

**From:**  
**To:** [Flood Inquiry](#)  
**Subject:** 2022 NSW Flood Enquiry  
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I live at the confluence of Terania Creek and Rocky Creek at The Channon about 20 km north of Lismore. Our house flooded for the first time ever. The water came through the house about 1 metre deep catching us by surprise. The house floor is more than a metre above the previous highest flood (Cyclone Debbie in 2017) and more than 15m above the normal creek level.

When we evacuated we had to evacuate our cattle too as their paddocks were going under water. We had to erect an electric fence on the roadside and call the cattle out to higher ground.

1. My greatest concern is the lack of real-time data on rainfall rates and creek heights. These need to be fed to a local authority in Lismore (like the SES) who know the localities and the potential for flooding impacts downstream.

A decade ago we could ring in with rainfall figures and speak to someone who knew where we were calling from. Now, a phone call is redirected to a central office (Wollongong, I think) where the operator on the phone has no idea of where the caller is ringing from, nor the implications of the data for people and businesses downstream.

This ties in with the fact that the local automatic gauge on the creek at The Channon is not working and has not worked for several years. Who is responsible for maintaining this gauge must be sorted out as a matter of urgency and the situation rectified.

My brother-in-law lives 15 km north of The Channon, near the headwaters of Terania Creek and he recorded 930mm in 18 hours although he admits that twice when he checked the gauge during the night, it was already overflowing. His phone call to report this enormous rainfall was met with a non-committal, "Thank you."

2. Secondly, there is a push by some in the community for the construction of a new dam on Rocky Creek to help with flood mitigation. What this push is ignoring is that the catchment for such a dam is a mere 3.7% of the total catchment feeding flood waters into Lismore. So, if this dam was completely empty at the start of a rain event, it would only retain less than 4% of the waters heading for Lismore - and that only until it was full and started overflowing. Damming every creek in the catchment is not practical.

3. Thirdly, the levee which protects Lismore gives a false sense of security. Many people in the CBD believe the levee will protect them from floods. And it will from small floods. However, once the levee over-tops, the flood waters come in very rapidly catching many by surprise. This surprise could be lessened by have accurate, local rainfall and creek height data fed into the system so people can make informed decisions about the need to evacuate.

The levee designed to protect the CBD has had a disastrous effect on residents in South Lismore where floods are now bigger and faster than before the levee was built. This is a case of protecting businesses while ignoring the plight of the community - the people who work and shop in those businesses.

**Finally** and most importantly, we **MUST** acknowledge the impact of Global Warming / Climate Change on the changing frequency and intensity of 'freak' weather events. The

potential for extreme weather events has been foreshadowed for more than a decade yet successive governments have shirked their responsibility to do their utmost to mitigate this potential.

If this enquiry does nothing else, it needs to highlight the dereliction in duty-of-care by both State and Federal governments to protect the citizens from an obvious and foreseeable threat.

Yours sincerely,

The Channon 2480