

From:
To: [Flood Inquiry](#)
Subject: Girards Hill Lismore 2022 - Enquiry submission.
Date: Tuesday, 12 April 2022 9:32:27 AM

NSW Gov - Enquiry into Lismore Floods [#1] 2022 :-

1/ The first +2M flood was assessed by SES/BOM/LCC as a '1974 level event' and promulgated to the Community as such.

When they knew of the new increased flood-level by 12midnight, no warning were given except by a single SMS at that time - when most people were asleep or had their phones off or on silent.

No effort was given to alarm affected residents around the foot of Girards Hill for what was going to happen.

Surely a single volunteer with a bull-horn or even police car touring around with siren/lights/loud-speaker could have been instituted as a warning - at the very least?

At around 5.50/6.00 AM these areas were flooded quickly causing terrible damage that could have been mitigated by some simple warning actions.

* I feel every locality, irrespective of calculated flood-risk, should have a single/un-paid long-term resident, with historic flood-levels experience to be appointed as designated Flood Wardens to act on immediate warnings locally - rather than rely completely as we do at the moment on remote, uniformed & bureaucratic professionals advice.

2/ The second flood event around a week later was actually far lower than a '1974' level they predicted.

This time there was complete "over-kill" by the Authorities, perhaps due to the gross errors of the previous one .

Residents around the foot of Girards Hill were first told to evacuate, then to stand-down and remain vigilant; then to evacuate yet again.

There was even door-knocking by ADF to impress this final decision on us residents, this lead to all previously affected property being moved to higher ground.

We complied, even though we knew our flood levels and a 1954/'74/'17 event would come nowhere near us at .

But we dutifully complied, as our garage [+ 2 cars etc.,] were affected in the first "+2M" event to approx 0.75m deep.

Of course, afterwards it all had to be put back as it was before.

This disruption, mental and physical pain on both of us (70++) was substantial due to this second piece of poor advice.

A further note on the swingeing power cuts:-

As regards our 5-day 240v mains power-cut - Surely there must be a better way to properly Zone this by our power-providers ?

Just because one or two properties are flood affected in an area, whole unaffected properties and even whole suburbs were completely cut-off without warning, causing considerable loss of refrigerated food-stuffs.

If these "blanket" cuts were zoned in a better way there would be less distress and losses in unaffected properties during major flooding.

I sincerely hope our personal story will improve matters regarding the treatment of flooding in flood-fringe properties in future, particularly in regard of the appointment of volunteer Flood Wardens for each locality.