

From: [NSW Government](#)
To: [Flood Inquiry](#)
Subject: Floods Inquiry
Date: Tuesday, 26 April 2022 5:27:20 PM

Your details

Title

First name

Last name

Email

Postcode

Submission details

I am making this submission as A resident in a flood-affected area

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 I woke up at 5am to phonecalls from my friends, telling me they were about to attempt to swim to their roofs with their kids and animals. I had friends crying saying they were scared they wouldn't make it onto their roof. I had a friend call me crying saying her elderly stepmother had recently had hip surgery and had climbed onto her dining table to get away from the rising flood

waters and couldn't climb any higher but the water was rising fast, this woman lives down the hill from me so my friend asked me if I could go down and see if anyone had a boat to rescue her as the sea had stopped answering calls.

I walked down and there were traumatised people everywhere. I found a man with a canoe and he tried to get to my friend's stepmother's house but the tide was too strong.

I ran down and found a mother and son in a tinny, I asked them to rescue her for me and they asked me to come with them to help.

I have never been in a boat before but I got in with these strangers, not knowing their skill or aptitude to be navigating a boat in the conditions we were in but there was no other choice.

It turns out that they were very skilled, I was very lucky.

On our way to my friend's stepmother's house, people were screaming for help everywhere, we stopped many times to break windows and grab people from windows and awnings that had been crouched there for who knows how long.

We finally made our way to my friend's dad's area, the water had risen significantly. I called her to ask what the house looked like and she was terrified and just kept saying the number of the house but the numbers didn't mean anything anymore as all we could see were roofs.

We finally found out the colour of the roof and that it had solar panels and found the house, trying to get there we had to dodge powerlines in the water, the propeller got tangled in many things, including the top of a trampoline net at one stage and the son driving the boat had to jump out into the water with a knife to cut it free. While this was happening the boat was swept down with the tide and smashed into trees and buildings while he held on, trying to cut the propellers free.

We finally got to my friend's dad's house and the water was up to the ceiling. We were banging on the roof and calling the stepmother's name out over and over. We smashed a window but the

water was up to the ceiling and there was no answer, my friends childhood cat was in the corner of the roof crying for help but we couldn't reach her.

We had to leave the house thinking we were too late.

We still stopped and helped families out of their homes on the way back to dry land, smashing windows and pulling them out and into the boat along with their animals.

When we reached dry land again I had to make the phonecall to my friend to tell her we were too late.

Luckily, someone in a canoe had managed to reach her stepmum only 5 minutes before we got there so she was safe in a friendly strangers house but we didn't find this out for hours after the fact as her phone had drowned in the process of her rescue.

Terms of Reference (optional)

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

Supporting documents or images
