

From: [NSW Government](#)
To: [Flood Inquiry](#)
Subject: Floods Inquiry
Date: Thursday, 7 April 2022 3:47:51 PM

Your details

Title

First name

Last name

Email

Postcode

Submission details

I am making this submission as A resident in a flood-affected area

Submission type I am making a personal submission

Consent to make submission public I would like this submission to remain anonymous

Share your experience or tell your story

Your story Like so many others in my town our 2 story house in East Lismore was flooded half way through my second story. We thought we had done enough to flood proof our house but ultimately we had not.
We have lost everything
We are a family of 5 (2 adults, 3 children, 2 cats ,2 dogs and a bird). Our pets making us stay

because we new it would be hard housing them until this was all over and truly thought we would be safe at our house . Inconvenienced yes , possible loss of power unable to use sinks and flush toilets but safe and all together still pets included.

We got rescued from our house on the Monday morning by a father and son true heros . The water was thigh high in our second story house. I dont know what we would of done if we didnt get rescued so early on. Once again thought we would be safe just like in 2017 the water came about a meter and a half in our lower level . We had prepared for loss of power getting a gas camp cooker ,spare mini gas bottles, torches, candles ,water . But hadn't prepared to have our second story and living area destroyed with us still inside. By the time we realised this flood was going to be nothing like 2017 it was far too late to leave.

I feel the warning system this time around compared to 2017 was alot less informative and the up dates were too slow. No ses or police door knocking telling us about the real danger, no flood alarm was heard either . Thankfully i had awoken after we dozed of for a little bit thinking we would be ok until morning like the prediction was. To find the water flooding our street hours before it should have been and rising fast . I think in total maybe 30 minutes. For a flood prone town we definitely dont have enough resources or rescue boats and equipment to deal with a town our size. If it wasn't for all the everyday people coming to our towns rescue with their boats , jet skies and kayaks their most definitely would of been alot more deaths.

We have now had to relocate to Lennox Head and live with my parents until our house is fully rebuilt inside. Which I have been told could take as long as 18months . For possibly 18months our lives are on hold and we adjust to this new life we are trying to get our heads around As you could imagine this is a challenge in its

self as our life was in Lismore. Schooling and work was both in Lismore. So now we must make the 1.5hr commute to school and work twice a day.

People have told us to change our children's school to one closer, however not as easy when you have lost everything the one thing you have left is friends and familiarity of school.

Also our youngest is Autistic and this is just not an option for her. To than change schools again once we do move home no.

My job was in South Lismore and was totally destroyed too. Most people who live in Lismore also work in Lismore Thankfully my employer's have leased a shop front in Alstonville until they rebuild their business. Many others are not as lucky and have no house and no work. No normality of life.

We are also one of the luckier ones if you can call it that and we had flood coverage in our insurance. In saying this though we have made many sacrifices to afford this my husband and myself both work 6 days a week to afford to pay for our bills. Missing out on valuable family time. I worry if we will still be able to afford insurance after all of this when my current policy expires. Insurance needs to be more affordable this is a very important issue that needs to be looked at closely. In the end if more people were insured the government would be spending less in the recovery process.

Secondly after the flood and staying with family in Goonellabah was the shortage of flood supplies. Lismore had pre flood spar East Lismore, Woolworth Central, Aldi Lismore, Coles and Woolworths Lismore square .

KFC, Hungry Jack's, Domino's, MacDonalds x2 plus many other smaller food places all gone. Leaving just 1 Coles, 1 Woolworths, 1 Aldi ,1 mcdonalds and 1 dominos to feed and supply the whole town of Lismore .

Also Lismore was totally flooded in ,no one could get out but more importantly no one could get in either leaving our town with very little supplies to

restock .

This was scary as you really don't realise how much you rely on shops to give you basic food needs until they cant. I bulk buy and had plenty of food at my house prepared for the flood but than my house was inundated with water and all my flood supplies destroyed .

I worry our town won't recover, I worry the people won't come back after being placed in alternative accommodation out of Lismore.

I worry about my mental health and 1000s of other people's too.

Terms of Reference (optional)

The Inquiry welcomes submissions that address the particular matters identified in its [Terms of Reference](#)

1.1 Causes and contributing factors	We need to look at better ways of protecting our town and lessening the damage and impact it has on our town
1.2 Preparation and planning	Not good enough
1.3 Response to floods	Not good enough
1.5 Recovery from floods	Slow

Supporting documents or images

Attach files

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