

From:
To: [Flood Inquiry](#)
Subject: It won't send
Date: Wednesday, 18 May 2022 2:10:45 PM
Attachments: [Intense rain bomb event](#) [crt copy.pdf](#)
[Here's to wise.pdf](#)
[Screen Shot 2018-05-03 at 7.22.50 am.png](#)

Tried to make a submission to this enquiry - I ve got more urgent things to do - like cleanup after a flood. !!!

I've just spent 3 hrs on this submission and it doesn't send - cant you make it a simple task ???

I'm over it - here is my word draft and a powerpoint

Intense rain bomb event

Feb 28 /March 2022

Mullubimby 2482

Damage caused by water, mud and mold

Affecting the home & studio, professional & anthropological
collection of internationally recognised

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Researcher, Writer, Event presenter,
retired teacher, pensioner

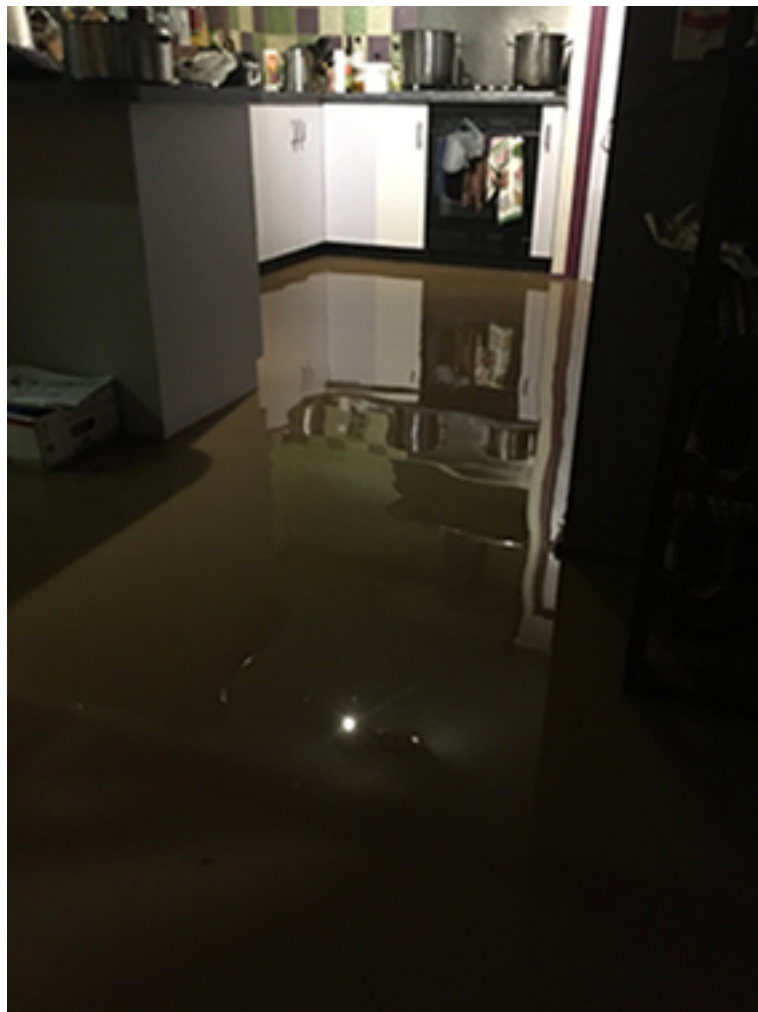


Fig. 1 5.39am Fig. 2 water still rising 5.40am - looking out back door, water covering dyepot - one eucalyptus and two indigo dye vats destroyed
Fig. 3 sandbagged doors with towels, blankets. 5.41am



Fig. 4 Lounge room 5.40am.

Fig. 5 water creeping in, lifting carpet Lounge room 5.45 am

Fig. 6 Sweeping out water & mud Feb 28 7.20am



Fig. 7 bathroom still rising 7.22am

Fig. 8 looking into the back garden 7.24am

Fig. 9 Lounge room 10.40am



Fig 10/11 Kitchen mud, water sitting for a couple of days.



