

From: [NSW Government](#)
To: [Flood Inquiry](#)
Subject: Floods Inquiry
Date: Tuesday, 10 May 2022 7:32:44 PM

Your details

Title

First name

Last name

Email

Postcode

Submission details

I am making this submission as

A resident in a flood-affected area

Submission type

I am making a personal submission

Consent to make submission public

I would like this submission to remain anonymous

Share your experience or tell your story

Your story

I live in the upper reaches of the Leycester CK catchment. Our road access is often cut during heavy rain events but the level the creek rose to on 28/2 was terrifying. Watching the water rise and rise and knowing that our little creek is just one tiny tributary of what flows to Lismore and Coraki was really difficult. And the rain continued to pour. I felt helpless as our communication

avenues were cut and we didn't know what was happening to friends, family and the broader community downstream. When we did get snippets of information through it was awful. And then we started to learn of the devastation caused by landslides. Awful.

The school that I teach at was cut off for weeks. Thankfully the school was unharmed but we have students homeless and traumatized by the events.

I had hoped that all of the learning, policies and procedures that followed the havoc of the Cyclone Debbie 2017 floods would mean this one would be better managed. Why wasn't that the case? Where was an effective, coordinated response led by state and federal government? We knew this was going to be bad, why did those leaders just sit back and hope the local emergency services and community had it covered?

Weeks later and we are all still reeling. Asking lots of questions and not getting many answers from political leaders. Every single person I know in this region is struggling with the emotional and mental load post-floods. And as I write this we have more heavy rain forecast.

I am hoping for creative, coherent and inclusive solutions and acknowledgement that this "freak" event is so clearly connected with climate change. My five year old child has lived through two "one in a hundred year floods".

I feel strongly that Lismore's future is in question. And that breaks my heart. To think of all the lives torn apart.

Terms of Reference (optional)

The Inquiry welcomes submissions that address the particular matters identified in its [Terms of Reference](#)

1.1 Causes and contributing factors

- Climate change and a lack of responsiveness to predicted scenarios
- Land clearing and erosion causing river sedimentation and shallower water bodies
- Poor planning policy that allowed development

and residential areas in flood prone areas

- Absence of a state and/or federal run emergency response team on the ground
- Failure to evacuate areas early enough
- Social and economic inequality that meant people most affected were, largely, already struggling.

Supporting documents or images
