

From:
To: [Flood Inquiry](#)
Subject: Submission [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Monday, 9 May 2022 12:39:41 PM

Good Afternoon,

I have a submission/proposal/idea in relation to the emergency response for any future flood emergencies.

Being a serving Highway Patrol Officer and having been involved in last year as well as this year flood events around the Mid North Coast, I have felt helpless when rostered for duty and wanting to assist the public calling for help when flooded in etc. I am only able to drive to a certain point and then I can't travel any further due to the road being flooded and then not being able to assist. Then having to pass on the job to SES, Police Rescue or Water Police who have the resources to access flood victims calling for help. But considering the scale of the recent flood emergencies and most of these resources being a scarce resource, they can't get to every job or are not in the area and the public are not assisted in their time of need.

My proposal is to create a part time swift water/flood rescue unit within the Police and create flood rescue teams in flood prone areas such as Kempsey, Grafton, Lismore etc. Police would be recruited/sourced from the local areas and trained up to able to be deployed in a moments notice. They could be deployed in their local area or to an area that needs assistance. I would envisage that every unit needs a 4wd vehicle and a trailer for equipment. Staff certified would require reced training at the required intervals etc. Each team would have a team leader and a number of trained constables who would be on call and called out when required.

The Police have several part time units across the state such as Police Rescue, Water Police, Tactical Police etc as such it would make sense to consider creating a part time swift water/flood rescue unit, considering the scale of the recent flood emergencies the state has faced. Further, I would suggest recruitment could be targeted to non first response units such as Highway Patrol so as to not disrupt Police daily response from a Police District level.

Regards,