Fig 12. dining room 9.44am

Fig 13/14 lounge-room window with water height /watermark on screen

Fig.15 Verandah sofa with mud in base and on cushions



Fig 16. antique chairs on mud carpet
 Fig 17 slippers in mud
 Fig 18 grandkids toys in mud
 Fig 19. saturated carpet beneath piano



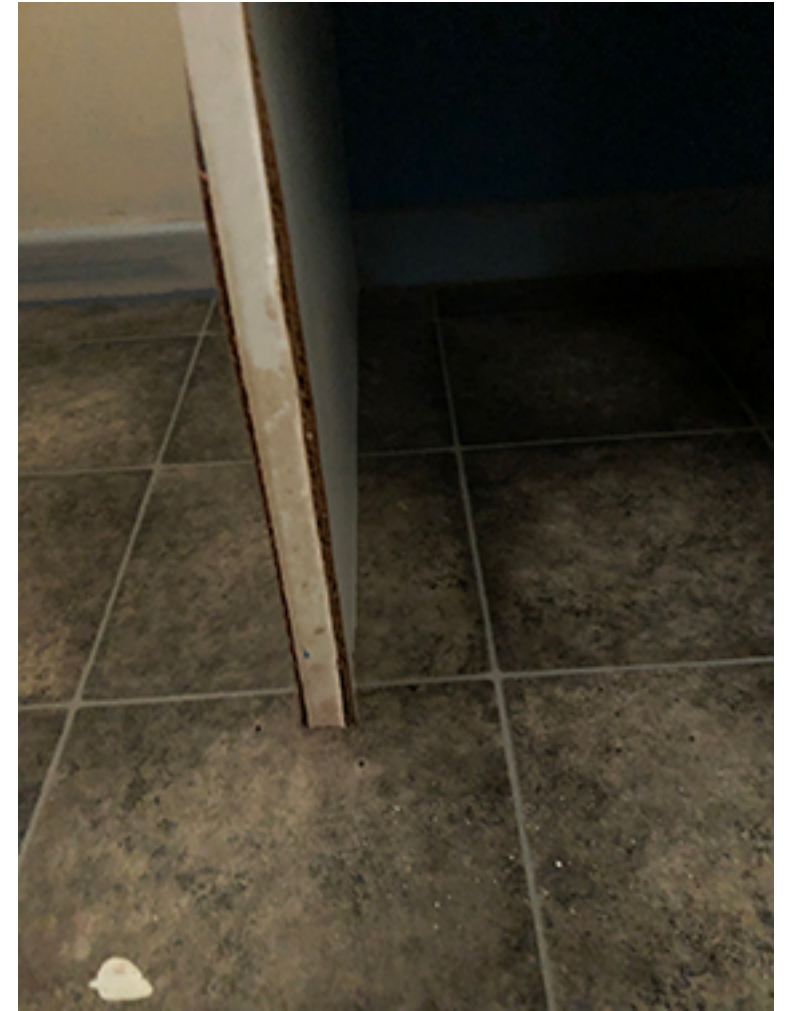


Fig 20. my textile sculpture in lounge room.

Fig 21. mud saturated carpet

Fig 22 wall partition in study - demonstrating water seepage and peeling of laminate



Fig 23. toilet still rising water.

Fig 24/5 toilet and passage second water entry



Fig 26/7 . Bathroom: tiles falling off .

Fig28 gap forming around tiles and shower
Fig 29 bottom of vanity swelling , mud damage



Fig 30/31/32/33 Front verandah watermark /water level



Fig34front door entrance.
Fig 35/36 march 2. 9.55am



Fig 37. Study/sewing room: antique Persian. Rug no 2.

Fig 38. Bedroom 1: antique Persian rug no 3



Fig 39. Shoes – from the floor bedroom 1



Fig 40. Hosing antique Persian rugs

Fig 41. Removing mattresses, 1 double, 1 single

Fig 42. fold out single bed



Fig 43. Piles of blankets and towels used for blocking flood entry.

