

From:
To: [Flood Inquiry](#)
Subject: My experience
Date: Monday, 25 April 2022 9:59:04 AM

My name is . This is my submission for the NSW flood inquiry.
I was living at Street when the first flood came through on the 28th of February.

I am currently staying with friends and family because my real estate, -
, asked me to get all my belongings out of the house so they could start to work on it's recovery. Then they frustrated the lease because I told them I didn't want to keep it and continue living in the flood zone.

I thought Street was at the edge of the flood zone. They told me the last major flood in 2017 only came into the house a couple of inches.
On the morning of the 28th I was aware of all the rain and that there was likely a flood coming. So I was trying to prepare by getting everything off the ground. I had made sure to buy furniture that all had a bit of leg and stood off the ground, so I could place things on top. I ended up loosing everything. Only a few things were able to be salvaged.

Friends and family were calling in the morning to check in and encourage me to evacuate. But I didn't receive an official evacuation order until later in the day. Locals always know what's going on, a bit better than those trying assess and respond usually.

Thanks to a 'modern update' the SES were relying on the Bureau of Meteorology for their rainfall information and flood warnings. But I agree with a lot of people when they say the old model works better. Farmers upstream can definitely provide more sound information and predictions about the weather, when they check their gauges and make a quick phone call.

Once I had finished getting all my things off the ground, with the help of my friend Rachel. I could see the rain wasn't slowing down so I figured I should evacuate and 'be safe' like I had been encouraged to do. And it still took some time before I got an official evacuation order.

I think it would be a good idea for early, formal, 'optional' evacuation orders to be sent out to everyone living in a flood zone. To give the communities at risk a formal head start.

Some evacuation workshops being conducted once or twice a year for risky areas might help. So people know best practices and what to grab on their way out.

I had never evacuated before and thought the flood wouldn't effect my place too much. So I neglected to grab a few important things. Such as my passports and personal documents, along with a few precious belongings. Most of this I managed to salvage but, I would have done a much better job at evacuating if I had of learnt about the process previously.

And this is coming from someone who did get out early. I wonder if those who had to climb on their roofs would have done things differently if they had of had an earlier warning and some preliminary experience.

Lismore has a levy wall, to protect the CBD from floodwater. But this pushes more water the other side of the river destroying more homes. This is an engineered, structural disrespect to the community who has to live with this increased risk. No one should have to live in a situation like this.

It's silly and irresponsible to build, live, and establish permanent businesses in a flood plain.

Lismore would do better and survive longer if it were to be moved to higher ground. If the council, state and federal governments want to keep people living and working in a flood

plain. They should offer insurance and more support as part of services the 'rates' cover and pay for.

Cheers for reading my submission,