

From
To
Subject We did flood Enqui v
Date Monday 4 Apr 2022 7:38:02 AM

To whom it may concern.

My name is _____ and I live at _____ NSW 2477 with my husband and young family.
We have lost the original farm cottage that _____ as not effected by the 1924 or 1974 floods and we have major damage to our house we live in that was built in 2006 on a pad at a height 3.5AHD.
The main concerns here in East Wardell are the blocked cane drains in which minimal water could get out the week before this disaster. I know if the flood gates were maintained and working it would of saved a lot of homes here. The lack of dredging in the river. This has been written in many flood plan reports but never done....
Finally the new highway is a death trap for our homes. It is a dam wall in which it funnelled the water down the east side and caused massive height increases in water.
Due to the new highway the natural flood plain south has not been effected, water didn't spread out there due to the highway stopping it.
Our young family escaped at 2am on Tuesday morning 01/03/22.
We had been monitoring the tides for a few days and the water at the back of our property was getting higher while the river remained lower.
I had gone out at 1:30am to check on the tide because we should of been going into low tide at 4am, instead water was coming from the back of us and rising fast. It was pouring rain so heavy we woke our children and just got out in time with our cars.
People further down our road didn't have a chance.
It was our constant checking and quick thinking that saved us. We didn't get any messages or notifications until 6am that morning when it was all too late.
Our community of Wardell has been forgotten about from every level. We were cut off for days, no food for our community, no proper evacuation centre. It was our local fire brigade who stepped up and did what they could without assistance. Local fisherman saved hundreds of people from the flooded houses.
By the time SES and army arrived the community had done so much. We needed food dropped in, we needed people on the ground to lead and navigate this disaster. We lost services, power, water, phone. I welcome anyone to come out and have a look at our homes and see for themselves what we have been going through.
We can't get any government funding, both our businesses are struggling and we don't have income coming in from the cottage and 2 houses that are not insured for "flood" yet the rain fell from the sky.
We like many will loose everything we have worked so hard for all because someone in an office made decisions on flood gates and mangroves and cut costs on a highway and didn't spend money on dredging the Richmond River.
We need financial support and we need it now. I can't jump through anymore hoops. Why the hell can't we have a portal where we upload our driver's license, images of homes and places effected and all tiers of government give us the financial support. Instead we have to relive this every day telling our story everyday.
We need insurance companies to step up and stop wriggling out of paying claims and we need the highway changed now so this water gets out to the ocean like it should.
Please feel free to phone me or come out and see the devastation.
I have attached photos.