Fig 44. my favourite woolly

fig 45. volunteers at work



Fig. 46/7 back verandah – studio entrance and storage area, mud throughout



Fig 48. water level back verandah

Fig 49. studio mud

Fig 50. morning visitor to the mudded studio March 2 10.48 am



Fig 51 My art studio: mud cover

Fig 52. mud cover, everything tipped over by force of water torrent through the workspace

Fig 53. silky oak wardrobe ply back warped will need to be taken off and replaced



Fig 54/55/6 Kitchen damage behind dishwasher and above kickboard



Fig 57 Kitchen mud, gap appearing behind kitchen bench

Fig 58. kickboard

Fig 59 in cavity near oven

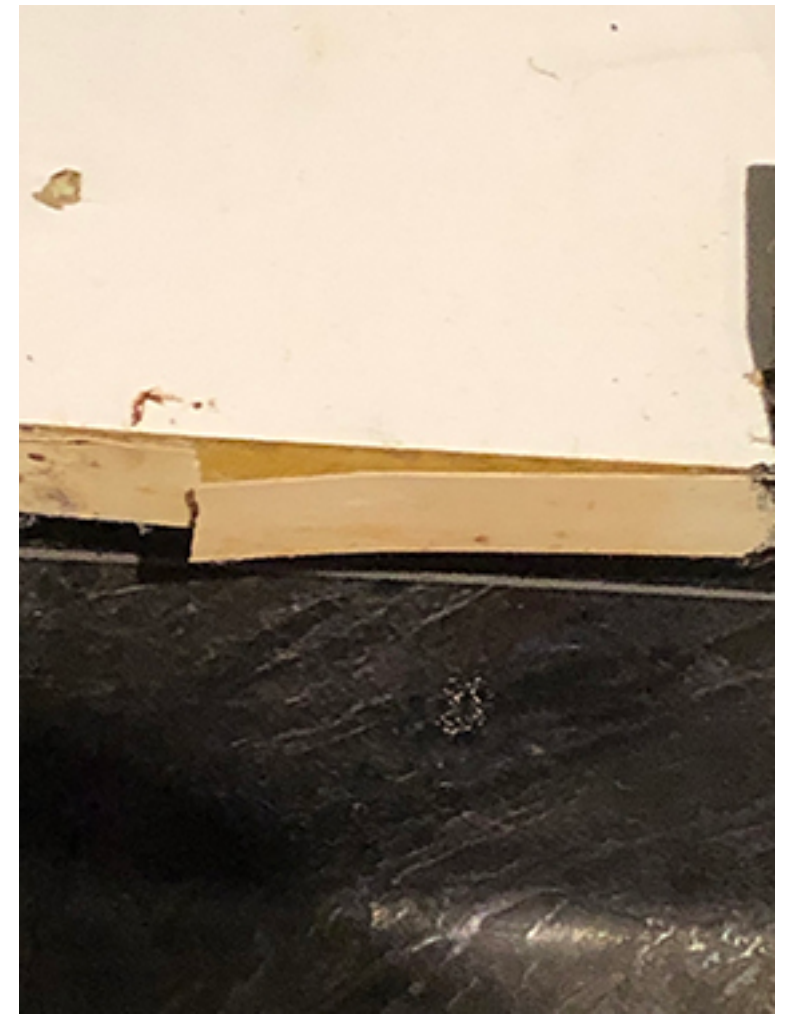


Fig 60/61/62 Kitchen inside cupboards peeling and lifting, stinking inside, everything is effected by the mud dust and mold



Fig 63/64/65 Pantry & kitchen damage



Fig 66/67 Examples of the valuable collection of Aboriginal desert art - anthropological value. Not damaged visibly, but subject to mold and damp - conservation work needed.

Fig 68. two de- humidifiers and 5 fans trying to dry interior out 24/7



Fig 69-73 Central Desert aboriginal paintings –acrylic on canvas
anthropological value. mold developing .



Fig 74 Family heirloom paintings Grandfathers painting of Tasmania 1989



Fig 75 Family heirloom paintings now covered in mold





Fig 76/7/8/9. Examples of textile artworks, shibori sculpture, and works on paper – ready for public display, damaged by mud, moisture retention and mold.

