Barcaldine Regional Council Local Knowledge Map

Resilient Queensland Queensland Reconstruction Authority



Catchment Overview



The Barcaldine Local Government area comprises the Cooper Creek and Belyando River sub-catchments The headwaters of both the Cooper Creek and Belvando River are located in Barcaldine and these two systems have similar flow behaviours with the exception of flow direction. The Cooper Creek flows in a south-westerly direction and drains in the Lake Eyre basin. The Belyando River, including the Alpha Creek and Native Companion Creek tributaries flows in a north-easterly direction to connect to other tributaries in the Burdekin Catchment before draining into the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. Each of these systems are remarkably responsive to rainfall and flood events due to the channelised topography of the landscape.

Major towns situated in the Cooper Creek catchment include Aramac, Barcaldine, Jericho and Muttaburra which is situated near to the Thomson River being a major tributary to Cooper Creek. The Belyando River catchment has less major towns than the Cooper with Alpha being the major town in the catchment.

Climate & Rainfall

Weather and climate characteristics in the Barcaldine Local Government

Area in the last 30 years (1989 - 2018):

The Belyando River catchment will often receive below 500m of rainfall per year. This catchment has the lowest rainfall of all the basin with the exception of a higher rainfall zone on the eastern boundary with the Drummond and Zamia rang

Alpha has recorded a 26mm decrease in the December-January rainfall average in the past 30 years (1989-2018) compared to the previous 30 years (1959-1988), however the February rainfall average has increased 12mm across the same time period

Try years have occurred six times and wet years 11 times with the remainder remaining in the average range.

Useful rain events have occurred an average of twice a year. As of 2019, there have only been 13 summer seasons since 1900 that have not had 50mm rain event representing a 5% risk of occurring any year.









How to use this guide:

The information below provides local knowledge on landscape characteristics and flood behaviour. This is provided for local land managers, Council staff, and State Government officers to better understand the Barcaldine Regional Catchments and their unique characteristics. This guide has used the best available information at present. It is intended to help you assess what type of flood is likely to occur in your area and indicate what amount of feed you might expect. You may wish to record your own flooding and landscape characteristics on the map.



the states

Barcaldine Regional Council							
	Formal BoM Flood Hazard Classifications				Channel Country Grazier's Definition		
	Including attributes below. Causes inundation of large areas, isolating towns and cities. Major disruptions occur to road and rail links. Evacuation of many houses and business premises may be required. In rural areas widespread flooding of farmland is likely.	Májor 5m<	 100mm+ in 24hrs across a wide area 50mm lesser rains in 24hrs over more extensive areas 50mm of lesser rainfall in previous 24-72hrs 	Ē	Similar to a handy flood, but cover 75% or more of the floodplain. Grow more feed per area than a handy flood.	Good 5m<	 80-100% inundation of floodplains flooded 85-100% cattle numbers supported by pasture growth
	Including attributes below. Causes the inundation of low- lying areas requiring the removal of stock and/or the evacuation of some houses. Main traffic bridges may be closed by floodwaters.	Moderate 4-5m	 75mm in 24hrs over isolated areas 50mm of lesser rains in 24hrs over more extensive areas 50mm of lesser rainfall in previous 24-72hrs 	Ē	Water escapes from gutters forming larger sheets of water cover up to 50% of the floodplain. Floods produce large pasture, but yield & area is less than a good flood.	Handy 4-5m	 Pushing out of gutter with 50-60% inundation of floodplain, swamps and depressions Pasture growth supports 45-85% of cattle





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