

From:
To: [Flood Inquiry](#)
Subject: Flood inquiry submission
Date: Thursday, 14 April 2022 11:18:30 AM

Dear Sir or Madam,

I have been a resident on Murwillumbah for the last 28 years and would like to share my story and concerns regarding recent flood events.

We live in a Queenslander on the river bank at South Murwillumbah.

We have now experienced two “one in a hundred year flood events” in five years. 2017 was devastating, and in 2022 the flood levels were even higher. Up until 2017, whilst we had experienced flooding, the water had never flowed over our concrete slab. And in speaking to neighbours who had lived here for seventy years plus we were told that in 1974 and 1954, the water was about 600-800mm over the slab. Of course these dates were before the levee wall was built.

In both of these last two floods we had about 2m (2017) and 2.23m (2022) of water flowing under the house, and whilst we were lucky that the water did not breach our house floor level, it came very, very close.

So bearing in mind we have lived here for nearly thirty years, I have to question what has changed so drastically in that time that the flood levels are so catastrophic? How do the following factors effect flood flow?

- The ceasing of river dredging and the corresponding increase in the sandbar to the north of our property opposite the creek where huge amounts of water come down from the hills – this creek was like a geyser in the last flood and blew out the road (Commercial Road)
- The size of Blacks Drain in South Murwillumbah and the operation of the flood gates there. The road blew out in both 2017 and 2022
- The old railway line seems to act like a dam wall trapping water
- The impact of building in the industrial estate
- The big discrepancy in flood level heights here and after the Murwillumbah bridge – there seemed to be a difference of about 1m from here to after the bridge at North Murwillumbah

I don't know the answer to all the questions but I do think the questions should be explored, and measures should be taken to protect residents and business from further catastrophic flooding. The cost to the community is enormous, financially, physically and emotionally.

I have attached a link to a short video that we took at the peak of the flooding, as we sheltered in a neighbour's house across that was on higher ground. I draw your attention to the No Parking sign to give you a sense of the depth of the water.

<https://drive.google.com/file>

I welcome the opportunity to share my story and hope that the NSW government will take

urgent and considered steps to help all the communities that have been affected by these events.

Kind regards