Material integrity can no longer be guaranteed, making them not fit for exhibition

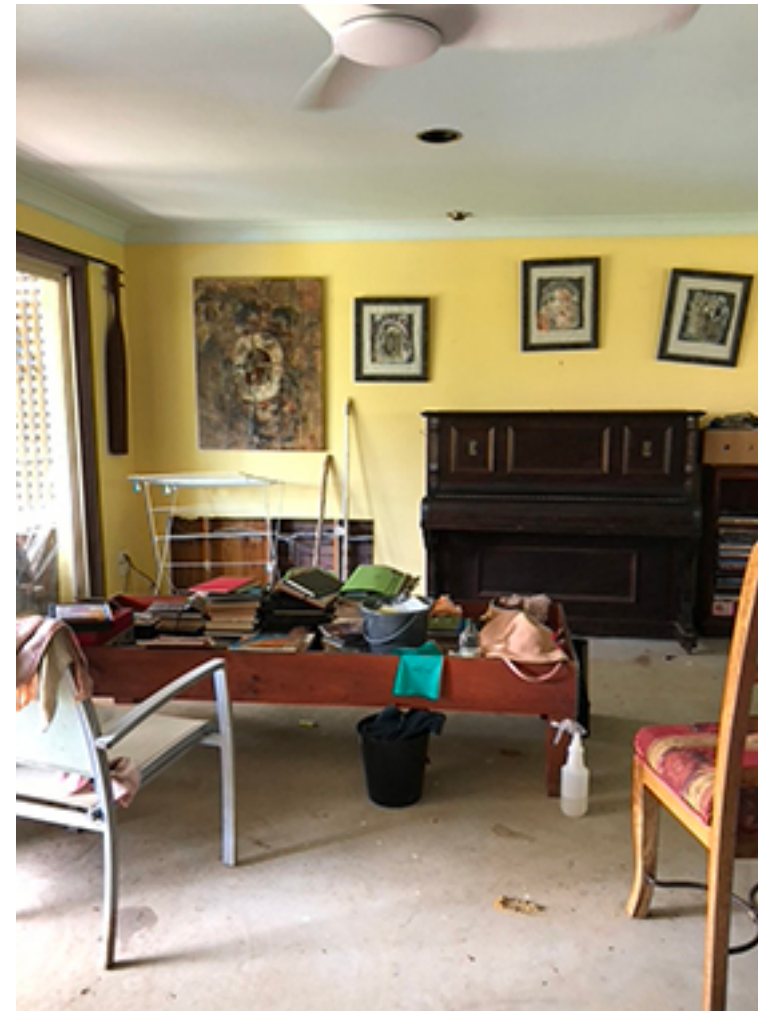


Fig 80 small sample of my professional research library

Fig 81 damp & dust effecting some 200 books all books wiped with eucalyptus/cloves/vinegar to deter mold, irreparable damage



Fig 81.1/81.2 relatively new fan was broken when someone took something tall out to dry, note black mold forming

