

I lived through cyclones and flood in north Queensland and southeast Queensland over the past 20 years.

How I was personally affected varied each time but as a community we all are affected. I acknowledge some of the expert equipment that can be supplied by the ADF e.g., Unimog vehicles to access flooded areas and helicopter for food drops these are usually on short term needs post event. The medium term support the ADF supplied is man power, they contribute a deployable large sustained manpower capacity that would be hard to find within the effected community or even close by.

To obtain such a consistent large number of persons we should look to use low risk prisoners. They are cable of providing sustained assistance over 3-4 days for task such as manual clearing debris, which is all the AFD end up doing. Their use could contribute towards their parole or sentence reduction. Modern technology could be used to track their movements within a defined area with some human supervision.