

**From:** [NSW Government](#)  
**To:** [Flood Inquiry](#)  
**Subject:** Floods Inquiry  
**Date:** Thursday, 19 May 2022 11:16:06 PM

## Your details

Title

First name

Last name

Email

Postcode

## Submission details

**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**

My home in Lismore was not flooded. The homes of many of my friends however were flooded to their ceilings. Three of my closest friends list most of their possessions and have not been able return home. I have two people and their beloved animals living in my shed. Like so many others, my life has been consumed by the catastrophic events of the two floods and the aftermath for our town and region. We have cleaned houses and businesses, ripped out

walls, cleaned mould, cooked meals, been companions, driven people without cars to appointments, out of town shops, to other friends and family, to Lifeline. I work for myself and I'm only now, 2.5 months later, starting paid work again. This is so much bigger than most outsiders -those who do believe Lismore people were prepared for a 1974 type flood- have any true sense of. But we are all increasingly in danger - fire, flood, cyclone. All of us in Lismore are impacted... our town dark and silent at night and longer treks to shop were locals often complain about our presence. This will hurt my friends for a long time... hard cold winter or possibly two in a caravan in the drive. My friends will still be living in my shed for a while yet... it's a lovely shed but it is A SHED! These floods and the fear of more into the future is paralysing for so many.

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## **Terms of Reference (optional)**

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

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<b>1.1 Causes and contributing factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- historical and current land practices such as deforestation and clearing of river banks</li><li>- extraordinary weather event over a number of days</li><li>- impact of climate change</li><li>- misinformation and lack of knowledge imparted to general public from centralised official sources</li></ul>
<b>1.2 Preparation and planning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- community planning from Resilience Lismore, Koori Mail and charities has been amazing</li><li>- it was harder to see where government planning was successful in moving quickly</li></ul>
<b>1.3 Response to floods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- community response was rapid and that is to be expected... we are on the scene (but it was amazing... covered in mud and someone would appear with a cooked meal... even a beer appeared late one afternoon!)</li><li>- federal government assistance from the army felt very slow</li></ul>

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### **1.5 Recovery from floods**

- helping friends with grant applications indicates very stressful process
- it's going to be a very long haul
- feeling worried for flood friends ability to remain strong and resilient through the coming cold and, we hear, wet winter

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### **Supporting documents or images**

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#### **Attach files**

- [inbound6804428504366283472.jpg](#)
  - [inbound7158339975955378305.jpg](#)
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SIGHT SEERS  
GO AWAY