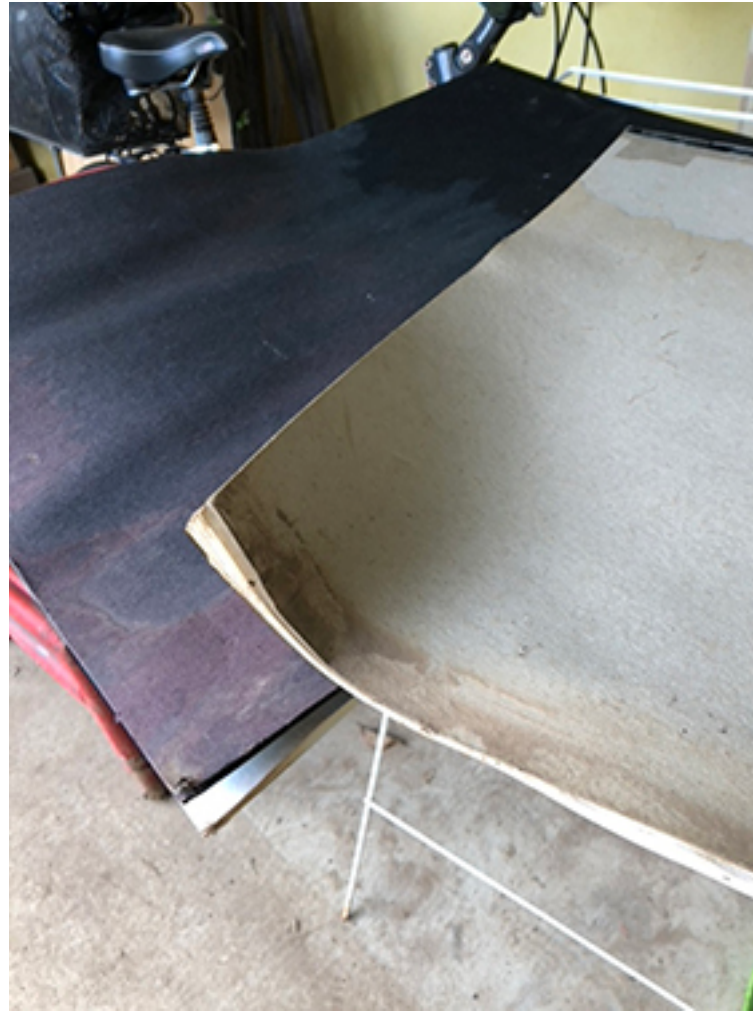


Fig 82/83/84 Examples of the many art materials damaged, much larger quantity of art materials not retrievable has been detailed in the written account of damage some hundreds of materials lost no longer suitable for professional use, integrity of materials in serious doubt, beyond retrievable



Fig 85/6 Water level over 50cm, mud covering
Hand woven mat from remote Borneo not retrievable

Fig 87 Studio desk, chipboard bottom drawer is jammed and stinky
all contents will be damaged beyond retrieving.



Fig 88/9 studio walls, cavity mud , lining and insulation removed,
Fig 90 muddled sliding door



Fig 91/93 thread spools, embroidery threads ,specialty threads, ribbons, needles, pins, beads, buttons, laces, elastic, patterns scissors, cutting mat, rotary cutter, all floating in water - water level must have been more than 50 cm



Fig 94 /95/96 Miscellaneous sculpture tools stored in the vestibule , textile and felting tools lost – files, rulers, saws, Dewalt battery drill, a drill set bit set, sander thermometer, PH meter, vapour mask suitcase, ruined by mud and water.

Fig 97 Cast iron dual gas burner filled with mud



Fig 98/9/100 Garden wrecked - Landscaping and fill needed



Fig. 101 river in pathway 28 Feb 6.58 PM.. neighbour's verandah

Before the third water event - evacuated to RSL centre for the night.

Fig 102/3 Landscaping remodelled pavers and pebbles will need to be re laid,
blus metal needed



Fig 104 insulation from studio walls.
Fig 105 studio wall lining,
Fig 106 particle board filing cabinet .



Fig 107 Fig 59 restored antique cupboard used to showcase works and store fabrics

Fig 108 pile on nature strip, dryer not working

Fig 109 front sofa demonstrating mud level,



Fig 110/111 Toppling garden shed, shelves collapsed (chip board on milk crates)

Fig 112 sculpture materials lost, one whole sculpture no longer suitable for exhibition – tossed, miscellaneous paints and other materials lost



Fig. 113 Western wall rain damage on render, mold recently formed



Fig 114/15/16 Mold beginning to show on the eaves - front verandah
peeling mold above the door



Fig 117 /8 peeling paint under the eaves



Fig 119 Sandbags at front door in case
Fig 120/21 More rain entering the verandah area

Flood story Here's to wise, wonderful older women

Had it not been for the awesome Mullumbimby community response I don't believe that I would have been able to proceed towards cleanup and return to my home. I think I would have just walked out to sea.

My house was flooded, my art studio, my car, my whole property. young people in this community were fantastic. People who had survived, themselves scrubbed, and scraped, and carried to get rid of the stinky flood mud, now its sewer dust. people came from everywhere

I was quite disgusted with the politicians talk - absolutely inexcusable - if people live in this environment then they must expect their houses to wash away - of all thing from the minister for emergency services. Sack him. Insulting the public, especially in a time of trauma, is not his job - there needs to be empathy and on ground action.

I am a mature and intelligent woman, 73 yr old pensioner, a solo homeowner. This is a category of our community that deserves special consideration at the time of the event, and in the aftermath.

