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May 18, 2022

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Means to Mitigate the Impacts of the Next Big Flood

Recently many in the Tweed Valley suffered terrible physical, financial and psychological damage with the total or partial destruction of homes and businesses.

Whilst the damage to our home was in the 'moderate' category we, like very many, have taken months to replace what we could and to clean up.

This leaves us with three options in going forward: Move from the Tweed, do nothing and 'hope for the best', or be ready for the next flood. Given that we don't want to move and doing nothing is not an option we have been exploring available 'flood mitigation' options and products that are readily available.

Floods occur all around the world and have done so in areas such as the Tweed for a very long time.

Googling 'Flood Mitigation Products' delivers hundreds of products of all sizes, technologies, shapes, and costs. However, it is extremely difficult to assess the suitability of these products and establish which, if any, are suitable and value for money. Unlike taking a car for a test drive you are likely to only find out if the product is effective as the water rises!

We settled on this product, but it is one of many commercially available:
<https://floodsax.com.au>

This is where the NSW State Government, the SES and relevant Councils could play a very valuable role at minimal cost.

This would involve an industry day for providers of flood mitigation goods and services to display to the public the latest means to mitigate the impact of floods on homes, businesses, and public buildings. It would also provide a means for providers to link with local businesses to have local distributors and product support. As such it would be like a farm field day, boat show etc.

The main role for Government entities would be coordination, communication, and the provision of space for exhibitors.

Some of the benefits we see include:

1. Many of the actions currently proposed by Government are likely to take months, years, or possibly decades to implement. This could be put in place within 6 months.
2. The cost is likely to be minimal (and could be recouped from exhibitors). From discussions with residents and the SES there would be significant support for this initiative and much of the work could be done by local volunteers.
3. Most Councils (such as Tweed) have space for such exhibitions. Indeed the Tweed Council hosted a very valuable Flood Recovery Centre.
4. It would empower local landholders to take their own initiatives without direct involvement with Government.

I would be pleased to expand on this should it be of interest.