Appendix F

DAWSON RIVER FLOOD EVENTS

APPENDIX F

Date	Description
21 April 1862	Near Knebsworth, the Dawson rose 30 feet above its usual height. The Upper Dawson was not flooded, though heavy rains fell in the locality.
17 February 1863	Plenty of rain in the district; Dawson River flooded, and for some days impassable at the township; bridge under water. A few hundred sheep lost through flood.
16 March 1864	Higher floods in the Dawson River than ever known before; 11 feet higher than previous flood.
17 June 1865	Gayndah-Mails to Dalby, Taroom, Nanango, and Walla were brought back by mailman; creeks in each direction in high flood after recent rains.
10 April 1867	Dawson River flooded at Taroom.
19 February 1868	River in flood at Taroom; greatest height reached since the great flood of 1864.
29 June 1868	The recent rains flooded the Dawson at Taroom.
5 February 1870	The Dawson commenced to fall at Gainsford, and in spite of the great height the water attained no damage was done.
14–18 July 1870	On the 16th, heavy rains occurred on the Upper Dawson. At Taroom, it was over 1 inch.
8 March 1875	Fever prevalent on the Dawson River, very great number of dead cattle about.
10 March 1875	A telegram stated 45 persons yet living on a punt at Laurel Bank, Dawson River, current too strong to attempt to release them.
16–21 March 1875	Dawson River in flood at Taroom from 16th to 21st; rose 25 feet above summer level.
February 1912	River in flood for two days at Taroom.
19–22 January 1918	High floods experienced in all tributaries of Fitzroy and Burdekin Rivers, especially the Dawson, Mackenzie, Comet and Nogoa Rivers.
3–4 January 1923	Local floods in the Taroom district.
4 February 1924	Flooding in the Juandah-Taroom area with serious damage to the railway near Juandah.
March 1927	The Dawson River overflowed the bridge at Taroom, and the line between Emerald and Clermont was submerged.
20–24 April 1928	Serious inundations in the Dawson River and streams in the Dawson Valley. Floods in were of a disastrous and probably unprecedented nature.
May 1928	Flooding from April continued in the Dawson River during the first few days.
11 July 1933	Rail traffic between Rockhampton and Gladstone and from the former to Longreach, Clermont, Blackall and the Dawson Valley was interrupted.
January 1935	Bridges were washed away in the Dawson Valley.
February 1937	On 15th flooding was mainly in the Warrego River district, with local flooding between Emerald and Clermont, as well as near Cracow.
November 1937	Rail line washaway occurred between Mt. Morgan and Theodore.
January 1939	Some local flooding over the sub-tropical zone, chiefly the eastern parts from 26th to 29th. There were stock losses and some townships were isolated in the Dawson Valley district.

Date	Description
February 1939	Isolated local flooding at the start of the month in the south-eastern quarter. Railway lines were submerged in the Theodore district.
March 1940	Burdekin, Fitzroy, Mackenzie, Dawson, Burnett, Mary, Brisbane, Condamine and Warrego rivers reported flooding.
February 1942	Pacific slope coastal divisions experienced almost daily rains, especially in the tropical sections with heavy falls between 4th and 6th. Heavy flooding was experienced in streams south from Proserpine. Extensive damage and loss of life accompanied the flood rains in the Dawson and Callide rivers. In the Dawson Valley and Callide headwaters, the towns of Rannes and Wowan were evacuated with much loss.
January 1946	Downs and Maranoa catchments received heavy local flood rains. One of the highest river heights recorded was the Dawson River at Taroom on 25th.
February 1947	With the commencement of unsettled weather at the beginning of the month, good rains were distributed over most of Queensland, and conditions finally reached heavy flood totals in all coastal districts from the north coast Herbert district down to southern the border by the middle of the month. The Fitzroy River system showed rises on the northern headwaters on 5th and extending generally over the basin. Peak heights on the Dawson River were reported at Baralaba and Boolburra on 16th. Run-off was still maintained in the last week of the month.
December 1947	With persistent rains in the south-eastern quarter during the first half of the month, all streams commenced to carry a considerable run-off and flooding of low-lying areas was fairly extensive. The Dawson River reached flood height.
March 1949	Early in the month, the Dawson and Fitzroy basins experienced severe flooding with peaks at Boolburra (Dawson) on 5th and Riverslea (Fitzroy) on 6th. These streams were fairly high again on the 28th and 29th.
October 1949	There were floods by the end of the month because of the heavy rains of the 2nd week. By 24th and 25th floods had been reported in the Dawson river system. Traffic dislocation was reported. By 31st, the slower moving southern inland streams were carrying floodwaters to downstream stations. The bridge on the Dawson River was submerged at Taroom on 17th.
November 1949	Run-off from the local heavy rains for the period 21st to 23rd resulted in small rises in the southern and south-western tributaries of the Fitzroy River system. On 24th, the Dawson River peaked at Taroom.
April 1950	Heavy rains from 1st to 8th over the central interior resulted in much low level flooding and traffic disabilities. Strong stream rises occurred in the Dawson River. The Dawson River peaked at Taroom on 14th (over bridge from 8th to 17th).
July 1950	Following the heavy rains of the previous 5 to 6 months, the persistent wet weather and record rainfalls during the month caused State wide flooding reports. Traffic disabilities and low level flooding was extensive and considerable floodwater damage and stock and crop losses were reported, particularly in the southern interior. The Dawson River reached high flood levels.

