

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice
Environment and Energy portfolio

Question No: 213
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Agency
Program: Bureau of Meteorology (BoM)
Topic: Northern NSW Floods – Warning System
Hansard Page:
Question Date: 23 May 2017
Question Type: Written

Senator Williams asked:

What improvements if anything can be implemented to the warning system?

Answer:

The Bureau has undertaken an internal post-flood debrief following the April 2017 flooding and participated in nine post-flood event community forums organised by the New South Wales State Emergency Service (SES) in May 2017. The Bureau also attended an After Action Review (ARR) with the SES in June 2017. The outcomes of these reviews will help guide continuous improvements for all the partners in the end-to-end Total Flood Warning System for the northern rivers of NSW.

The Total Flood Warning System has a number of components that work together to elicit effective response to flood threats by the community. The components include: data networks to monitor rainfall and river level; models to predict flood behaviour; construction of warning messages including advice on what actions should be taken; and communication of the warning messages.

The Bureau works to continually improve its national flood forecasting and warning service. In particular, it is continuing to integrate advances in numerical weather prediction and hydrological modelling to enhance its forecasting capabilities. It is also working with state based emergency service agencies, local government and the media to improve the communication and enhance community awareness of flood threats.