

Gunnedah NSW

Dear ,

Thank you for your correspondence to the Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience and the Minister for Flood Recovery, the Hon Steph Cooke MP, regarding the recent floods in NSW. The Minister has asked the Department to respond on her behalf.

I am sorry to hear of the damage to your home following the repeated floods that hit Gunnedah recently.

As you are aware, the NSW Government has established an independent inquiry, led by Professor Mary O'Kane AC and Michael Fuller APM, to examine and report on the catastrophic flood events that hit NSW in February and March 2022. Please note that I have passed on your correspondence to the inquiry secretariat so that the issues you have raised can be considered as part of the review.

If you would like to make a further submission, the Inquiry has invited all flood-affected residents, emergency services personnel, and members of the public to make submissions to inform their work. Public submissions can be provided to the inquiry by Friday 20 May:

- By email: inquiry@floodinquiry.nsw.gov.au
- By post: NSW Independent Flood Inquiry, GPO Box 5341, Sydney NSW 2001
- In-person at any Service NSW Service Centre or at a Mobile Service Centre

The Inquiry will also accept and consider late submissions made by people directly impacted by the floods, to ensure they can focus on their recovery and still have their voices heard.

The reviewers are meeting directly with communities in flood-impacted areas. Community sessions will vary between in person and online sessions so all interested people can attend in a way that is most suitable to them. Community meetings have begun to be scheduled, with details available at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/nsw-government/projects-and-initiatives/floodinquiry>.

I hope this advice is of assistance. Your correspondence is really important to help the inquiry hear about how the floods impacted our community.

Thank you for taking the time to write to the Minister.

Yours sincerely

To NSW Independent Flood Inquiry .

My main request ,is that We the flood prone residents of Gunnedah NSW. Have someone to contact when a flood is approaching,in my case ,I rang The SES at least 5 times ,asking could I get help to lift my Fridges,Washing Machine, Furniture. I finally had a call from the SES at Wollongong to tell me that "We do not do that " Luckily the R.F.S .heard of my plight and Owen Tydd and his crew came and lifted my stuff,but unfortunately for a lot of gear it was not high enough This being as the flood was not expected to rise as high as it did .We (Myself and my Neighbour) were told by The SES that we were not going to be flooded.So the first Flood came and peaked on Weds. 24-11-2021 at 8-20 metres ,thus putting about 12 cms. through my home and 3 days later Sunday 28-11-2021 another flood this time 8-61 metres thus 16cms through my home. Then another Flood \$th Dec. 8 metres The Local SES,RFS ,Fire Brigade ,were great in helping during flood,I had to be evacuated from my home by the SES. And The Fire Brigade hosed my home out after water had receded.

I was insured for flood damage with Suncorp and received payment for loss of Contents and Structural damage.And they have been very helpful

The Floors in My home are now collapsing,so Suncorp are now assessing what is happening..

So. My main request is that Gunnedah Has a Flood Cordinator So we the Flood Prone residents can call and find out who we can get help prior to the flood coming into our yards and homes.

Where we can go if flooded out of our homes,who can help to put the things that were lifted up down.I am surrounded by sewer inspection pipes and the sludge was all through my home and yard.All my fences on one side of my home(boardering on Council) land were washed over by the force of the flood.I requested for Council help to put them up."We dont do that"Council Reply.

When flood heights are given out on the Radio or TV the River Heights in metres should be given, Minor Flood no. When the second flood was coming to Gunnedah. Sat. 27-11-2021 The ABC T.V. was asking residents in W.A. to evacuate their homes as a Fire was heading their way, not a mention of the flood coming down the Namoi to Gunnedah In N.S.W..

It seems strange that it was the Rural Fire Service crew that had to come to a Flood Victim as I was, surrounded by water not Fire, One thing I noticed with the three volunteer crews I.E. SES RFS and the Fire Brigade, they are lacking in young volunteers and were worn out after three flood in three weeks,

I can also say that the three Volunteer Groups were most helpful during the 3 flood events mentioned.

My request re Flood events in Gunnedah.

That a Flood or Disaster Co-ordinator be appointed at Gunnedah . Who should be aware of how and where and how the flood affects Gunnedah.

That Flood prone residents be made aware of pre Flood matters I.E. Tie your Garbage Bins up, tie your Gas Bottles up, Put a bag of sand in your toilet, put oil tins up . Clean up any rubbish in their yards (Big ASK). S.E.S. have a booklet that every flood prone house holder should have..

Flood prone residents should be made aware of who to contact when the flood is coming. At the moment , Who ?

An Major Effort to recruit new (and younger) volunteers to join S.E.S. R.F.S, and local Fire Brigade. be made.

Radio and TV made to be active in flood events ,our local radio station .is now not very local.

After Flood help be made necessary for Flood Victims.

Thank You.