

# Of droughts and flooding rains ...

Queensland readers would have had saturation (literally) media coverage of the January floods in the Central Highlands cropping and irrigation region. But just to remind readers in other areas of the country that the north can really turn it on when it comes to rain, Richard Routley from the Qld's DPI&F has contributed these dramatic photos.

Some farms in the the Nogoa and Comet Rivers and Theresa Creek catchment area recorded more than 500 mm over seven days. This rainfall caused record, or near record, flood levels in these three waterways which converge between 10 and 40 km downstream of Emerald township. Flooding was exacerbated by the Fairbairn Dam filling for the first time in 17 years. This spilled more water into the Nogoa upstream of Emerald.

The photos show there have been considerable property, crop and livestock losses along the flood plains. There has also been costly damage to farm, shire and mine infrastructure. But the longer-term yield benefits for the largely unaffected summer dry-land crops – and assured irrigation supplies for several years to come – makes you marvel at our “sunburnt country”. ■

