Cooper Creek Catchment Flood Rules of Thumb

This guide has used the best information available 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 guides on the map. You can add more value to this guide by participating in an MLA EDGEnetwork Grazing Land Management (GLM) training package. GLM training helps you identify land types and flood zones and to develop a grazing management plan for your property



The Cooper needs to be 21 feet (6.4 m) over the causeway at Innamincka for 6 weeks to flows into Lake Eyre. If it is 19 feet (5.8 m) there will be a flow as far as the Birdsville Track

The Cooper flood waters do not reach Lake Eyre very often they only contribute about 15% of water into the Lake

How to use this guide:

Some major floods of the past

Ù Floods usually take 3 months to flo Innamincka to Lake Eyre

BoM peak flood heights at gauging stations in the Cooper Creek system

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	Mar	Jan	Apr	Feb	Feb	Feb/Mar	
	1971	1974	1990	1991	1997	2000	
Muttaburra	4.19	7.80	7.15	6.65	4.50	8.10	
Camoola Park	2.84	7.16	6.80	5.52		7.42	
Longreach	1.97	5.47	5.04	4.38	3.60	5.62	
Bogewong		8.64	7.90	6.60	5.65	8.40	
Stonehenge	5.94	6.88	5.86	4.70	3.50	6.42	
Jundah	7.54	8.38	7.55	6.48	4.95	7.85	
Blackall			7.30		6.15		
Isisford		6.83	9.20	4.25	8.05		
Retreat			12.05	6.55	9.45		
Windorah	7.65	8.48	7.95	6.70	5.87	7.45	
Durham Downs		4.40	4.16	2.15	2.80	3.65	
Karmona			5.38	4.29	4.05		
Nappa Merrie	5.91	10.13	9.38	3.20	2.51	5.10	

All heights are in metres on flood gauges

1 1:1,500,000 at AO size Digital Terrain Model s Desert Channels Que desert



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"How Otten" - APSRU (DPI&F, NR&W, CSIRO, UQ) - data SILO (BoM, NR&W)

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lureau of Meteorology (Qld)

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Osman Swamp	
West Bdro Lake Little Hauphton Swamp	1 4
Big Haughten Swamp	1

U 'Dry Floods' are when the river floods from rain that falls upstream only and there is no local rain. It usually takes about 5 to 7 days for a 'dry flood' tarvel from Jundah to Windorah. A 'dry flood' takes about six weeks to go from Windorah to Innamincka



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Gutters (or reticulate channels) help distribute Large and moderate sized channels distril

"How Often" are USEFUL rains received?

25 mm

ars that rainfall in 24 hrs is at least

Vappa Merri

Noccundra

4310





The 1974 flood was the biggest on record for most of eastern Australia. In the Cooper Creek, 1990 and 2000 were other major, or good, floods. These graphs provide a useful comparison of the flood height and duration of these important floods at Winfordma. Most of the major floods have resulted from monscoral rain activity moving further south than usual and generally coincide with positive SOI years

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Native sorghum pasture, Windorah May 2006



Native sorghum, pepper grass and ble pasture, Windorah circa 1947



Cow vine and other herbages occasionally flooded plains foll floods in the Channel Country

Good feed, such as that pictured above, is made even better when local rains follow made even better when local rains follow flooding. Rains alone grow little, if any, feed because the heavy clay soils of the Channe Country are so thirsty

For more information, queries or corrections, please contact Longreach DPI&F (07) 4658 4400 Landsborough Highway, Longreach

PO Box 519, Longreach, Qld 4730

Isisford	3.1	Minor	16 February – 14 May 2000
Retreat	5.2	Major	21 February – 3 March 2000
Windorah	7.4	Major	23 February - 26 March 2000
Nappa Merrie	4.9	Major	30 March - 24 May 2000

When do flood heights get reported? BoM flood height levels for gauging stations in Cooper Creek

Station	First Report Height	Crossing Height	Minor Flood Level	Moderat Flood Level	e Major Flood Level
Muttaburra	3.0	4.0 (B)	3.0	5.0	7.0
Aramac	1.3	1.8 (B)	1.5	2.0	5.0
Camoola Park	1.0	0.4 (X)	2.0	4.0	6.7
Longreach	1.0	2.2 (OB)	2.0	3.0	4.0
Bogewong	0.3	3.1 (B)	2.0	4.0	6.0
Stonehenge	0.5	1.6 (A)	2.0	3.0	5.0
Jundah	1.0	3.7 (A)	2.5	4.0	5.0
Tambo	2.5	2.9 (B)	3.0	5.1	5.9
Gillespie	3.5	6.4 (B)	4.0	7.0	7.5
Duneira	1.0	1.4 (B)	2.0	3.0	3.5
Blackall	1.0	2.8 (B)	2.0	4.0	5.0
Glencoe	1.0	1.0 (X)	2.0	2.5	3.0
Jericho	1.8	2.3 (B)	2.0	2.3	3.0
Barcaldine	2.0	5.6 (B)	3.0	5.0	6.0
Isisford	2.0	4.0 (B)	4.0	5.0(d/s)	6.0(d/s)
Retreat	2.0	1.7 (C)	3.0	4.0	5.0
Windorah	3.0	4.3 (A)	3.0	4.0	5.0
Nappa Merrie	1.5	8.0 (B)	3.0	6.0	9.0

All heights are in metres on flood gauges. (B) = Bridge (OB) = Old bridge (A) = Approaches (C) = Causeway (X) = Crossing (d/s) = Downstream



