

It appears from a **literal** reading of this inquiry's terms of reference to investigate "the 2022 catastrophic flood event" – that thousands of rural landholders and rural villagers in this shire and thousands more in the 5 surrounding shires, all of whom have been harmed or damaged by the 2022 destructive weather event will be excluded from this inquiry.

These people have not suffered "flood" damage (as defined)- they have suffered landslips, rainwater deluges, flash-flooding - CAUSING harm to people and damage to bridges and roads – both public and private, and to homes, sewage systems, businesses, vehicles, machinery, infrastructure, stock, agricultural production, equipment and fencing.

Some of that harm is to last longer than 12 months.

Furthermore, the timeframe limitations of 2022 preclude any investigation into pre-2022 matters which contributed to or caused the damage and harm.

Subsequently - the Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation will not be able to address those issues or help these people or fix the damage because the Corporation can only act on the recommendations of this inquiry.

So the question is = will the terms of reference be "interpreted" broadly so that this Inquiry will accept and consider the subject matters below;

1. Submission from all Northern Rivers persons or entities adversely affected by the 2022 destructive weather event.
2. Submissions requiring this Inquiry to consider all matters (including pre - 2022) which contributed to or caused harm or damage during this weather event.
3. Submissions covering reconstruction matters relevant to the functions of the Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation.

The term FLOODING is well defined and quite specific.
That is - "Water rising and spreading over normally dry land".

Para 1.f. Does give the enquiry an opportunity inquire into matters it deems appropriate but (LITERALLY) only in relation to the 2022 floods.

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SES

Flood. Water level which overtops the natural or artificial banks in any part of a stream, river, estuary, lake or dam, and/or local overland flooding associated with drainage before entering a watercourse,

Flash Flooding. is defined as any flooding of short duration with a relatively high peak discharge in which the time interval between the observable causative event and the flood is less than six hours (10).

Insurance Council

A flood is the covering of normally dry land by water that has escaped or been released from the normal confines of:

1. any lake, or any river, creek or other natural watercourse, whether or not altered or modified; or
2. any reservoir, canal, or dam.

A flood is not storm or rainwater damage. – it comes from the sky.

BOM defines Floods

A flood occurs when water inundates (covers) land which is normally dry.

The Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation (NRRC) is a development corporation established following the 2022 floods across Lismore and Northern Rivers region of NSW. **It will formally come into effect from 1 July 2022.** The NRRC **manages the rebuilding of these communities by coordinating planning, rebuilding and construction work across multiple government agencies.**

- **acts on and implements recommendations from the Independent Flood Inquiry and the Parliamentary Inquiry into the Northern Rivers Floods as directed by the government.**
- works with councils to identify, prioritise and support projects that can rejuvenate communities within the Northern Rivers area, with a **particular emphasis on housing and supporting social infrastructure**
- works with the Department of Planning and Environment to fast-track planning and environmental approvals to make it easier for people living in the Northern Rivers **to rebuild their homes and get back to their normal lives as quickly as possible**
- TWEED – Lismore – Lismore – Kyogle - -Clarence/Richmond Valley and economically sustainable communities. This includes new or upgraded roads, water, power, digital connectivity and social infrastructure.
- **TWEED COUNCIL - COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN 2017 2027**
- **FLOODING**
- P 17 - leaving a legacy – asset protection – floodplain management/stormwater management
- P 20 protecting of people and property my managing the risk of flooding and its impacts on property owners the environment and the broader community