Date	Description
October 1950	Resulting from the heavy rain period of 8th to 11th, strong stream rises were reported in the Dawson river system. Low-level flooding and traffic dislocation was considerable. The Dawson River peaked at Taroom on 12th, well over the bridge.
November 1950	State wide stream rises were reported in the third week of the month resulting from the heavy widespread rains during this period. Near record flood levels were reported in the Dawson River. By the close of the month, the entire river was still carrying heavy flood run-off. Low level flooding dislocation and property damage was extensive and some stock losses were reported. The Dawson river peaked at Theodore on the 29th.
December 1950	Due to heavy flood rains of November, all streams in the central, southern and south-west interior were carrying heavy flood run-off early in December. By the end of the first week, all these streams had reached their peak heights and were falling. Peak records include Boolburra on the Dawson River on the 6th.
January 1952	The 125 to 300 mm rains over the eastern central highlands and adjacent parts of the South Coast Curtis district caused sharp stream rises and local flooding in the Dawson, Don and Callide rivers.
March 1952	Falls of 25 to 75 mm were experienced in the Maranoa and central highlands. This caused moderate rises in the Dawson River, which peaked at Taroom on 22nd.
October 1952	The three day rainfall totals from 4th to 6th of 50 to 75 mm over the inland parts of South Coast Curtis district and adjacent parts of the central highlands caused moderate rises in the Dawson River.
January 1954	Major flooding occurred during the rain period, which commenced with 125 to 250 mm rains on 22nd. Moderate flooding occurred in the Dawson River, which was well over the bridge at Taroom.
February 1954	Following the heavy cyclonic rains, the Dawson River at Theodore rose to a record height on 19th.
July 1954	Sharp stream rises, traffic disabilities and flooding occurred along the Dawson River.
August 1954	The heavy rains of 12th and 13th on the headwaters of the Dawson River caused some flooding and traffic disability in the upper reaches. The Dawson River peaked at Taroom on 14th and Baralaba on 20th.
May 1955	Near record floods occurred in the Dawson River where Theodore reported the second highest flood on record.
July 1955	A fresh in the Dawson River persisted from 16th to 25th.
February 1956	Floods were practically state-wide during the month. High flood levels were reached in the lower Fitzroy River, following serious floods in the Dawson and Nogoa catchments. On the Dawson River, Theodore reached a record height on 14th and Taroom recorded the highest level since 1890 on 11th.
December 1956	Heavy rains of the 21st and 22nd caused rapid flooding in the Dawson River, which peaked on the 22nd.
June 1958	A fresh in the Dawson River affected river levels from 10th to 13th.

