Flood Levee Saves Lismore CBD Again

6 June 2016

Lismore CBD has again escaped flooding because of the $20 million flood levee built in 2005. Since then it has kept the city safe from floods in 2005, 2008, 2009 and now in June 2016.

Ian Dinham, President of the national network of flood professionals Floodplain Management Australia, said the Lismore experience again demonstrates the value of investing in flood protection.

“Deloitte Access Economics estimates that floods are costing Australia over $560 million every year on average, yet the annual investment in pre-disaster preparation is just $50 million” Mr Dinham said.

“More investment in flood levees like Lismore’s, and more funding for flood studies and planning, will save lives, reduce community hardship and misery, and lower property damage.”

“Data from towns like St George in Queensland, which has recently constructed a flood levee, shows that when the flood risk is reduced, the community also benefits from reduced insurance premiums.”

Mr Dinham said that flooding is the most costly and yet manageable of natural disasters in this country, but so much of Australia is still not prepared.

“A greater focus on prevention and mitigation of future flood events by Commonwealth and State governments is essential to ensuring Australia’s high risk communities are adequately protected.

“The extreme weather conditions powered by the recent East Coast Low, has reminded communities of the need to be prepared for flooding in their local areas. We must acknowledge the Bureau of Meteorology for their timely weather and flood predictions, which gave these communities the opportunity to ready themselves for the weather to come.

“Also, the brave work of the emergency services along the east coast over the past few days must be commended. Without these personnel, these times of disaster would be much more dangerous for our communities.”

Floodplain Management Australia brings together experts from across Australia and overseas to help build a more flood resilient nation. Members include over 120 councils, catchment management authorities, businesses, and professionals involved in urban and rural flood risk management.
About
For more information on Floodplain Management Australia, visit floods.org.au.

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Contact Details
For all media enquiries please contact FMA President Ian Dinham 0467 492 117 or Ian.Dinham@mpsc.nsw.gov.au.