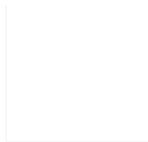


**From:** [NSW Government](#)  
**To:** [Flood Inquiry](#)  
**Subject:** Floods Inquiry  
**Date:** Thursday, 12 May 2022 7:35:41 PM



## 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 Coraki which was flooded except for 6 streets on February 28th 2022 and subsequently. My house was flood free but I am surrounded by flood destruction across Lismore, Coraki, Woodburn, Broadwater, Ballina and Casino, virtually everywhere within 2 hours drive. I want to let you know that persistent theft in our area is a major drain upon our community. Our

local Facebook site, Coraki Community Info is continually fed with comments of theft in the town and on farms and properties in the area. For about a month after the floods, there was more policing, but we need this level of policing continually. Also, there never seems to be any prosecutions because most of the thieving is done by children and the stolen goods passed on to adults. We fear that the kids get drug addicted by their sponsoring adult criminals, too. More attention needs to be paid to the difficulty of policing semi inhabited properties. Flood is so difficult, but continual theft after flood is a real energy and recovery sapper. It is also a difficult racial issue as many indigenous children have been captured on CCTV and seen in the act of theft. Very valuable equipment, money ,vehicles, bikes, generators, anything not personally guarded at the time is taken. This theft does so much to widen The Gap in all Australian rural towns but it is particularly divisive at times of anxiety after major destructive climate change events. A model of post disaster policing support needs to be developed and maintained for years, not weeks as properties and lives and businesses and the people are very insecure. Statistics need to be collated of all the reported theft in our postcode and the surrounding flood affected postcodes, as few people are left untouched by this scourge. However, many people despair of police or court action so they no longer report the thefts because no one is ever caught because police capture methods are so ineffective and need to be changed. Undercover work would be good. Please don't dismiss this major problem, as it leads kids down a miserable path for life, in and out of jail.

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### **Terms of Reference (optional)**

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

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#### **1.1 Causes and contributing**

Flood of surrounding properties, isolation no police force permanently in town of Coraki

## **factors**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>1.2 Preparation and planning</b>                      | Permanent police presence in Coraki   |
| <b>1.3 Response to floods</b>                            | Insufficient police presence, active, undercover and street police presence needs to be upgraded instantly in disaster areas  |
| <b>1.4 Transition from incident response to recovery</b> | No recovery to date, theft is still rampant in town and area, even if not reported because of police and court inaction and despair   |
| <b>1.5 Recovery from floods</b>                          | Recovery is very slow and inhibited by theft  |
| <b>1.6 Any other matters</b>                             | Recommended culture based compulsory education requirements, training and community service requirements and parental requirements for decreased Centrelink income and decreased Centrelink future income for convicted child thieves to recompense for stolen goods, as there are currently insufficient or no negative consequences disincentivising child thieves who quickly become adult criminals and drug dealers. Recommended face to face opportunity between thieves and victims of theft for supervised dialogue to reveal personal positions of the consequences of the thefts and motivation of thieves. |

## **Supporting documents or images**