

From: [NSW Government](#)
To: [Flood Inquiry](#)
Subject: Floods Inquiry
Date: Friday, 20 May 2022 11:21:19 PM



Your details

Title

First name

Last name

Email

Postcode

Submission details

I am making this submission as

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Submission type

I am making a personal submission

Consent to make submission public

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Share your experience or tell your story

Terms of Reference (optional)

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

1.6 Any other matters

There has been a long term reduction in resilience and preparedness

Historical Perspective

In the 1955 Maitland floods Army DUKWS (amphibious trucks) were used for flood rescue. DUKWS have now been replaced in Defence with LARCs.

“In the early 1950s the authorities had placed its fleet of DUKWs at strategic positions around NSW, specifically to respond to flood crises. There were two based at Grafton, two at Lismore and four at Newcastle, with another 10 in Sydney.”

<https://www.phototimetunnel.com/trucks-dukws-and-surfboats-were-heroes-of-the-flood-at-maitland-in-1955>

Flood Rescue Role

SES should have primary role but resilience comes from redundancy so Defence, RFS & FRNSW should all have local capability to perform flood rescues at night in adverse conditions.

Desirable features of flood boats would include trailerable, jets rather than props, aluminium construction, twin motors.

Desirable accessories would include GPS with 1:25,000 topo maps, vehicle (car) GPS, depth sounder, boarding ramps or ladders, depth sounders and night vision aids (thermal imaging).

Maintain Supply Chains.

Defence should be tasked with establishing supply chains for stranded Coles, Woolworths, Aldi & IGA stores. This should be from the point of road closure to the store and be established within 48 hours of disruption.

They should be capable of moving frozen, refrigerated and dry provisions by truck, boat etc and transferring between modes as required. Defence should be tasked with providing limited

power to support the operation of these stores. Defence should have a separate budget for these roles.

Flood boats

The most capable flood boat would be able to work at night, in adverse weather, in fast flowing waters and obstructions. It would be preferable to be jet powered, have an aluminium hull and twin engines.

There then needs to be a range of less capable but much cheaper boats making up the rest of the fleet. Consideration should also be given to amphibious vehicles to operate in slow moving waters (eg LARC & Argo)

Communications Resilience.

The original copper telephone service had really high resilience and required no power at the consumer end.

The current NBN replacements require 12V backup for both the modem and other equipment. This is not normally provided.

Suggest that the the option for battery backup be encouraged and that such backup should include a 12v supply for the modem.

Mobile phone towers.

Problems – insufficient resilience after grid power failure, lack of call & data prioritisation, disconnection from 000 network, lack of redundant connectivity.

Power Fail - should be able to operate for a minimum of 48 hours after power fail and preferably one week. If not able to operate beyond 48 hours must have a contingency plan – eg Army unit with flood boat with ATV loaded, has keys and training to refuel generators.

When main data link fails must have sufficient (satellite?) backup to carry 000 calls & SMS .

When tower becomes congested must disconnect longest call and accept new calls.

Flood watch.

When there is the possibility of major bridges or roads being cut or levees over-topped two organisations should be required to maintain an overnight flood watch so there are no surprises.

Happy to further discuss any of these points.

Supporting documents or images
