Dear Ms. Weerts,

Thank you for your continuous, dedicated ambition to improve our manuscript. Despite that AFFS is a medium-range flood forecasting system, it is of course a good addition if also the short-range can be improved. To accommodate this, we have implemented your final request as follows:

The research on the potential benefit of assimilating those estimates into hydrological applications is increasing steeply and have shown already now promising results […]. As assimilating those data might improve the forecast ability of AFFS by e.g. improving estimates of the initial conditions or the timing of the flood peak, it should be focus of future research. In this context, Figure 7 (benchmark: last observation) provides evidence that assimilating real-time discharge data would improve AFFS' forecast skill within the short-range (0-2 days). Furthermore …

Thank you once again,

The authors