

From:
To: [Flood Inquiry](#)
Subject: Flood story
Date: Thursday, 7 April 2022 4:57:55 PM

My name is . My husband and I live in , 5km from Lismore. We live on a property with a non-permanent creek running through it. On the 28th Feb 2022, following the well documented deluge of rainfall, our normally very low lying creek broke its banks for the first time in 40 years. The lay of the land took the water down our driveway, past the shed into the adjoining paddock. This has never occurred before. The sheer volume of water was shocking, and we knew that it would be making its way to the Wilson's River and Lismore town. We were flooded in for days, with our only access across the bridge about a kilometre down the road blocked as it was completely submerged for 7 days. Unfortunately we lost our telephone land line service and we don't have mobile phone signal nor internet where we live so we were uncontactable. The Telstra land line was out of service for 5 weeks. It was a worrying time in that first week as family and friends from Queensland, Western Australia and the UK were trying to get in touch with us (after seeing the devastation on the TV) and we couldn't let them know we were okay. My daughter lives just 15 kms from us in Keerrong and she could not get news of our situation as they lost power, internet and phone line. Nor could we check on them. It was a stressful time. Fortunately, they were alright but cut off from town for 4 days as well.

My main concern in sharing my flood story is the seeming disregard for the local knowledge of members of the community that have lived in the region all their lives. There were early warnings from them with the realisation that the amount of rainfall was phenomenal. There could have been much earlier preparation and evacuation orders in place if there was a collaborative community based sharing of knowledge. Especially after the experience of the 2017 flood, it was clear that this event was far exceeding the predictions by the so-called experts and decision makers. When will community leaders learn to collaborate with locals?

Thank you
Warm regards

Lismore local for 40 years.