

From: [NSW Government](#)
To: [Flood Inquiry](#)
Subject: Floods Inquiry
Date: Thursday, 19 May 2022 9:21:04 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

I have lived in Lismore for 20-odd years and have seen floods come and go, including 2017. The house I was renting has a 13m floor upstairs so I never thought it would be inundated. My housemate and I cleared downstairs to the best of our ability and expected maybe the same height as 2017. We went to bed on Sunday night expecting to be flooded in for a few days while

the water receded. We woke up at 3am with water already at this height and it was still torrential rain. We tried to call ses and police for advice but realised we were on our own. Water started coming in the house around 6am. We also lost power about then. We made arrangements for climbing on a table at the front of the house hoping to be rescued. We tried emergency numbers again and got through to 000. Their advice was to get up high. The access to our roof was via a wardrobe in one of the bedrooms and was already impossible to get to. Occasionally small boats would go past and we were calling for help. By about 10am we were quite frightened and moved higher by putting a chair on the table in the front window at treetop height. Eventually we were rescued along with neighbours around noon. After crossing Ballina Rd bridge on foot in knee-high water we hopped into another boat and up to water's edge. We went briefly to the evacuation centre but felt very unsafe there and had friends pick us up. What a day!

Terms of Reference (optional)

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

1.1 Causes and contributing factors

It seems that predicted levels and warnings were misleading and inaccurate. This includes old notions of one in 100 year etc. Climate change has rendered all previous knowledge obsolete. If authorities aren't honest about this, we the public will lose all faith and anarchy will ensue.

1.2 Preparation and planning

There didn't seem to be any assistance available from Police or emergency services. Without citizens in Tinnies I think we would have died. I am dismayed that there have been warnings about increased catastrophic weather events for years but no mitigation or planning for it.

1.3 Response to floods

I am very thankful for the ordinary citizens who came together instantly to save lives. Authorities

should be ashamed of their responses.

**1.4 Transition
from incident
response to
recovery**

I have lost all my worldly possessions. All the accumulated belongings of my adult children and myself. All the precious memories collected through the years and from travelling the world. A house full of furnishings and belongings I have worked all my life for. Instead I now wear other peoples clothes, sleep in other people's beds and rely on the kindness of them sharing. This is devastating to me and my sense of self.

**1.5 Recovery from
floods**

My recovery has been painful and slow. I suffer with PTSD in all kinds of circumstances around rain, water and loss. I have left Lismore and don't see how I will be able to return. This means I also suffer feelings of dislocation, isolation and loss of community. I don't think I will ever recover from this.

Supporting documents or images
