

From:
To: [Flood Inquiry](#)
Subject: Flood Inquiry
Date: Wednesday, 13 April 2022 5:58:14 PM

Hi,

I am a resident at Ocean Shores 2483. My house was inundated by approximately 1 meter of sewage muddy water on February 28. It has caused extensive damage and is inhabitable. I am insured fortunately, so I know I will eventually recover. Due to lack of affordable housing I have been couch surfing for over one month thanks to the hospitality of strangers and friends. I may go and live in Victoria as I have family there. I had to send my daughter to be looked after by her Grandma. My daughter's school in Mullumbimby has not been operational fully since it was also badly destroyed by the same flood. I have had to move her to a school near where my mother lives in . My mother is almost 80 and she is struggling to look after my daughter. My daughter is on the autism spectrum and has a mild intellectual delay. Both my mother and my daughter were recently ill with Covid. It's been a very trying time.

Like many in my neighbourhood, I am angry that the Byron Shire has only done Band-Aid measures to help improve drainage in the area. Myself and my neighbours have met with the mayor and other councillors on numerous occasions and we have provided historical reports and information pertaining to causes of the more frequent flood events. I myself have sent numerous emails requesting improvements to the creek running beside my house and the drainage and condition of the street I live on. They cleared my creek bed but did not plant appropriate vegetation which would discourage weed growth. They had promised to do this. They did not plant anything and now the creek and creek bed is full of thick weed which impedes water drainage. They fixed the collapsed drain on the street outside my house but the whole street requires proper storm drains and more drains than what we currently have.

The Ocean Shores Country Club and the Byron Shire Council need to discuss together a plan of action.

Residents are tired of all the talk and blame games.

I have lost many treasures I've had all my life. My house is now stripped of its plaster up to ceiling height. The kitchen and bathrooms have been ripped out. The floor coverings have been removed.

I have lost my ability to make income as I am couch surfing and I don't have a home to live in.

I am an emotional wreck, suffering from severe anxiety. Everyday I cry.

I am grateful for the \$3,000 government grant, the \$500 Red Cross grant and the \$500 Salvation Army grant. It means I've been able to send some money to my mum to help her pay for my daughter's costs.

We need housing of some sort. If we have stability it will be much less stressful.

Also is it possible to have more assistance to sandbag houses and businesses in known flood areas when a big weather event is about to occur? I've called the SES in the past and they seem to only supply the sand bags equipment. I've had to make up the sandbags myself, pile them into my car and then distribute them about my house myself. I'm starting to get too old for it. I have osteoporosis and I just don't have the muscles anymore. There are elderly residents in my street that need more preparation help prior to floods.

Please help.

Regards,

Sent from my iPhone