Date	Description
January 1959	Slight flooding in the Dawson River from 1st to 8th was followed by sharp flooding in north-eastern parts of the Fitzroy catchment from 11th to 13th and 26th to 28th.
February 1959	The whole of the Fitzroy catchment experienced moderate flooding, which commenced on 17th and moved to the lower reaches by the end of the month. Peaks on the Dawson River were at Taroom on 19th and Theodore on 24th.
March 1959	A fresh affected the middle reaches of the Dawson River from 19th to 21st, mainly because of flash flooding in Castle Creek.
February 1961	The 75 to 225 mm rainfalls over central areas and parts of the South-east on 17th and 18th, followed by further 10 to 50 mm falls on 24th and 25th, lead to freshes and some flooding in southern streams. Freshes were reported in the Dawson River. At Taroom a peak occurred on 20th, some 3 metres above the bridge, and Baralaba peaked on 27th with some flooding.
March 1961	Rain of the order of 25 to 75 mm on the Central Highlands, South Coast and Eastern Darling Downs, and of up to 50 mm on the Central Coast, Maranoa, Warrego, and Central Lowlands districts fell in the first few days of the month. This caused rivers swollen at the end of February to remain in that state for some days. The Dawson River peaked at Taroom and Baralaba on the 2nd and at Theodore on the 6th.
December 1961	Heavy rain in the second and third weeks of the month with local high intensity falls caused rises in most streams in the southern half of the State. Falls of up to 175 mm on 14th to 16th in the Wandoan-Condamine-Dulacca district affected both the Fitzroy and Balonne catchments. In the Dawson River flood water reached a peak at Taroom on 16th, and at Theodore on 21st. Flood levels were exceeded at Baralaba and minor flooding occurred further downstream.
January 1962	Slight flooding occurred in the Dawson system.
March 1962	With continuing widespread rains in the south-east in the first ten days of the month, reports were received of flooding in the Dawson River.
April 1962	Stream levels in the Dawson River remained above bridge height at Taroom from 7th to 17th. This run-off was noticed downstream where at Baralaba the bridge was submerged from 19th to 21st.
January 1967	From 17th to 19th, thunderstorm falls of 100 to 150 mm over parts of the central Highlands and northern Maranoa produced rises in the upper Dawson River with subsequent traffic disabilities in Taroom.
November 1970	Minor flooding was reported in the Dawson River at Taroom on 18th. The extent of flooding was localised, and no significant effects were recorded downstream.
December 1970	Flooding occurred in most rivers in south-east Queensland. The Dawson River experienced major flooding.
January 1971	During the first week of the month, flooding continued from December in the Dawson River. By 15th, flooding had ceased. Stream rises commenced again on 20th, following heavy rains over the upper and middle reaches, causing moderate flooding.

Date	Description
February 1971	During the month, moderate to major flooding occurred in most rivers in the south-east quarter of Queensland. Theodore suffered inundations.
January 1972	Moderate flooding occurred in the upper reaches of the Dawson River.
January 1975	Scattered thunderstorm activity during the middle of the month caused minor to moderate flooding over the Dawson River.
February 1975	Minor flooding occurred in the upper Dawson River system.
November 1976	Minor local flooding was recorded in the Dawson River near Taroom.
May 1977	Flooding occurred in the south-east of the State from about the middle of the month and continued into the last week. The Dawson River reached major flood levels at Taroom.
September 1978	Following the substantial rainfall over the Southern Border districts and Central Highlands during the first week of the month, minor to moderate flooding developed in the Dawson River by the 10th. Levels subsided to below minor flooding by 20th.
April 1981	Major flooding occurred on the Dawson River from 1st, gradually shifting downstream of Taroom by 8th.
April 1983	Moderate flooding of the Dawson River was experienced at Taroom on the 28th.
May 1983	Major flooding expected at Taroom on 23rd.
June 1983	Widespread rain in the southeast quarter on 21st resulted in flood warnings for rivers and streams in this area, with minor flooding to ease in the Dawson River.
December 1983	Moderate flooding in the upper Dawson River from the 5th until the 7th.
January 1984	On the last day of the month, minor to moderate flooding commenced in the Dawson, River.
July 1984	Stream rises in the upper Dawson River closed the bridge at Taroom, the night of 26th. On 27th, flooding became more widespread. Moderate to major flooding in the Dawson River became major flooding on 28th and eased on the 30th, with minor flooding till the 31st.
August 1984	Minor flooding continued from July in the Dawson River till the 3rd.
December 1984	Taroom experienced moderate flooding in the upper Dawson River from the 19th to the 20th. Moderate flooding also occurred in the Theodore area on the 19th and 20th and minor flooding continued until the 24th.
October 1986	Widespread rain with local falls exceeding 100 mm in parts of the Carpentaria and Central Highlands to 0900 on 23rd caused minor flooding in the Dawson River and tributaries below the Theodore area. The Leichhardt Highway was closed for some hours between Taroom and Theodore.
August 1988	Heavy rain on 22nd caused minor flooding in the Dawson River for 2 days from 23rd.
April 1989	Major flooding developed in the Dawson River. A Taroom peak of 6.6 m was observed on the 29th.

