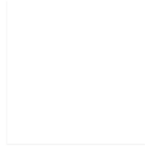


From: [NSW Government](#)
To: [Flood Inquiry](#)
Subject: Floods Inquiry
Date: Friday, 20 May 2022 1:25:35 PM



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

In June 2021 I bought a house in South Lismore. It was my first home and at 64 I was very fortunate to secure finance so I was thrilled. I was enjoying the ability to do what I wanted to house and garden for once and found my neighbours friendly and welcoming. I have lived in the Lismore area since the 80s and had been in a big flood a couple of times so

knew of the risks. The real estate agent and the council had said that the hundred year level came halfway up the foundations but not in the house as it had been raised by previous owners. In late February when it was obvious that a flood was imminent I prepared for what I thought would happen and went to stay with friends on the hill. In the morning we realised that it was an emergency situation but had to wait for the water to recede before accessing my house. The devastation that greeted me was unbelievable. The water had risen to chest high upstairs and everything was ruined. While the house was still standing the old shed in the back had been lifted up by the torrent and smashed into the back of the house, such was the power of the surge. A number of houses in the street had been washed off their stumps and debris was everywhere. With amazing help from countless volunteers slowly we stripped and salvaged what we could. I now have a bare shell that's uninhabitable that I owe a lot of money for. It's been almost 3 months now and I am still waiting for insurance assessors to contact me. I'm also keen to know what the future for South Lismore will be. I would like to stay living there and slowly return to life but first I need to know

- * is council serious about moving or raising houses and what the financial support will be
- * if council lets people stay, will they introduce building codes that promote building materials that are superior in inundation events and prohibit those that aren't
- * will council waive rates and water fees on properties that are uninhabitable

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

In the case of South Lismore it would seem that the expansion of the industrial estate and the defacto levees that were built have exacerbated the flow of flood waters and channeled them to

the residential areas.

1.2 Preparation and planning

Poor communication with outlying areas of the catchment due to mobile service stopping contributed to not enough warning of what was coming

1.3 Response to floods

If it wasn't for the tinny flotilla many more lives would have been lost
If it wasn't for the mud army many people would have been completely overwhelmed at the task

1.4 Transition from incident response to recovery

The army was days late and the excuse that they couldn't get in earlier due to the roads being damaged was poor- isn't that what they are equipped to do; rebuild roads in response to natural disaster?

1.5 Recovery from floods

The federal government response is laughable when compared to how things happened post Cyclone Tracy all those years ago

1.6 Any other matters

I would like to see a shopfront run by council/ state government that supplies advice to residents and businesses wishing to rebuild on appropriate materials to use and how to source them and even organising bulk purchases to reduce costs.

Supporting documents or images
