Making Communities Safer in Times of Flood: the Story of the Floodplain Management Authorities of New South Wales

Floodplain Management Authorities have recently published a book about the problems caused by flooding in New South Wales and the attempts that have been made to alleviate them. It covers the evolution of efforts to warn people of coming floods, the development of emergency rescue and relief endeavours and the attempts to educate people about the flood threat and what they can do to manage it. Its primary focus however is on the evolution of “flood management” -- the movement away from “structures to fix the flood” (the efforts to ‘tame’ floods and change floods), to the integrated solutions of flood risk management (where the community ‘lives’ with the flood and recognise that floods are an essential part of our ecosystem). In particular the book examines the role of the Floodplain Management Authorities of New South Wales, a group of local government Councils and specialist flood organisations formed in 1961 to further the cause of flood mitigation and now a leading advocate of Floodplain Management in Australia.

The book is written by Chas Keys, who served with the NSW State Emergency Services from 1990 to 2004 when he retired as Deputy Director General. Chas has written other books dealing with emergency management and presented papers at Australian and International conferences on this subject.

Publisher Details:
Floodplain Management Authorities
Chairman: Cr. Allan Ezzy APM
Mob: 0408 864 283
E-mail: wilton@ausengineers.com.au
Executive Officer: Wilton C Boyd
Mob: 0448 199 828

Purchase Details:
Price per copy: $25 (inclusive of GST) plus postage and handling.
Available through the Executive Office of FMA.
Email Wilton C Boyd (above) and request an order form.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Australian Journal of Emergency Management

The Journal is published quarterly and disseminated throughout the emergency management community and related disciplines, in Australia and overseas. Articles identifying and discussing issues, policies, planning or procedural concerns, research reports and any other information relevant to the emergency/disaster management community are welcome.

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Letters to the editor

The Journal welcomes Letters to the Editor. Please note that letters should be no more than 300 words. Letters exceeding this limit may be edited or refused. Letters must be in good taste and focus on issues of emergency management or past AJEM content.

Letters must contain a name, address and daytime phone number of the author. Unsigned letters or those submitted without a phone number will not be considered.

Regular contributors should submit letters on varied subjects. Letters by the same author that reiterate opinions previously expressed may not be published. The editor reserves the right to reject or edit any Letter to the Editor.

Conference diary

Full details of local and international conferences relating to emergency management are available from the EMA website. For information, please visit www.ema.gov.au