RUNOFF, REEF, REGULATION... and reality checks

2019 IECA Australasian Conference and Stormwater Queensland Conference
Tuesday, 1st – Thursday, 3rd October 2019 | Hilton Cairns, QLD

STORMWATER QUEENSLAND

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Flood Forecasting – Evolution beyond the Flood Gauge

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Biography:
Adam is a major contributor to the advancement of flood intelligence particularly within the flash flood forecasting space.

Adam has been involved with the Qld representative for the Flash Flood Advisory Group and development of advanced systems, trials and innovative outcomes.

Adam's uniqueness in this space couples his technical knowledge with being one of the most experienced operators' managing and forecasting multiple major flood events over his career.

Abstract:
Flood gauges as a method of forecasting is dead. Well that's a bit over the top, but the landscape has definitely shifted!!!

Like any change of approach and historical attachment to a process ingrained, this is difficult to comprehend and accept for some. The often-heard quote "it's too flashy to gives us enough warning time" is questionable that now needs exploration and education in this space. Will this be an acceptable defence in the next flood event considering the options now available………?

Technology permits massive learnings, increased understanding and opportunity in the forecasting space. Amazing things are being done in Australia and internationally, but we continue to doubt the application.

This SHOTs/presentation will provide an overview of how flood forecasting and flood gauges now relate within a forecasting and real time environment along with:

•   Background on flood forecasting
•   Operational context and use (riverine flooding, flash floods, dams, detention basins)
•   Tools of the trade (operational flood models, data feeds, types of forecast systems, flood gauges, meteorology, support software)
•   Different types and configurations of flood forecasting systems
•   The importance of long term planning and understanding of the total flood warning concept and embedding in emergency management practice
•   The requirements to build a successful flood forecasting system
•   The opportunity and unknown going forward
•   Live demonstration of flash flood forecasting system

This training session is aimed at people curious about flash flooding, forecasting systems and their opportunities and local government authorities ultimately aiming to protect their residents, infrastructure and livelihood.

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The session will present a variety of mechanisms, software and configurations as well as examples from multiple parties.

The training is a mix of theory, strategy and technical but also from the viewpoint of a highly experienced operator during major flood events.

Ultimately, at its heart, the author wants this training and uptake of forecasting to save people's lives.