Date	Description
May 1989	During the first week, flooding continued in many southern Queensland river basins because of rainfalls during April. The Dawson River at Theodore peaked at 11.58 m with moderate flooding Tuesday 2nd, followed by a peak of 11.02 m downstream at Moura on Thursday 4th.
June 1989	Widespread light to moderate rainfall in the southeast inland on the 5th and 6th caused minor to moderate flooding in the Upper Dawson River from 7th till 11th.
October 1989	Moderate flooding in the Dawson River from the 25th until 30th.
November 1989	Minor flooding in the Dawson River on the 6th. This became major flooding the next day, and then eased to moderate flooding on the 9th and minor flooding from the 13th to the 16th.
April 1990	Major flooding occurred in the Dawson River, with heights approaching record levels.
March 1994	Major flooding in the Dawson River due to heavy rainfalls in the first week of March.
February 1995	Isolated heavy rainfall caused significant flooding along the Dawson River with major flooding at Taroom and minor flooding in the lower reaches.
November 1995	Moderate flooding occurred in the upper reaches of the Dawson River around Taroom about 21st and minor flooding extended downstream until the 24th.
January 1996	The influence of tropical Cyclone Barry in early January produced widespread rainfall and flooding. The Dawson River experienced major flooding during the middle of the month.
February 1997	Very heavy localised rainfall up to 300 mm in 24 hours to 0900 27th caused rapid rises and major flooding in the lower Dawson River around Baralaba. The floods that had commenced in the lower Dawson in February continued into March and were aggravated by several periods of heavy rainfall. This resulted in moderate flooding in the Dawson River.
February 1998	Moderate to heavy rainfalls in Juandah Creek in the upper Dawson River catchment at the beginning of the month caused river rises in that area and minor to moderate flooding from Taroom to Beckers over the following week.
April 1998	Moderate to heavy rainfalls in Juandah Creek and in the upper Dawson River catchment resulted in rapid rises in river levels in the upper Dawson River and moderate flooding at Taroom. Major flooding also occurred in Mimosa Creek and resulted in moderate to major flooding in the Dawson River downstream to Beckers. An initial flood warning for the Dawson River was issued on 23rd April and finalised on 1st May as minor flooding eased.
May 1998	Widespread rainfall in early May around the Central Highlands resulted in moderate to major flooding in the Dawson River catchment. An initial flood warning was issued on 5th following widespread rainfall above Taroom. Minor to moderate flooding was experienced in the Dawson River between Taroom and Moura. Local runoff and floodwaters from Mimosa Creek combined to produce major flooding in the Dawson River between Baralaba and Beckers and minor flooding at Newlands. A final flood warning for the Dawson River was issued on 10th as minor flooding eased.

Date	Description
August 1998	Heavy rainfall in the Juandah Creek and Upper Dawson River catchments on the 27th to 28th resulted in river rises along both streams and major flooding at Taroom. River levels peaked at Taroom at 7.40 metres on the 29th, 1.40 metres above the major flood level. The floodwaters continued downstream causing major flooding to develop all along the Dawson River. By the end of the month, the floodwaters were approaching The Glebe. An initial flood warning was issued for the Dawson River on the 27th.
September 1998	Moderate flood levels peaked in the Dawson River at Newlands on the 6th.
January 1999	Scattered heavy rainfall at the beginning of the month in the Dawson River catchment resulted in river level rises in the upper reaches around Taroom as well as further downstream from Moura to Newlands. Moderate flood levels peaked at Taroom on 6th and minor to moderate flooding peaked in the Baralaba to Newlands area on the 6th to 7th. These high river levels in the lower Dawson River were maintained as the floodwaters from Taroom travelled downstream. An initial flood warning was issued on the 4th and was finalised on 11th.
February 1999	On 2nd, widespread rainfall resulted in significant rises in the Dawson River and tributaries above Taroom. Minor flooding developed downstream of Taroom to Newlands over the next week.
November 2001	The first significant river rises commenced in the latter half of November. Localised rises were reported in the lower Dawson River.
January 2004	Over the 9th and 10th January 2005 a weak monsoon low resulted in widespread heavy rainfall throughout the state. The Dawson River at Taroom started rising on Saturday 17th January and peaked on Tuesday 20th resulting in moderate flooding in the area. Rises up to minor flood level occurred along the Dawson River to Newlands during the following week.
December 2004	Minor to moderate flooding occurred in the upper Dawson River around Taroom from 8th to 13th December with some rises resulting along the lower Dawson.
December 2005	Heavy rainfall in the Juandah Creek catchment during the 2nd December led to major flooding in the Dawson River at Taroom on 4th December.
January 2006	River rises were recorded in the Dawson River at Taroom during the middle of January with moderate flooding.
March 2007	Local to minor flooding occurred in the upper Dawson River at Tarana Crossing on the 15th and at Taroom on the 16th and 17th.