

**From:**  
**To:** [Flood Inquiry](#)  
**Subject:** Lismore Flood prevention - Dont repeat mistakes with levees  
**Date:** Friday, 22 April 2022 4:10:05 PM  
**Attachments:** [Lismore Flood Inquiry Submissions](#)

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To whomsoever this may concern.

Please find attached hereto my response to issues associated with the last Levee lift initiated/completed recently in Lismore as has proven to create more problems rather than mitigate them. If you want to control flood waters control them. Don't make the mistake of adopting measures to block or restrict the passage of flood-water. Nature will test and disprove any futile attempts to limit and control the gravitational effect of water courses. You cannot defeat gravity. Look at the successful US Los Angeles experience in the 1930's and take heed.

If anyone wishes to discuss this topic further I would be pleased to contribute and assist.

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*Kind regards*

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To: Flood Inquiry Submissions – [inquiry@floodinquiry.nsw.gov.au](mailto:inquiry@floodinquiry.nsw.gov.au)

**Lismore and downstream flooding – An unconventional problem for Australia**

22/04/2022

"Lismore is officially the most flood affected post code (in Australia). What is needed to fix that is a combination of every viable solution using proper models to plan for meaningful outcomes," he said. "We understand the impact of floods from personal experience. Now we need to understand the full hydro-dynamics in all flood scenarios. For too long flood mitigation has been piece-meal, patchy or non-existent."

<https://www.theland.com.au/story/7669260/long-awaited-flood-study-will-focus-on-disaster-prone-catchments/>

Lismore has now suffered through a similar problem to that as faced by the major US metropolis of Los Angeles (LA) during the early 1900's. It became a lesson learned. Following destructive repetitive flooding events, the actions LA undertook resolved their issues. Now the NSW state and local governments must take notice of Los Angeles' half century of proven experiences that all successfully stand testimony to tests over time.

Instead of the repetitive construction of ineffective blocks as weirs against extreme flood events Los Angeles took the logical approach of proactively realigning the Los Angeles River and the construction of channels to accommodate their unpredictable flooding events, channels that allowed their regions rivers in flood to drain at rapid rates with no repetitive economic risk. They simply straightened the river course, increased its declination and in so doing minimised the distance floodwaters had to travel to reach the coast. No more problems. Global best practice.

The same requirement downstream of Lismore is now vital to eliminate damage to infrastructure at Lismore, Coraki, Ballina and points in-between. As with LA what is required is also the construction of channels to carry floodwater across the meandering river loops thus maximising the rivers declination and simultaneously minimising the water's travel distance to the coast. As a part of the vital solution here is the construction of open channels to facilitate floodwater diversion bypassing Coraki and Ballina funnelling floodwater directly eastward to the coast.

It is imperative that we undertake and put in place proven effective measures now. Do it now before we are forced to face another global warming event causing a repeat or an even worse weather event, with its inevitable associated property damage, loss of local vital livelihood and eliminate risk to life.

If any questions need to be asked feel free to contact me as below.

Kyogle NSW