MQTT and Node-Red Experiment

Following the discussion at SAMG about Node-Red and MQTT on 13th Feb 2026, I felt motivated to rig up a proof of concept, to try them both out. It proved to be very easy to do and all the code is here in this article, just in case you want to try it out. Basically, I used Node-Red (running on my computer) to create a Publisher to an online broker. An esp32 acted as the subscriber. Clicking on the Node-Red input toggles the Built-in LED on the ESP32 on and off. The incredible thing is that the two devices, which are on my desk, could be on different continents and it would still work.

The Publisher (Using Node Red)

If you don't have Node-Red installed on your computer, just google for instructions on how to install it.

If it is already installed, just click on the link below to download my setup file for Node-Red. The file is called MQTT_Publisher_json.zip. If you now decompress and import that file into Node-Red, the whole flow will appear, complete with all the settings that you need for the Publisher.

https://samg.net.au/home/wp-content/uploads/simple-file-list/MQTT_Publisher_json.zip

The flow is very simple and looks like this ......
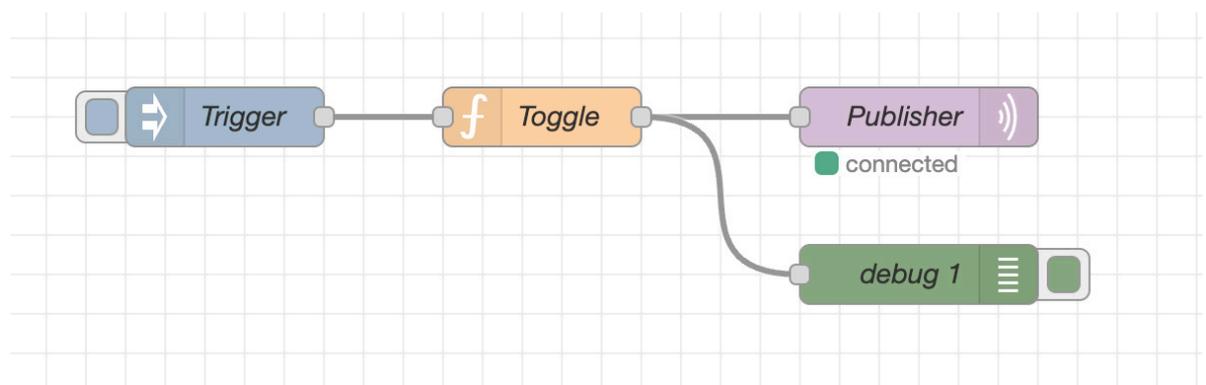
The Subscriber

The subscriber runs on an ESP32 and you can download the code using the link below. You will need to enter your own WiFi details and download the PubSubClient.h plugin.

https://samg.net.au/home/wp-content/uploads/simple-file-list/subscriber_esp32_h.zip

Good luck with your project,

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