

From:
To: [Flood Inquiry](#)
Subject: Flood Inquiry Submissions
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Officer - in - Charge
Flood Inquiry

I would like to make a submission for this inquiry, even though I was not directly affected by the recent floods.

For 30 years between 1955 & 1986, I lived at Brushgrove, a small village in the Clarence valley, & personally endured about 20 floods in that time. During that time we were organised, & never lost a thing.

Since 1986, I have lived in Grafton, & have been protected by its levee during that time. But all Grafton residents live with the possibility of the levee being topped, or worse, the levee collapsing & quickly inundating the city.

Having the levee has resulted in many Grafton residents becoming complacent, with a lot of others either being too young to have experienced a flood, or have moved to the area since the levee was built. I think there should be an education drive to enforce what could happen, & what actions we all need to take.

I also believe our local council should be more prepared for a possible flood inundation. It is understood that during the February flood in the Clarence, pumps & flood gates were not working properly, & I have noted work being carried out at flood drains AFTER the flood. I have spoken to a lady whose property backs onto a park, which when mowed, the grass is just left to lay. Then when it rains, the water washes it into the drains, clogging them with the grass. We know the flood season starts in January, & I believe all drains, flood gates, pumps etc should be checked from about October.

Grafton evacuation centre is at South Grafton High School Hall, on South Hill, but in the recent flood, both sides of the new bridge approaches were flooded, & the bridge closed. If the South levee breaks, the cross roads from the old bridge would also be closed,

blocking access to the evacuation centre.

The alternative is Junction Hill, but there are no schools or halls there for accommodation, so if residents need to evacuate there, a tent city would need to be erected, & I am not sure our council or SES are prepared for this.

Then of course if access to both areas were blocked, we would have a much bigger catastrophe than in Lismore.

Another point of concern is where residents are being allowed to build. We know that all towns were originally built near a river, as boat was the means of transport at the time, but why are we still building in low areas, knowing they could flood. In Grafton they are even building houses on top of the levee wall!!!

Watching the Lismore flood on TV, it was obvious there was a shortage of flood boats, essential for flood prone areas. Thankfully private boats & helicopters stepped up, & saved many lives.


During the recent floods, Army, Disaster Relief Australia, & Blaze Aid, were involved, but there has been little mention of Resilience NSW, which is supposed to assist with recovery.

Also, we haven't heard much about relief fund monies collected through charities, which should be carefully, but quickly distributed.

Forms to apply for financial assistance should be simplified, so that everyone is able to complete them easily.

At the same time we hear of people not affected by the flood, cheating the system, quoting an address in the flood area. I actually received one of these letters, which I immediately returned to sender. So the form must also be able to eliminate scammers.

Maybe some of this will be of some use in your inquiry.



Yours sincerely,

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