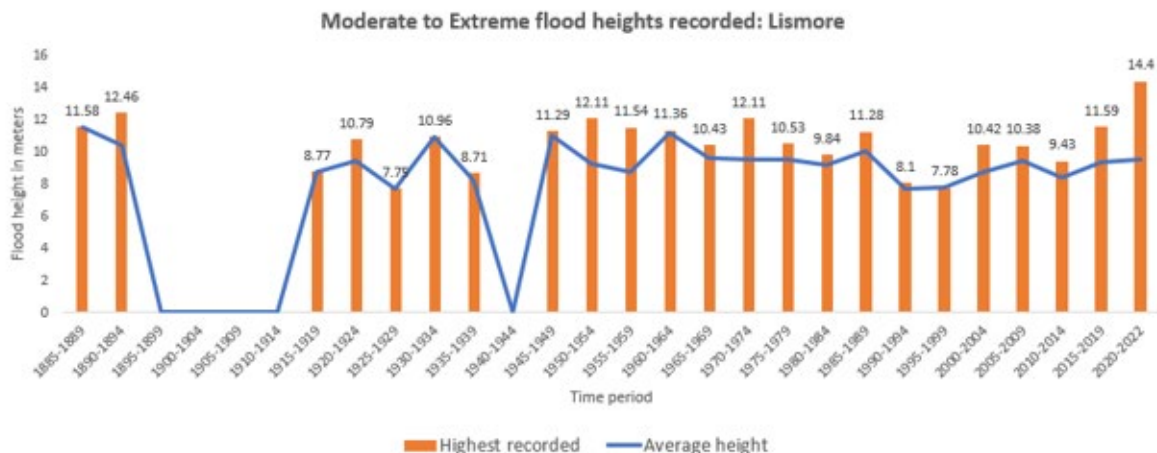


From:
To: [Flood Inquiry](#)
Subject: 2022 floods
Date: Wednesday, 6 April 2022 11:03:14 AM
Attachments: [48CFA3A85103404EB1DDB3E30F575415.png](#)

To whom this may concern,

I'm writing this out of major concern for my children's future. As a 38 year old male, sure we have seen some tragic things. We have assisted those who need when needed and reached out to loved ones. Those whom are financially stable have had the ability to directly assist the people with donations in Lismore, Coraki, Woodburn, Murwillumbah, and Mullumbimby to name a few.

We have all heard about the insufficient response by the Bureau of Meteorology able to keep people safe not only in NSW, but also in Queensland and in fact it was their premier who was complaining about the "constant changing of their predictions" during their flood event. It is my understanding that the night of the floods, the people of Lismore were informed of a level of around 11.5m, much lower than was recorded the next morning. 14.4m is off the scale. 16% higher than any other flood Lismore has recorded in 135 years, 2.19m higher than previous records set in the past. Should we now assume this is possible in every town or city in NSW?



Here is a graph I completed myself of the historical data where the information is gathered in 5 year blocks of the average heights. As you can see since the 1950's Lismore continued a steady path with only 2 floods above the 12m mark. The last column stands out like a clock tower in a western NSW town. Its unreasonable to just believe this is purely from climate change.

From this, personally, I feel it is unreasonable to only rely on the services of the SES in such an event. Unfortunately there was a restricted amount of workers due to vaccination mandates, something I would have assumed would be lifted during these desperate times. This goes for the NSWFS and other agencies which contributed to the relief efforts which are still going.

It is to my understanding that a very important NBN node was flooded at Woodburn? This was built on a floodplain and not backed up by any external power source? Telecommunications was cut in Northern NSW for weeks, something I would assume as unbelievable in 2022. Was there a reason why this occurred? I mean most natural disasters involve a unfortunate amount of casualties, something we are also still yet to get a clear understanding of. This inquiry should have this at the forefront as the public have the right to know. Some locals are calling it in the hundreds.

Also, I would assume all these rivers have gone through flood surveys? As a high school student, I completed work experience as a surveyor which looked at this exact issue. At the time it was suggested to me that it was for future flood and rain events to understand where the risk could be and what level that risk would pose. As the rain fell and the water was on its way down from western Queensland, why wasn't this assumed that there could be large potential problem of a flood level which can only be described as catastrophic? This could have mobilised some ADF instantly and had them arrive before those waters had arrived and prepared the other military personnel over the next coming days.

ADF has had successful programs in the likes of East Timor where they are hit with a Tsunami, therefore they are trained for this situation, however the initial response was that of "waiting for orders" by their generals and I have heard in some cases it was the locals who were directing them.

More recently we saw yet another flood of 11.5m in Lismore triggering a large amount of locals as it was all happening again. Luckily a lot of resources were still around and the ADF has done an amazing job in keeping things stable. This flood is the 6th highest in Lismore's history that followed obviously the highest flood as mentioned earlier. This flood came from a low pressure system which dropped down to 989.1ha and had most characteristics of a category 1 cyclone. This system brought a significant amount of rain and had winds up to 100kmph. Sufficient labelling of these systems would save lives. If we receive another system similar to this, and its not labelled something that people can go off, then they may not be prepared in the future. Luckily this was after the initial flood event and people were prepared for anything.

I will close mentioning that these towns will not trust local authorities as much as they perhaps once had. They will follow the likes of some towns in the area whom are more self sufficient due to the lack of support and understanding in the past. These towns are full of honest, hard working, compassionate and intelligent Australians who are very passionate not only for their town, but their whole region of choice. They have grown up here and deserve the full and appropriate answers along with their lives back. I wish you luck in research into this inquiry and I hope it provides answers. We all need and deserve a unbiased opinion and I look forward to the results.