

From: [NSW Government](#)
To: [Flood Inquiry](#)
Subject: Floods Inquiry
Date: Thursday, 21 April 2022 8:24:08 PM

Your details

Title

First name

Last name

Email

Postcode

Submission details

I am making this submission as A member of the general public

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 Our family home suffered only minor damage from groundwater seeping through breaks in our slab.
I work for local government and am disappointed at the lack of effort that Council and other agencies put into preparing residents and property owners for flood in a La Nina year with such extensive rainfall. I heard 'the catchment is

sodden' numerous times throughout the hallways of Council and yet that did not prompt a significant rallying of agencies' efforts to engage the community, particularly those in known flood prone areas. I hope we take a more proactive and preventative approach when our community starts to approach certain climate thresholds that warrant a concerted community response e.g. drought, potential fire weather, extensive rainfall. Traditional communications approaches e.g. media releases and social media posts are not enough. We need a pre-mud army of friends and neighbours, trained and supported by agencies, to knock on doors and have conversations at shopping centres about taking steps and getting help to keep each other safe.

Terms of Reference (optional)

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

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| 1.1 Causes and contributing factors | Such extensive rainfall since November 2021 should have put our area on heightened alert to flood risk. |
| 1.2 Preparation and planning | Such poor preparation across the entire community and responsible agencies. Core functions in preparing and planning for flooding were not delivered by the responsible agencies, and this inquiry needs to ensure that this situation is rectified as a matter of priority. Heads should roll, barriers need to be overcome, and opportunities invested in. |
| 1.3 Response to floods | Woeful. The lack of emergency response resources on the ground or in the water in response to the floods is an abject failure of those agencies (and/or their funders/political representatives). |
| 1.4 Transition from incident response to recovery | Rushed and insensitive to the unique situations and varying pace and capacity that flood affected individuals have. Stop rushing people to deal with their rubbish, stop the 'helpers' turning up and forcing their kindness on those not wanting |

'help' nor with the capacity to manage them at that time.

1.5 Recovery from floods

The lack of affordable housing before the floods was a local and state and national disaster in itself, but is exacerbated so much more now. How do others responding to similar emergencies in the world do this well, and where is the political will and resourcing to make this happen here? Developers delaying land releases, insufficient funding for social housing providers, tax incentives that favour multiple residential housing investments and open slather to set 'market rents' rather than setting rents to cover owners costs...New Zealand has tackled this, and it would take a progressive and concerted approach to genuinely enabling housing to be brought to the sales or rental market as homes not investments to tackle one of the major underlying issues as to why our housing crisis exists in the first place.

Supporting documents or images
