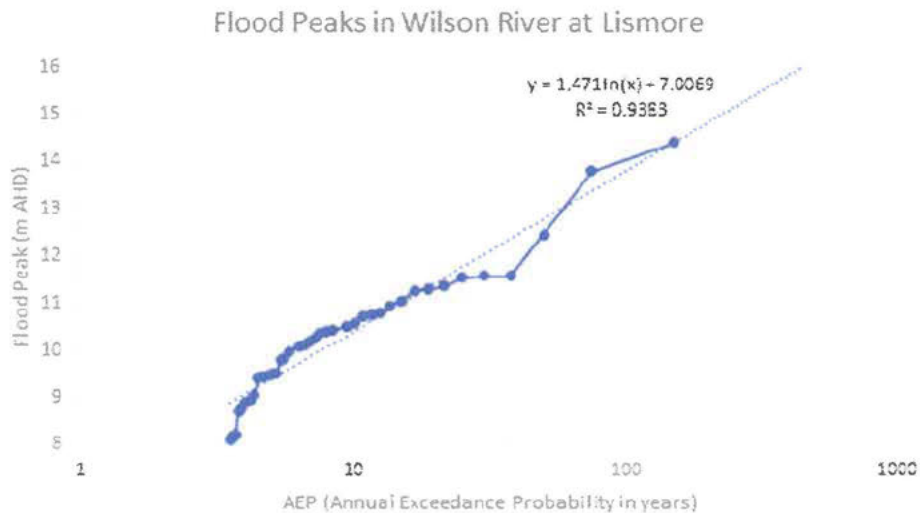


14m floods are a reality, not an exception

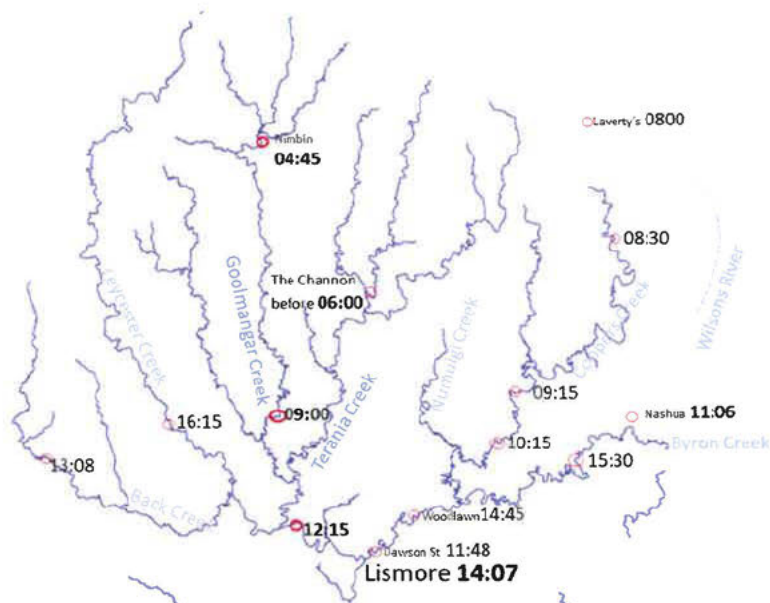
I want to counter the perception that the 14.4m February 2022 flood was 'exceptional' and unlikely to recur. This perception is misleading and dangerous. Evidence to counter this view arises from :

- (a) historical records one in the *Northern Star* 10/11/1917 <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/226304136> , which documents early floods omitted from many other reports.
- (b) graphical analysis routinely used by hydrologists, showing that the Feb 2022 flood lies on the expected trend line, and should not be regarded as an anomaly



- (c) a simple map showing the timing of flood peaks in the several tributaries showing that peak flows into Lismore came successively, not simultaneously. Had the rainfall pattern created the peaks that arrived simultaneously, the flooding could have been much worse.

**Time of
Flood peak
28 Feb 22**



Careful examination of the evidence leaves little doubt that the 14.4m February 2022 was not 'exceptional', but entirely consistent with other patterns of flooding experienced by Lismore.

Prof Jerry Vanclay -