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 live on a hill in Mullumbimby, purposely chosen to be above a flood zone. We have lived through floods in other places. We did have some water build-up in the yard and against the house from further up our hill, but nothing like the flooding in lower areas. At the time of the first flood, the telecommunication system failed, the power was

off, and the town was without water. My husband uses a machine at night to assist with breathing, to counteract his sleep apnoea, so that aid was unusable, but a minor inconvenience in the vast scheme of things.

The worst part was the lack of communications. In other floods we have lost power so are prepared for such inconveniences, though this time it went on for much longer.

The lack of communications meant we could get no warnings of important news and events eg. the water being turned off. People couldn't check on others re their safety.

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	CLIMATE CHANGE!!! Please listen to the warnings now appearing across the world
1.2 Preparation and planning	Having the telecommunications hub for northern NSW sited at Woodburn in a flood-prone zone is madness.
1.3 Response to floods	The local Mullumbimby community rallied magnificently in the first instance and relied on its own resources to get people out of immediate danger and difficulty. There is a problem with this though, as when services pick up the job, people who have been crucial in the immediate effort feel slighted etc. and there are hurt feelings and anger, and difficulty in letting go. There was a lot of word-of-mouth information going round, none of which could be verified in the normal way without the usual telecommunications.
1.4 Transition from incident response to recovery	See above

Supporting documents or images