

**Submission to the Independent Flood Inquiry  
Tumbulgum Community Meeting 4/5/2020**

**by**

A cursory examination of social media posts and letters to the editors shows that Tweed residents are seeking solutions to the increased size and incidence of major floods impacting the valley.

Clearly there is a need for publication of a clear analysis outlining the pros and cons of various solutions based on expert and local knowledge, including Indigenous perspectives.

Such an analysis would look at the pros and cons of the following:

- a) Upstream flood mitigation works (including dams and weirs as successfully carried out by groups such as the Tennessee Valley Authority in the US and similar authorities in other parts of the world.)
- b) Placing restrictions on the clearing of vegetation in upstream parts of the valley and undertaking re-vegetation projects in denuded areas.
- c) Dredging of the river course in areas where siltation has caused the river to seek new channels in times of flood
- d) The building of levee banks to protect villages such as Tumbulgum.
- e) Rezoning of land to prevent residential, commercial and industrial developments in areas that are clearly flood prone. (We need to seriously interrogate concepts such “1 in 100 year” flood zones when those zones have been inundated three times in the past 10 years.)
- f) Relocation of homes and businesses from flood prone areas.
- g) Raising the height of public and private buildings in flood prone zones.
- h) Re-aligning major engineering works such as the M1 highway where the presence of newly-built infrastructure projects causes additional flooding problems.
- i) Re-engineering of bridges in the valley to accommodate climate change.

Having such an analysis made available to the public through the local press, social media and the council’s website would help to inform the community and also allow elected authorities to make well-informed planning decisions.