

From: [NSW Government](#)
To: [Flood Inquiry](#)
Subject: Floods Inquiry
Date: Friday, 20 May 2022 4:43:15 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

My family and I live on the main street coming into Mullumbimby. Our house has never flooded before and we have confirmation from the previous owners in addition, our elderly neighbours for which there are several that have been here for generations and have NEVER seen our house or neighbouring houses from street all the way into town never ever

flood. It flooded 63 cm and came into our home ankle-deep on 28 February 2022. The information provided by the Bureau of Meteorology was inaccurate and ill-prepared. Yet the Higgins chasing Storms website was accurate and more relevant. Why was that so? There were no evacuation orders nor any warnings provided. What was that so? There have been numerous investigations and reports done on how to pre plan for such emergencies in case of telecommunications failures yet none of these recommendations have been implemented. Why is this so? There has been a reduction in funding for SES and other emergency services and frankly there was no one apart from the volunteers from the community that could rescue us. Why is this so? Telecommunications such as landline phone and wifi were not available for use for several weeks. Why is this so? We have had a critical housing crisis for years now in the northern rivers and the floods have only compounded that. Why has there been promises by the state government to provide housing when it is blatantly lacking as such the majority of people that have been flood affected have been left homeless or forced to remain in unhealthy mouldy and damaged homes. All major roads including the M1 highway were flooded why are there not back up plans to address road damage done immediately? Why was there such a delayed response to engaging and bringing the ADF in earlier? Why over two months later are a lot of these roads still unsafe to drive on? There was an extensive period of a shortage in food, petrol, medicines and building supplies. An over reliance and exhaustion by volunteers. Local schools were closed for far too long, students missed out again on a whole term of learning. Extensive issues and delays in accessing government grants and support. The cost of flood insurance prohibitive in some areas and still no insurance assessment provided. Sadly it is common knowledge within Byron shire council and the local community that the

sewage system and local stormwater drains are poorly maintained because of a lack of funding and recourses. We would not have flooded had the local drains been maintained properly. For instance, Saltwater creek use to flow into Kings creek that doesnt happen anymore because of a lack of maintainence. Marshall creek in Ocean Shores South Golden beach use to flow into the ocean and none of the canals there have drainage. The local Byron Shire council simply cant afford to maintain this basic infrastructure when they are continually dragged to the land and environment court over greedy unsustainable developments. When will the State government acknowledge this problem and fund our local council adequately to address these issues? The QLD state government have already had an inquiry into the floods and they have already implemented all of the recommendations and are already funding these recommendations. Why is it taking so long for the NSW government to act accordingly? All flood affected members of our local community are furious and fed up with the lack of State goverment in responding and actively dealing with these issues both proior to the floods and post floods. We are in a global climate emergency and its about time the government at every level get witht the program to change because if you dont we will vote you all out as it cannot and will not be business as usual. The fact is we are going to have more frequent severe storm events and until you realise this we are all doomed. So act with a concsious and act urgently like your life depends on it because it does!

Terms of Reference (optional)

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

Supporting documents or images
