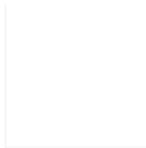


From: [NSW Government](#)
To: [Flood Inquiry](#)
Subject: Floods Inquiry
Date: Monday, 16 May 2022 8:48:38 AM



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

We are owner builders in the North Lismore floodplain. We have lived there since 2007, I was born in Lismore in 1989 and have lived in the town my whole life. I live with my husband and our two-year-old toddler in our Highset house on the Wilson River in North Lismore. We bought the house fully knowing that the 1974 floods We are about kitchen bench height through the

house and so we built and prepared accordingly. We built a room in the roof of our house as a flood bail out, we put hooks in the ceilings of the bedrooms to suspend our furniture and bedding from. We lined many of our walls with cement sheeting rather than Jip Rock when we did renovations, knowing well that what I would likely come through our house in the years to come. We experience The 2017 floods, staying home and rescuing all of our possessions. That flood came around shin height through our house. The cleanup was memorable, we were relieved to know that we had probably seen the worst flood that we would see for at least another 10 years. With the 2022 flood that we just experienced, our minds have been blown and our sense of security and home Shattered. Over the course of 24 hours we watched our every attempt at preparation go underwater. During the day we were preparing for possibly a 10 meter flood, that is 1 m below our floor boards. We took our pigs, goats, chickens to Highground, prepared our boat, moved our cars to Highground, lifted everything upstairs. That is a hard day's work in itself, especially with a toddler and Lorraine, and my husband recently underwent brain surgery which has left him with a substantial limp that makes all of this work all that much harder. As the day closed in tonight we realised that the water was going to reach our floor boards and we decided that I would leave the house with our toddler. We just made it out by the skin of our teeth, some friends drove over from town just before the last Brige was cut. My husband Joel stayed home and worked tirelessly all night, lifting lifting lifting everything that we owned up to higher ground and hoisting the bed and the furniture and everything up to the ceilings. By Dawn it was obvious that the water had well so past the 1974 level and was rising rapidly. Joel left our house as he saw the water lapping our ceilings, he paddled across the river in our canoe. It was the most frightening 24 hours of our lives. Heartbreaking days followed as we

realise the extent of damage, and we saw all of our friends and neighbours wandering aimlessly like zombies through a soggy reality. Most people had nothing but the clothes on the back. My dad lives around the corner from us and I had the petrifying experience of receiving a message from him telling me he was climbing onto the roof His house at 4 am by himself in the dark and wet, he is 70 years old. His plan was to swim to higher ground. You can imagine my relief to hear that somebody in a boat had rescued him. I have no intention of moving home. My nervous system is totally rattled and I can't see a future beyond this rebuild. The work is gruelling and slow. The heart ache that follows trying to build a place that you don't even want to live in, that you still owe money on, it all seems so pointless. We are living in temporary accommodation and trying to rebuild our house so that we can rent it out to somebody who is bold enough to live there. If there were any opportunities for land swap or buy back We would be very interested to explore how we can get our family and our future out of the floodplain that has Transformed from our castle to a pit of misery.

Terms of Reference (optional)

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

1.2 Preparation and planning

We have spent the better half of 15 years preparing for flights as we build and renovate our home. We put rocks in our ceilings to save our furniture, we kept hardwood floors through the house, we build a room in the roof of the house, we have lined all of our walls with cement sheeting as we have renovated, we have put taps on our debts so we can hose off before the water subsides, how life has been built around floods.

1.3 Response to floods

All hands on deck. Friends and family, random volunteers all marked in to remove soggy

furniture, hose, and strip walls. At the moment the house is a carcass.

1.4 Transition from incident response to recovery

Slow. I am still in incident response in my nervous system. We cleaned up our houses and left the area for a few weeks in search of some relief.

1.5 Recovery from floods

Recovery will take years. At the moment I do not know what recovery looks like. We are cleaning and rebuilding. I feel like we will recover when we know where we will be living permanently again

Supporting documents or images

Attach files

- [EB7A0DCE-F51B-464C-8A78-20F07C467B93.jpeg](#)
 - [3015AB6B-F65A-4F92-A315-A389E1787590.jpeg](#)
 - [B26D4597-7EB3-4DEA-B700-CD971F36B34C.jpeg](#)
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