

**From:**  
**To:** [Flood Inquiry](#)  
**Subject:** Flood inquiry submission  
**Date:** Sunday, 8 May 2022 9:29:09 AM

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To the flood inquiry team

I live in Lismore and was, fortunately, one of the few households not directly affected by the recent catastrophic floods - although there was the loss of a car that was at a mechanic downtown.

I have been helping a dear friend whose very tall house in North lismore had 2 metres of water inside the upstairs (never happened before) and lost everything. The devastation is horrible.

I would ask that this inquiry recommends bringing the river system back to health as a priority - planting and reducing damaging run-off.

There is definitely a need to find alternative housing for hundreds of locals, but this should not mean building a lot of new, unsustainable houses on currently uninhabited land.

I am very concerned about impacts on already struggling wildlife and bushland if population pressures change too much. So, instead, the glaringly obvious solution is to change our current housing market structure, This is the main issue. There needs to be a limit placed on the number of homes owned by one person/couple/family. There is a huge issue of investment properties in our region ( and everywhere) that impacts directly on the housing market and, if changed, could make it easier to house flood refugees with existing housing.

I am also in favour of tiny house 'villages' and communities being established on private land if that does not affect local ecosystems. This can definitely be achieved.

There should also be a buy-back scheme for home-owners who, like my friend, lost everything in the Feb flood. This should be set at pre-flood market levels to enable these people the best chance of securing future housing.

As for Lismore's CBD, I think the area should be turned into parkland and a market square as seen in many European centres. There is scope for having daily pop-up or readily mobile (in case of floods) markets and a fantastic recreational (even food tree growing) area in what is currently the CBD of Lismore.

There is still a small need for office space ( that can't be moved elsewhere) and that could be accommodated on the upper levels of some of the more secure/flood-safe buildings. Any chain stores in the CBD can go without any great loss to our community.

Thank you for your consideration of my submission,