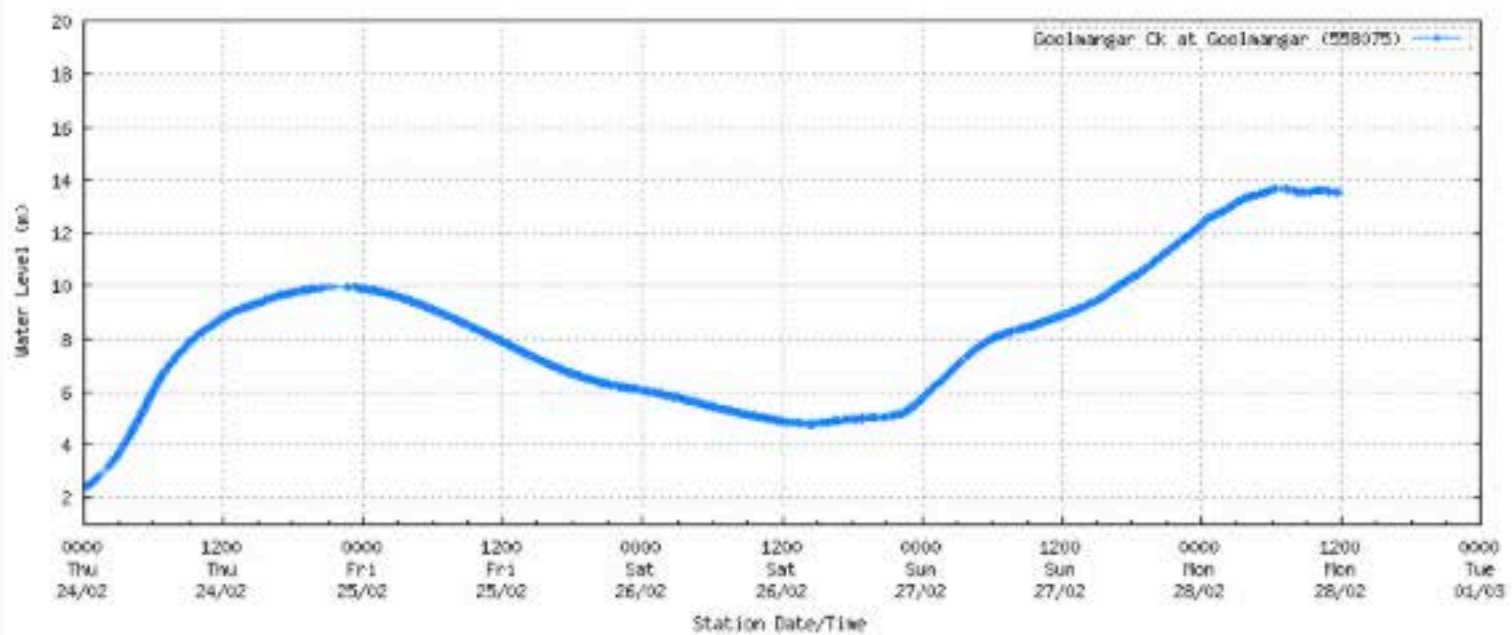
## Latest River Heights for Goolmangar Ck at Goolmangar

Issued at 11:46 am EDT Monday 28 February 2022

[About river height plots](#) | [About this Plot](#)

**Station details:** Station Number: 558075 Name: Goolmangar Ck at Goolmangar

Data from the previous 4 days.



Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology

(Generated: 28/02/2022 11:46:27)

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### About this plot

1. The river height data is real-time operational data from automated telemetry systems and has not been quality controlled.
2. The data is provided for flood warning purposes and most data will not be available during non flood periods.
3. Most river height data is provided to the Bureau of Meteorology by other agencies. Separate approval may be required to use the data for other purposes.
4. Heights are given in metres.
5. Sites marked with \*\* indicate that the automatic telemeter gauge is at a different location to the historical flood gauge. Therefore, the height shown in the table is not the water level at the historical flood gauge.

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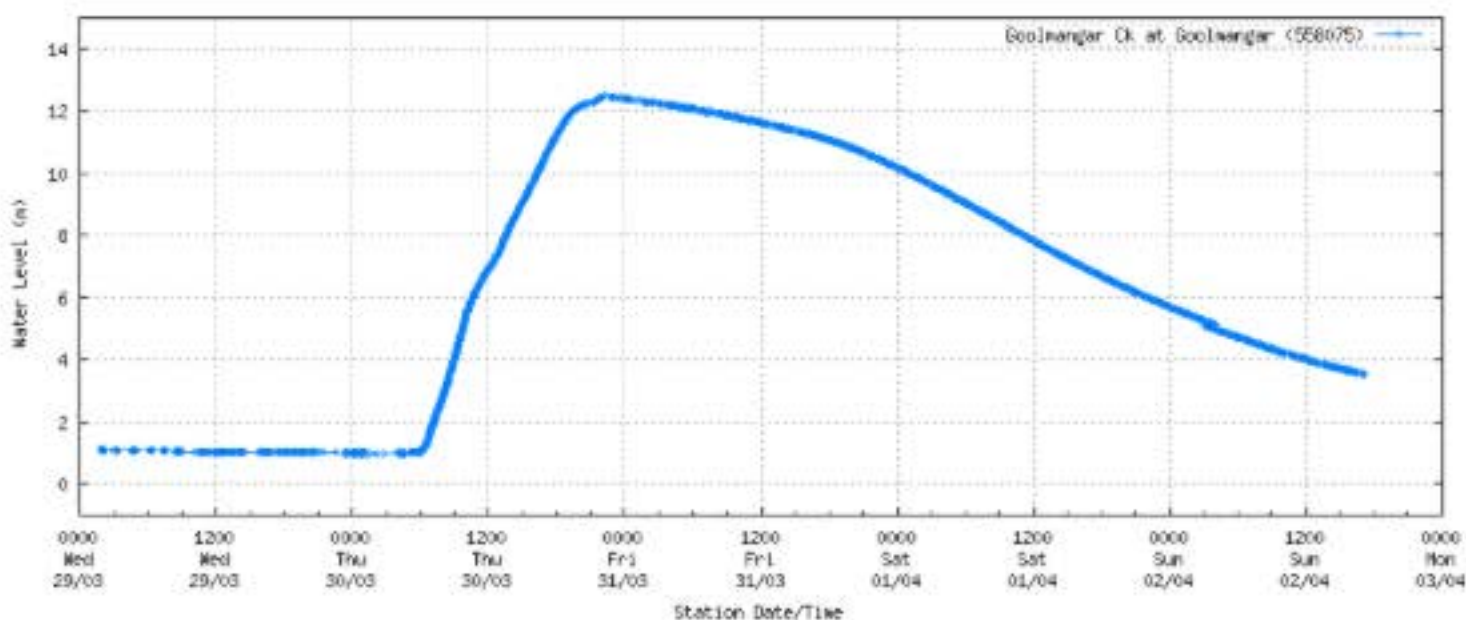
Latest River Heights for Goolmangar Ck at Goolmangar

Issued at 5:15 pm EST Sunday 2 April 2017

[About river height plots](#) | [About this Plot](#)

Station details: Station Number: 558075 Name: Goolmangar Ck at Goolmangar

Data from the previous 4 days.



Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology

(Generated: 02/04/2017 17:15:52)

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