Press Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Flood Prevention and Resilience Crucial to Community Safety

24 February 2015

The Floodplain Management Association (FMA) warns in the aftermath of Tropical Cyclone Marcia and on the 60th anniversary of the tragic 1955 Maitland flood, it is crucial to invest in prevention and resilience, not simply on the repair of damages.

Ian Dinham, FMA Chairman, said these devastating events serve as a reminder of the dangers of extreme weather and the need for sustainable and responsible flood risk management.

“Some Australian communities still remain unprepared or ill informed of the risks they face in times of natural disaster,” said Mr Dinham.

“The FMA applauds the incredible work of the Queensland’s emergency service personnel in response to the cyclone and subsequent flooding.

“Response teams were much better prepared and had it not been for their efforts, damages could be much worse, but more needs to be done.

“The FMA encourages wise planning and development which takes account of flood risks, and supports community education to ensure people know how to stay safe.

“The recent flooding across Australia is an indication of what is yet to come. Climate change forecasts predict an increase in storm severity with more rainfall causing more frequent flooding.

“Australian communities must learn how to cope with these events, and it is the responsibility of Councils and all levels of government to provide tools for resilience and education.

Damage and disruption caused by flooding is estimated at costing Australia approximately $550 million per year.

About
For more information on the Floodplain Management Association, visit floods.org.au.

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