

From:
To: [Flood Inquiry](#)
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The Feb28 flood came to approx. 100metres from my home in , East Lismore. We were without power for 5days which was of course inconvenient and frustrating, especially with no communication about when power would be resumed.

The destruction, devastation and loss in my town, together with the slow recovery and uncertain future are hard to live with.

The record flood is, without doubt, an effect of climate change, and any response must recognise that such floods will happen again in our lifetimes.

The losses resulting from the flood were greatly exacerbated by the decentralised SES not responding to warnings of extraordinary rainfalls and creek rises in the headwaters. It is my recollection that this also happened in 2017!

It seems that preparation for such a disasters was revealed as inadequate by the chaotic recovery situation.

Phone and internet services proved unable to provide critical service in the emergency. It seemed that restoration of power was hampered by an insufficient workforce. The transition from response to recovery has been similarly unfit for the need.

In response to the devastating hailstorm in Sydney in 1999 the government quickly established the Southern Sydney Recovery Task Force which engaged qualified people to door knock affected areas to ensure that people were not living in dangerous or unhealthy conditions. At the same time information was gathered to determine the extent of damage in order to inform the city's challenges in recovery. The Task Force also engaged with tradespeople and suppliers to expedite the necessary work.

I am not aware of any similar response in our floods- in fact it seems that the responsibility has been largely taken by individuals and community organisations such as Resilient Lismore.

It seems that the possibility of gaining financial support for those who have suffered loss has been incredibly difficult and frustrating, especially for people struggling mentally and physically. A very poorly contrived labyrinth!

An additional frustration and uncertainty is the question of land swaps and buy-backs. Such strategies are needed quickly to offer immediate alternatives to residential flood victims. The Government should have such policies in place ready to deal with all major disasters. Similarly longer term plans need to consider relocation evolution of the CBD.

I do not believe that Lismore can be protected from a flood such as the one we experienced. It is my understanding the Lismore's existing levee exacerbated conditions downstream and the overtopping of the levee created a "tsunami" which caused unnecessary damage in the CBD. Increasing the levee height would be expensive madness! Massive floods are the future and we need to adapt; it is naive to think we can control such forces!

East Lismore

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