

From: [NSW Government](#)
To: [Flood Inquiry](#)
Subject: Floods Inquiry
Date: Tuesday, 3 May 2022 3:17:11 PM
Attachments: [EA2FCE13-9E8C-4ACD-A348-82D819B83007.png](#)

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 See attached letter

Terms of Reference (optional)

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

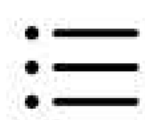
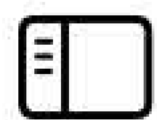
1.1 Causes and contributing factors

See attached letter

Supporting documents or images

Attach files

- [EA2FCE13-9E8C-4ACD-A348-82D819B83007.png](#)
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NSW GOVT. - FLOOD INQUIRY SUBMISSION.

We bought our land in West Ballina in 1988 (with direct Canal access) and have lived there since 1992. Almost 30 years! In that time we have experienced many Lismore flood events and many King Tides. Until now, despite the Richmond river rising and the King Tides coming up river, we have NEVER been concerned our home would be flooded and the water level has NEVER come close to entering our home. This time we had approximately 300mm throughout.

When we purchased our land we were advised that the Ballina Quays estate land had been raised 1 metre above the 1:100 year flood level.

There were 4 major factors which affected the Richmond River causing this unprecedented Flooding of our home

1 - Record rainfall in record time in Lismore

2 - A week of daily King Tides in Ballina

3 - The new and upgraded M1 highway. (State and Federal Governments)

4 - The new Policy of Ballina Shire Council to insist ALL new developments AND any home which is demolished and being rebuilt, to be RAISED UP a minimum 600mm. (Local Government)

The first 2 factors we have managed MANY times over the last 30 years, with only MINOR flooding and we are POSITIVE that we would NOT have flooded this time if the second 2 factors had NOT existed.

The construction method of the upgraded M1 has meant that the Richmond River could NOT spread out over the traditional FLOODPLAIN. This caused the water level to RISE to these unprecedented levels (flooding numerous homes) AND INCREASE IN SPEED, which forced the water to break its banks in new areas.

THE M1 NEEDS TO BE RECTIFIED IMMEDIATELY, opening up the DAM WALL so that any potential future flood events can be minimized.

PLEASE GET THIS STARTED URGENTLY!!!

The Ballina Shire Council policy of raising the ground level of new developments has meant that EXISTING residents have been sacrificed and compromised so that the new ratepayers will be OK. This policy is shortsighted.

In our case the raising of the oval in Quays Drive West Ballina to create the new Leach Crescent development, with ALL storm water from over 30 new homes ALL being directed into the Ballina Quays Canal system.

This meant that when the Richmond River was rising on the Southern side of Riverside Drive, with water from Lismore, the canal on our Northern side was also rising with the runoff from the Leach Crescent development (and Emmanuel College development and Riverbend development).

It is significant to note that the Canal water was HIGHER than the Richmond River and water was rushing from the Canal to the road (Riverside Drive), resulting in water rushing through our home, washing garbage bins, pots, large concrete pavers and everything else up the side and jamming it against our gates at the side of our home, and washing loose items inside our home up against the inside of our front door.

BALLINA COUNCIL'S POLICY HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE FLOODING OF OUR HOME!!!

They must IMMEDIATELY AND URGENTLY STOP new developments and IMMEDIATELY AND URGENTLY review the Runoff from these existing new developments and STOP using the Canal Waterway as a Public Drain!!!

We are convinced that it is these 2 MANMADE points which are the cause of our home flooding! The Ballina Quays area may have flooded as a result of the Lismore rain event and the King Tides, but it would NEVER have got high enough to flood our home!

The ManMade points are 'fixable' and mitigation work MUST be commenced IMMEDIATELY so that we are NEVER in this situation again!