

**From:**  
**To:** [Flood Inquiry](#)  
**Subject:** Yelgun Creek diversion in Nth Ocean Shores causes so much flooding. - Byron Bay Shire.  
**Date:** Monday, 25 April 2022 5:30:40 PM

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Hi There,

I have been living in the north of the Byron Shire at North Ocean Shores for 20 years now - and I am very concerned about a man made flood hazard that has been created by interference in the 1970's with the Yelgun Creek in the Billinudgel Nature Reserve.

When the creek was first diverted in the 1970's the State government wrote to the Byron Shire Council and told them they would be liable for flood damage to residents if they did not return the creek to its natural flow down to the sea. The Byron Council did not respond with good practice and the result has been countless years of unnecessary and heartbreaking flooding in the South Golden Beach - all of it - and parts of Ocean Shores.

Because the Yelgun Creek has been diverted into the North Ocean Shores Capricornia Canal System in times of high rainfall the canal system rises too high and floods all of South Golden Beach - this is because there are 2 creeks putting pressure on the system as Marshalls creek flows adjacent to the canal coming down through Billinudgel and the Pocket. Billinudgel seriously floods as well. (and another natural outlet was closed near Helen St as well -see website.)

This also means the water backs up to such a degree that it is now causing the M1 to be blocked at Yelgun area - so in times of dangerous floods our highway gets cut off and food supplies cannot be delivered from the north or from the South as Ballina also floods.

This flooding on the North side is not necessary - it is a man made mistake that occurred and seems to have been overlooked which is totally ridiculous.

In 2005/06 shortly after the floods we had then I was informed of this rogue Yelgun creek diversion and at that time the Byron Council still owned the Billinudgel reserve and a few of us sent the council a letter threatening a class action if they did not return the creek to its natural flow. Not long after this the Byron Council gifted the land to the National Parks.

**I then rang National Parks and asked them if they were aware of the Yelgun Creek diversion and they had no idea of it so they came and picked up local historian (now deceased) and he showed them where the creek had been diverted with earthworks - because he was the Byron Council Shire President at the time and had been involved in approving its diversion (which he said was for the local fishermen lobby who wanted the Wooyung beach road kept free of creek flooding - !!)**  
That was in 1974.

- a local realtor has provided a website with copies of legal documentation setting out who is responsible and what was done :<http://brunswickvalley.com.au/flood-history/background.htm>

Adding insult to injury is the way rocks have been placed at the outlet of Marshalls Creek when it runs into the Brunswick River near the entrance to control the flow of this creek-

It is unbelievable that the Byron Shire Council could ignore all of these markers of why water cannot run out to the sea quickly enough - and then they have allowed development

of the very areas that suffer the worst of the flooding - and now all these new million dollar homes are being tragically flooded - and it is unnecessary if someone with some common sense could come and restore these outlets .

I hope that you will investigate this matter - it is causing so much unnecessary damage to so many people in Byron Bay Shire.

kind regards