I was dislocated. I have slept in 19 different beds, in 11 weeks. that means picking everything up every single shift, not knowing where medications are - in my car or in the bag that I brought in, or did I leave something at the last place, I've lost my treasured walking stick. I am attempting to negotiate forms, dates, procedures, insurance companies. I'm pretty intelligent, I pity others who are not able to manage the demands that disaster recovery places on the elderly. This form - who has the energy in midst of trauma to complete this by the due date.

I couldn't put time aside to sit and ponder how I might make applications for some financial that might have been available for

me, support that had very short preparation and therefore quick cut off dates. so I've not received several grants for which I might have been eligible.

I am aware that industry and charitable organisations were very generous with bedding and household needs, much of it new, but without wheels to go and collect, without someone to speak up on my behalf, and in the rush to make the most of the voluntary cleanup help, I could not go and express my wish to receive some of these goods, I could not spend time to sit in crowded rooms and wait my turn, when there was mud to be shovelled out of my house and stinky wet carpet to be cut up and removed.

As a consequence, although I asked, now all that is left at the recovery centre is second hand clothes. And now that the voluntary labour has dried up, but the mud hasn't, I'm on my own. I still need help. I need help to navigate the insurance companies. I need help to pack 70 years of life, collections, furniture, antiques, experiences, belongings. I need help with my health. I can't lift rubbish bins, I can't take loads of stuff to the tip, I can't locate storage facilities, negotiate transport, shipping containers, sandbags.

I need help to navigate my way through the rebuilding of my home. I don't know what materials will be best when the next disaster comes. I need to be confident that I am putting in the right stuff I need to be able to project manage and direct a resilient rebuild. I am not at all confident that the insurance builders will give a damn about what replaces gyprock so that it doesn't soak away and go oldy again next time. I am not confident they will do anything that I care about.

I notified my insurance company on the day that the flood happened, in the hope that early bird attention would see things attended to for me in some haste. I was told a Make Safe would be conducted. that would mean I could stay living in my house - I'm still waiting for that. I've suffered considerable health effects from working in this sewer dust and mold. I am fortunate to have done

my insurance through a broker - if it hadn't been for them, I'd be on the street.

I was given emergency accommodation - in Byron at a holiday apartment - 29 days later and my cover for accommodation is \$8.5 thousand less. and my car has used \$80worth of fuel running back & forth to Byron. I was asked to vacate due to prior bookings over Easter. I packed everything into my smelly car again, having tried to vacuum the mud from the first inundation. it was not till 6pm that I was finally told that accommodation for that night was secured. Luckily I had been calling into the Neighbourhood Centre every day and enquiring about places to stay.

The broker says, that the insurance are supposed to organise accomodation, they are supposed to organise the Make Safe, the storage or containers. Well that might happen - sometime. but not in the time frame that is needed, especially a traumatised aged pensioner - trying to do this alone, without 'mates helping mates' scenarios.

I saw an assessor on April 1. he left me confident that he would look after me, check my claim, help me through the process. He had been in Australia 5 days, from USA, got lost on the way from Lismore to MULLumbimby, was an hr late, but nevertheless, left me fairly confident that I had an advocate. He said email me, I'll be back. I'll look after you. NEVER saw him again. Eventually i received word that he had recommended that for a house of my size, with 73 years of experiences, and being an artist, my full policy should be paid out because for every single thing had been effected by water, mud or mold.. Well now that I need to pack what I have salvaged, the company seems to think that storage is not their responsibility. ... so here we go again another hassle for me to try to negotiate.

I'm 73 ! I have a bit more to my life than a few momentos- as they have called it - I've had a profession, a family, a community that I

have given to all my life. The results should be respected if they can be salvaged. Yes I'm insulted and worn out.

There needs to be some sort of advocacy for single, elderly women - not only those who are sleeping rough, not only those suffering physical and mental illnesses, not only those whose energy and finances are swallowed up so easily by an unjust and fast consumerist society that encourages arrogant politicians to speak without empathy. Here's for the older members of our communities that are much richer for our wisdom, and eldership, our leadership, our motherhood roles. Lets help them, not treat them like second rate citizens.